

75 women candidates better prepared for the 2024 electoral campaign

- *The "Clara González" Electoral Candidates Course had participants from all political parties in Panama and diverse geographical representation.*

Panama City, January 27, 2024 - For the second time, Panama City hosted the Electoral Candidates Course, a renowned regional initiative aimed at strengthening the political skills of women in the Americas. The course took place in person from January 24 to 27 and was aimed at candidates for the general elections in May 2024.

Under the guidance of an international faculty, 75 participants were prepared to effectively lead their electoral campaigns, including training in political communication, public speaking, strategic organizing, electoral financing, social media management, digital security, among other key topics.

While Panama has made significant progress in terms of women's participation in political life, such as the approval of Article 308-G on equal participation in electoral processes, some limitations and obstacles persist. According to 2023 data from the Electoral Tribunal, although women represent the majority of party membership, their candidacies do not often lead the lists but frequently occupy alternate positions.

Given this context, the Course for Electoral Candidates stands as a commitment to accelerate political parity in the country and the region, breaking with gender inequality conditions in electoral contexts, dismantling stereotypes, and inspiring more women to participate in politics and decision-making.

As part of the Program, the Minister of Women and President of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS), Juana Herrera Araúz; the President Magistrate of the Electoral Tribunal, Alfredo Juncá Wendehake; the Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS, Alejandra Mora Mora; the Specialist from the OAS Department for Effective Public Management, Betty S. Arevalo; the Ambassador of Spain in Panama, Guzmán Palacios Fernández, and the Ambassador of Spain to the OAS, Carmen Montón, among other representatives, participated.

The participating authorities reaffirmed their commitment to work together with Candidates and Parties in generating alliances to ensure women's participation in politics. Minister Herrera Araúz stated, "To achieve sustainable development, inclusive and more democratic societies, it is vital for women to participate as agents of change and decision-makers in economic, social, and political processes." President Magistrate Juncá Wendehake said "These types of spaces strengthen the capacities of candidates and allow them to articulate strategies to turn difficulties into opportunities and proposals for progress." The Executive Secretary of the CIM highlighted, "It is a tremendous opportunity to put women at the center of political discussion and democracy. There is a women's agenda, and we must build alliances to ensure it."

The Course was organized through an interinstitutional alliance formed by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS) and the OAS School of Government, in coordination with the Ministry of Women and the Electoral Tribunal of Panama. With crucial support from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and International IDEA.

The "Clara González" edition is named in honor of the first Panamanian lawyer, creator of the Tutelary Court for Minors of Panama, and renowned feminist activist. She was a co-founder of the Feminist Renewal Group and the National Feminist Party (PNF).

[Relive the inaugural event of the course here](#) (Available in Spanish)