

Regional Experts Engage with OAS Member States Representatives on Women's Leadership in Times of Crisis and Conflict

Washington D.C., April 30, 2025. Experts from the Americas gathered this Wednesday at the Organization of American States (OAS) headquarters to participate in a dialogue organized by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to discuss women's leadership in crisis and conflict management.

The event opened with remarks from Ambassador Roberto Nocella, Representative of Italy's Observer Mission to the OAS; Laura Carpini, Principal Director for Latin American and Caribbean Countries at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; and Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS.

Carpini noted that addressing women's leadership in conflict contexts is a complex and challenging issue, which must be structured around four pillars: participation, protection, prevention, and reconstruction. She also recognized CIM's work in dismantling gender stereotypes, combating disinformation, generating data, building support networks, and promoting the exchange of good practices and lessons learned.

Secretary Mora emphasized that women bring distinct and essential perspectives, and that the social realities of the Americas demand non-traditional approaches to address crises and conflicts. She added that the main challenge lies in understanding and positioning women's leadership as a key tool for democratic and social transformation.

Following the opening remarks, the event continued with two thematic panels. The first focused on the role of women in the peace and security agenda, emphasizing the need for a more inclusive vision that goes beyond the mere absence of conflict and incorporates intersecting crises. Panelists included Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Director of the Corporation for Social and Economic Research and Action (CIASE), Colombia; Bibi Borges, Executive Director of the Center for Justice and Peace (CEPAZ), Venezuela; Edelma Gómez, Coordinator for Dialogue, Environment, and Participation at the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OAS); and Diana López, independent expert and CIM/OAS consultant.

The second panel explored key elements to strengthen women's leadership in crisis and conflict management. Speakers included Mónica Maccise, Director General for University Engagement at Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico; Virginia García Beaudoux, communications consultant and expert in women's leadership, Argentina; Orfe Castillo

Osorio, Regional Director of JASS Mesoamerica; and Larissa Arroyo, constitutional lawyer and expert in human rights and gender, Universidad de Costa Rica.

The dialogue's conclusions will serve as the foundation for CIM to develop a roadmap aimed at strengthening women's leadership in crisis management. The goal is to foster their active participation in decision-making processes, highlight their ability to lead negotiations, and promote approaches that reframe conflict and contribute to building lasting, inclusive peace.

***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.

Press contacts:

Alexander Rivera (arivera@oas.org) / Gina Labanca (glabanca@oas.org)