

In the framework of the OAS General Assembly CIM and former President Bachelet call to break the mold of women's political leadership



Washington June 22, 2023. As long as political leadership remains tied to male points of view, rituals and symbols, women will continue to be invisible. Breaking the the existing mold and migrating towards disruptive leadership is the path that the OAS Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is promoting.

During the 53rd OAS General Assembly, the CIM presented research based on the voices of 50 women political leaders from the Americas who were interviewed, making visible the needs and abilities of women, in order to change the leadership paradigm. The research was presented at the event "Breaking the Mold: A New Approach to Political Leadership from the Voices of Women in the Americas" and included the participation of the former President of Chile, Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, who stressed that strengthening women's leadership is a way to fortify democracies in the region. She also referred to the need to end the double standard applied to women in politics and emphasized the importance of promoting the political participation of women who belong to historically marginalized groups.

Alyse Nelson, President & CEO of Vital Voices and the President of the CIM and Minister of Social Development of Panama, María Inés Castillo were in charge of the event inauguration

, and highlighted the importance of having meeting spaces and alliances between women of the hemisphere reflected in this event.

The CIM report, presented by Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary, calls for women to take power, exercise it and question it to exercise disruptive leadership. This is understood as questioning the status quo that does not favor women, in order to advance a transformative agenda based on equality, within a framework of strategic and sororal alliances.

The participants in the event highlighted the progress achieved through quota and parity laws, but also noted that they are insufficient if they are not accompanied by a change in the narrative of leadership that includes women. They also promoted the construction of a platform made up of women politicians who have held high-level positions in the Americas that can give impetus to the powerful women's agenda.

The event was attended by the Ministers of Women and High Authorities of the CIM, Antonia Orellana, Minister of Women and Gender Equity of Chile; Samantha Marshall, Minister of Health, Welfare, Environment and Social Transformation of Antigua and Barbuda; Juana Herrera, Minister of Women of Panama; Doris Yolani García, Secretary of State in the Office of Women's Affairs of Honduras; Mónica Bottero, Director of InMujeres of Uruguay; and with virtual interventions by the Vice President of Spain, Nadia Calviño, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Ana Cecilia Gervasi, as well as Ambassador Carmen Montón of the Observer Mission of Spain and Ambassador Simone Turchetta of the Observer Mission of Italy to the OAS.

The message of the CIM was forceful, positioning sororal and intersectoral alliances in order to advance political structures that represent the vast majority of people. Multilateralism remains the engine of change and the way to address this route and a change towards the paradigm proposed by disruptive leadership.

[Event available here](#)