

## OAS Permanent Council commemorates International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament

- *CIM calls for a transformation of security based on the complex reality of the hemisphere and the needs and leadership of women.*

**Washington, D.C., May 21, 2025.** The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) commemorated this Wednesday -and for the first time- the *International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament*, a date born out of the European feminist and pacifist movements in the 1980s and celebrated every May 24 to highlight the essential role of women in peace, security and disarmament processes.

The session was attended by Ambassador Maritza Chan, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations; Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM); and Diana Lepe, Director of Services and Advice for Peace (SERAPAZ, Mexico) on behalf of the Latin American Network of Women, Peace and Security.

Ambassador Chan reaffirmed the validity of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which recognizes the significant participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution. She also highlighted the continued under-representation of women in "disarmament diplomacy" and the need to close these gaps.

The Executive Secretary of the CIM emphasized the need to redefine the concept of security and called for the strengthening of women's leadership in crisis and conflict contexts. "Security can no longer be seen as the absence of armed conflict, but rather in light of the needs of a region with social, climatic, migratory conflicts and violence against women," said Mora. "Women's bodies have been objectified and controlled in contexts of organized crime, femicides, sexual violence, and trafficking. Weapons have become not only instruments of death, but also elements that restrict women's right to live free of violence," she said.

Finally, Diana Lepe of SERAPAZ emphasized that "women are active agents in peacebuilding, not just passive subjects in need of protection. Women and their communities build and sustain the social fabric, have projects for change, build peace daily, and have been the driving force behind community dialogue and public policy initiatives.

After the panelists interventions, Ambassador Luz Elena Baños Rivas, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS, read out a statement signed by the delegations of Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Dominican Republic and Uruguay, in which they expressed "the need to incorporate and mainstream the integral approaches of gender, feminist and decolonial movements in the design of objectives, strategies and solutions that build sustainable peace based on social justice and unrestricted respect for human dignity".

The statement warns of the persistent under-representation of women in multilateral disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation forums. In 2023, for example, none of the peace agreements reached at the international level included representatives of women's groups among their signatories.

They also expressed their support for the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) on this agenda, and their conviction that it should actively participate in all forums for deliberation on peace, security, and disarmament at both the regional and international levels.

[Access the recording here.](#)

#### **\*INFORMATION FOR JOURNALISTS**

##### **About the CIM/OAS**

*The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) is the primary 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 barriers faced by women in the social, economic, and political spheres, and in formulating policies and programs to overcome those barriers. CIM collaborates with OAS Member States, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders to advance the gender equality agenda in the Americas.*

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