



**Remarks by Mayra Jimenez
President of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the OAS 2019-2022**

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It is an honor for me to address you as President of the Inter-American Commission of Women to continue emphasizing how essential gender equality is for the achievement of the 4 fundamental pillars on which the OAS bases its work: democracy, human rights, development and security.

The current moment, in political terms, presents great opportunities for our region, because we have managed to maintain governance, respond effectively to the economic crisis, and maintain democratic balance in the midst of the most adverse situation that we have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we have opened up new opportunities to reaffirm our commitment to equality and forge new paths, the pandemic has made visible, as you all know, and in many cases reinforced persistent inequalities in our societies. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the CIM has drawn attention to the setback in women's rights. In a timely manner, we have pointed out:

- The urgency of increasing the participation of women in decision-making and power spaces,
- The need for economic recovery policies to respond to the increase in gender gaps, since the economic sectors where the majority of women are located have been the most affected: the service sector, the commercial sector, the informal work, domestic work and MSMEs,
- The urgent redefinition of care policies as part of basic social protection and as a factor that generates wealth, creates well-being and reduces inequalities,
- In the pandemic, the burden of caregiving responsibilities on women increased,
- That the mandate to #StayAtHome had a different meaning for women, especially with the increase in violence.

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, we are very excited to report that in response to this situation, the CIM has continued its work to make visible the differentiated impacts of the pandemic on the lives of women, from a perspective of intersectionality and human rights, generating concrete tools and recommendations for States with a view to fulfilling the promise of Sustainable Development Goal #5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."

In this sense, the CIM Annual Report elevated to this multilateral decision-making space, reports on substantive work to:

- Identify and make visible the persistent gender gaps and promote the development of standards to strengthen the regional legal framework on **women's economic rights**,

- Exchange and disseminate good practices in the creation and implementation of comprehensive **caregiving** systems and the promotion of social co-responsibility - from the family, the State and the market,
- Promote and strengthen the **participation of women in political spaces**, promoting legislation and the exchange of good practices in matters of parity and leadership, through the Course for Electoral Candidates, implemented in several countries,
- Develop new knowledge and training tools for women in the exercise of democratic feminist leadership for crisis and conflict management,
- Promote legislative advances in the matter of political violence against women in pursuance of the Model Law developed by the CIM,
- Position women's leadership in the fight against corruption, following the commitment adopted by the last Summit of the Americas,
- Strengthen the **National Machineries for the Advancement of Women**, in their role of developing equality and gender policies at the national level, and
- Provide and follow up on the recommendations made by the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belem do Para Convention (MESECVI) on the **prevention of violence**, with an emphasis on the fields of education and communication to eliminate stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on the idea of the inferiority and subordination of women.

At the same time, the CIM has forged new alliances with the feminist and broad women's movement, with other international organizations, and with new donors to strengthen its efforts to coordinate and support OAS Member States.

This vision will guide the CIM's next strategic planning period, which will culminate at the Thirty-ninth Assembly of Delegates, scheduled for the first semester of next year. In this work, the commitment of the OAS member states to the CIM is fundamental. Therefore, we respectfully request your support so that the CIM continues with its ambitious and robust project.

Evidence shows that gender inequalities delay development, weaken democracy, and deepen poverty, so it is imperative that the States of the region take advantage of the opportunities offered by the transversality of gender equality and equity in all the public policies that we implement.

Thank you very much, Mr. President, thank you for your attention.