



Permanent Council unanimously approves resolution on gender parity in the OAS

Washington DC. March 12, 2020. – During a special session to celebrate International Women’s Day, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) unanimously approved the resolution [Representation and Participation of Women in the OAS](#), which demands parity in decision-making, panels, missions and commissions inside the OAS. The resolution also calls on the Secretariat of the OAS and Member States to strengthen the [Inter-American Commission of Women \(CIM\)](#) for the advancement of the agenda for gender equality, as well as its capacity to follow-up the recommendations of the Electoral Observation Missions of the OAS with regard to women’s political rights.

The resolution was drafted with the support of the CIM, led by its Executive Secretary, Alejandra Mora Mora, who emphasized the importance of an active diplomacy that accelerates equality and highlighted that *“this Council relies on a majority of Ambassadors capable of seeing themselves reflected in a vision of equality, and on the collective leadership of the women Ambassadors that proposed this resolution.”* The Executive Secretary further recognized the advancements and impact of feminist

movements in the region and highlighted the daily struggles of women, both in the private and public spheres.

The resolution was spearheaded by the Permanent Representative of Panama to the OAS, Ambassador María Roquebert León, with the support of the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, Ambassador Montserrat Solano Carboni and the Permanent Representative of Mexico, Ambassador Luz Elena Baños Rivas. Ambassador Roquebert stressed the importance of taking immediate action to guarantee the participation and representation of women as an essential condition to strengthen democracy. *“Women represent 50% of the world population, which is why they should be represented in every domain, including politics”*, concluded the Ambassador.

For his part the Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro expressed his full commitment to women’s rights. *“Achieving parity in the OAS, which is what this resolution aims at, has a value in and of itself, but it is also instrumental: we must lead by example and to do so we will back parity in the hemisphere from an OAS with parity,”* said the Secretary General.

The approval of this resolution builds on other actions of the CIM with the goal of identifying equality accelerators that, once approved by the Ministers of Women and high-level authorities on gender in the region will be position the CIM in the review process for the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This document reflects and highlights the three thematic axes of the CIM: prevention of violence against women; recognition of unpaid work and care for the economic empowerment of women; and parity in all decision-making spaces as a prerequisite to safeguard sustainable democracies.

The [CIM/OAS](#) is the main political forum in the region for the recognition of the human rights of women and gender equality. Since its creation in 1928, the CIM has played a prominent and strategic role in the promotion of women’s rights in the hemisphere.



[Resolution on Parity](#)

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