



INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

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PROPOSAL FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM)

In 2018, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) will celebrate 90 years of the struggle for the recognition and protection of women's human rights, in fulfillment of the mandates given by its Assembly of Delegates, the OAS General Assembly, the Summits of the Americas and other hemispheric intergovernmental forums.

Since its creation in 1928 during the Sixth International Conference of American States held in Havana, Cuba, CIM has played a leading role in the struggle for the equality of women in the region and has become the hemispheric forum *par excellence* for reflection and debate on public policies to promote women's rights and gender equality.

Throughout these years, the work of the CIM has taken shape in three fundamental areas:

- Promotion of the adoption of inter-American agreements for the recognition and promotion of women's rights;
- Provision of technical support to OAS Member States for these agreements to be translated into public policies and programs for women's rights and gender equality; and
- Institutionalization of a gender equality and human rights approach in the work of the OAS.

The 90 years of the CIM provide an opportunity to take stock of achievements and to identify remaining challenges for the full enjoyment of women's rights and to refine the priorities that the CIM has established as the basis of its work for the next years. In this context, and with a view to reaffirming and strengthening the commitment of States to women's human rights and gender equality, the following activities are proposed:

1. Preparation of a balance sheet document on the persistent challenges to the achievement of gender equality and the full exercise of women's rights in the Americas:
 - In the preparation of the document, each Delegate of the CIM will contribute a short chapter from her own national context (34 chapters, 1,000-1,500 words each), based on a series of guiding questions to be developed by the Secretariat. Final articles should be submitted by December 31st 2017;

- The CIM Secretariat will prepare an introductory chapter on the main achievements of the CIM in its 90 years and the main challenges it still faces, as well as a regional balance on progress and challenges to the full exercise of women's rights;
 - The CIM Presidency (Peru) will contribute (in addition to the 'Peru' chapter) the preface and the conclusions.
2. Organization of a public event for the 90th anniversary and the launch of the book:
 - Date: Tuesday, February 20th 2018 (since February 18th is a Sunday) and the Third Regular Session of the Steering Committee of the CIM will be scheduled for Monday, February 19th;
 - Place: OAS headquarters in Washington, DC;
 - Format: Round-table debate (4-5 people), facilitated by guiding questions on advances and innovative strategies to advance women's rights and gender equality. The debate could include the current and some of the previous Presidents of the CIM, some of the Foreign Ministers of the region, as well as members of the Inter-American Commission and/or Court of Human Rights.
 3. Dissemination campaign, prepared by the Secretariat of the CIM and replicated by the Delegates:
 - Design of a logo and visual materials, with the support of the Delegation of Mexico;
 - Preparation of a brochure on the achievements of the CIM in its 90 years;
 - Social networking campaign (Facebook, Twitter) - development of specific messages;
 - Publication of the articles of the book as opinion articles in national and regional media; and
 - Preparation of a promotional video with the members of the Executive Committee, the Secretary General of the OAS and some of the Foreign Ministers of the region.
 4. Organization of commemorative activities at the national or sub-regional levels - conferences, lectures, art exhibitions, book presentations, theater, music, etc.
 5. Coordination with the General Secretariat of the OAS to highlight CIM, and its 90th anniversary, is activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Organization of American States (1948, to be held throughout 2018).

Timeline of work

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Preparation of work proposal and adoption by the Executive Committee of the CIM										
Development of the balance sheet document										
90th Anniversary Event										
Commemorative activities at the national or sub-regional levels										
CIM visible within the 70 th anniversary of the OAS										
Dissemination campaign										

All 2018

Annex 1

Guidelines for the preparation of the national chapters of the balance sheet on the 90th anniversary of the CIM

Length: 1,000 to 1,500 words

Due date: November 30th 2018

1. Reflections on the degree of harmonization between the legal and political framework on the rights of women and gender equality at the international level, and the guarantee and protection of women's rights at the national level:
 - a. Major advances and gaps in legal coverage;
 - b. Existence (or shortage) of jurisprudence based on the international framework;
 - c. Conflicts and inconsistencies between the national and provincial / state level (if applicable)
2. Reflections on the implementation (gap):
 - a. Major advances and challenges in terms of the implementation of the legal framework, from the perspectives of public policy and justice;
 - b. National priorities in terms of bridging the implementation gap.
3. Reflections on the role and added value of the CIM in this process.

Annex 2

#SheAlso – a photo exhibit on women leaders of American history

The OAS headquarters in Washington, DC includes a Hall of Heroes, which features busts, portraits, phrases and other memorabilia from 38 leaders of the history of the continent of the Americas* To date, this Gallery does not include women, who are key agents of American history, although not always recognized as such.

As part of the CIM's 90th anniversary celebration, which will be held on February 20th 2018, a temporary exhibit will be organized at the Hall of Heroes to highlight some of the leading women in American history and their contributions to the advancement of democracy and development in the region, as well as the guarantee and protection of women's rights.

To this end, the CIM Delegates will be asked for suggestions of women leaders to include in the exhibition. The photos of these women will be printed along with short biographies and will be displayed in the Hall of Heroes.

*Members of the Hall of Heroes of the OAS

Argentina:	José de San Martín	United States:	George Washington
Bahamas:	Lynden Pindling		Andrew Carnegie
Bolivia:	Antonio José de Sucre		Leo Stanton Rowe
Brazil:	José Bonifácio		Henry Clay
	Joaquim José da Silva Xavier (Tiradentes)	Guatemala:	Justo Rufino Barrios
Canada:	Samuel de Champlain	Haiti:	Jean-Jacques Dessalines
Chile:	Bernardo O'Higgins		Toussaint Louverture
	Andrés Bello	Honduras:	Francisco Morazán
Colombia:	Francisco Santander	Jamaica:	Marcus Garvey
	Alberto Lleras Camargo	Mexico:	Benito Juárez
Costa Rica:	Juan Rafael Mora Porras	Nicaragua:	Miguel Larreynaga
Cuba:	José Martí	Panama:	Tomás Herrera
Ecuador:	Eugenio Espejo	Paraguay:	José Rodríguez de Pascua
	Galo Plaza Lasso	Peru:	Hipólito Unanue
El Salvador:	José Matías Delgado		Víctor Haya de la Torre
	José Gustavo Guerrero	Dominican Republic:	Juan Pablo Duarte
Spain:	Cristobal Colón		Eugenio María de Hostos
	Francisco de Vitoria	Uruguay:	José Gervasio Artigas
		Venezuela:	Francisco de Miranda
			Simón Bolívar