



Organization of
American States



OEA/
CIM No. 03-069/11
marzo 2011

Original: Español

**International Women's Day
Message from the President's Commission of Women (CIM) of the OAS
Maria del Rocio Garcia Gaytan
March 2011**

In this centennial commemoration of International Women's Day, The Inter-American Commission of Women as the hemispheric political forum sees a convergence of goals and objectives for achieving parity through the construction of full citizenship of women, from a human rights perspective.

Throughout this 21st Century with its new paradigms, this commemoration comes at an important juncture for highlighting the achievements in gender equality and attaining women's human rights, in which the CIM with its 83 years of existence has been present. It also offers an opportunity to reiterate the importance of the full and equal participation of women in the public and political spheres and their economic autonomy.

Now more than ever, progress requires us to strive for gender parity and for the full enjoyment of the right to live free of violence; where the culture of peace as recognized by the international community, reflects not just the absence of violence, but a basic respect for women's dignity and their rights.

Within the Americas, we must create the necessary synergies with other intergovernmental bodies and mechanisms through synchronizing our gender agendas. This will enable us to carry out comprehensive and integrated action in the region; and optimize our resources to avoid a duplication of efforts.

We are confident that the commitment of the new Executive Committee and Delegates of the CIM; and our joint efforts with UN Women will result in achieving our stated objectives, reaffirming and enhancing the validity of the first body created internationally to promote and defend the human rights of women.