The CIM/OAS begins training sessions for Ministries of Women in the Americas

Washington DC. May 28, 2020. – At the request of the high-level gender authorities in the region, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) began today the first of a series of online seminars for technical personnel of the National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (MAMS) in Latin America and the Caribbean. This first edition, which has as its central axis the document "COVID-19 in the lives of women: Reasons to recognize the differentiated impacts", was addressed to 8 countries in the region - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the Dominican Republic - and had the participation of 150 people.

“In addition to analyzing the report’s findings, these seminars provide us with a new opportunity to exchange information and expectations about the gender impacts of COVID-19 on women’s lives, almost three months after the start of the pandemic. In a complex and changing context, favoring exchange spaces with MAMS is a priority for the CIM, as a measure that can strengthen its technical capacities to face the new normality and, at the same time, strengthen the analyzes and recommendations that we can provide at the regional level.” said Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS.

In this document, the CIM/OAS provides an analysis of the impacts, challenges, and actions to develop policies that respond to the differentiated needs of women in the face of COVID-19. The initiative arose through dialogues promoted by the CIM with the
Ministers for Women and High Authorities of the MAMS, with the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI), and with organizations from society civil, when the pandemic mitigation measures began.

These sessions seek to provide a roadmap for response and decision-making teams, incorporating a cross-cutting approach that considers universal human rights principles, a gender perspective and intersectionality. Throughout June, four editions will be held for the countries of the Andean Region, the Southern Cone, and the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean, with the goal of reaching the technical capacity of the CIM to all OAS Member States.

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.