

OAS Permanent Council Commemorates the Inter-American Day of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Settings

- *During the session, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) presented a detailed report on actions to raise visibility for rural women's leadership, rights, and challenges in the region.*
- *Rural women from Latin America and the Caribbean shared their agendas and emphasized the need for differentiated public policies with territorial and intersectional approaches.*

Washington, D.C., April 23, 2025 — The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) commemorated the Inter-American Day of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Settings this Wednesday.

During the session, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) presented a report on the progress made in the first year of implementing the *Inter-American Decade for the Rights of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Settings of the Americas (2024–2034)*, which seeks to strengthen their autonomy and full participation in all spheres of political, economic, social, and cultural life.

The Minister of Women of Panama and President of the CIM, Niurka Palacio Urriola, emphasized that in this first year of the Decade, the CIM has helped amplify the voices of rural women in strategic multilateral spaces such as the OAS General Assembly and the UN Commission on the Status of Women. “We have not spoken on behalf of rural women, but have created spaces for them to speak for themselves—from their realities, priorities, and through an intersectional lens,” said Palacio.

She also noted that the CIM, in collaboration with the *Latin American and Caribbean Rural Women’s Network (RedLAC)*, has driven several initiatives to support rural leadership, expose the structural violence they face, and promote their economic rights. “The barriers they face to influence these spaces—including economic and digital gaps—require the active involvement of international cooperation,” she added.

CIM Executive Secretary Alejandra Mora highlighted the importance of the dialogue the Commission has built with rural women’s organizations over the past three years. “We have learned from them the true meaning of *rootedness*: that deep love for the land, culture, and communal life that they want to preserve. Many do not wish to migrate, but economic and social pressures are forcing them out of their territories,” she said.

The session included a presentation on the six strategic pillars of RedLAC's *Hemispheric Agenda for Rural Women*, delivered by its Executive Secretary, Luz Haro Guanga, who stressed the importance of differentiated, sustainable public policies with a territorial approach.

"This agenda is not an isolated document; it was created collectively and grew out of gatherings we held in Panama, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, and other events. We have gradually gained the support of international organizations and governments, and we want this agenda to serve as a mobilizing force to amplify the voices of rural women and influence decision-making and public policy from the ground up," said Haro.

Natalya Reid of the *Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers* also participated in the session. She stated that ensuring the success of the Decade requires prioritizing the economic autonomy of rural women. "We must dismantle all the barriers that prevent us from accessing fair markets, credit, and resources," she said.

The *Declaration on the Rights of Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Settings of the Americas*, adopted at the 53rd OAS General Assembly in 2023, formally established the *Inter-American Decade for the Rights of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Settings of the Americas (2024–2034)*. The Inter-American Day of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Settings is observed every April 17, following the adoption of a resolution by the OAS Permanent Council in 2024.

This Wednesday's commemoration at the Permanent Council was requested by the Permanent Mission of Mexico, with the co-sponsorship of the Permanent Missions of Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, and Uruguay.

***INFORMATION FOR JOURNALISTS**

About the CIM/OAS

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) is the main hemispheric forum dedicated to promoting and protecting women's human rights and gender equality. Founded in 1928, the CIM has been a pioneer in identifying the social, economic, and political barriers faced by women and formulating policies and programs to overcome them. The CIM collaborates with OAS Member States, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders to advance the gender equality agenda across the Americas.

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