



## INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016-2019  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
Lima, Peru  
September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

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October 18<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Original: Spanish

### PROPOSAL FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM)

In 2018, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) will celebrate 90 years of the struggle for the recognition and protection of women's human rights, in fulfillment of the mandates given by its Assembly of Delegates, the OAS General Assembly, the Summits of the Americas and other hemispheric intergovernmental forums.

Since its creation in 1928 during the Sixth International Conference of American States held in Havana, Cuba, CIM has played a leading role in the struggle for the equality of women in the region and has become the hemispheric forum *par excellence* for reflection and debate on public policies to promote women's rights and gender equality.

Throughout these years, the work of the CIM has taken shape in three fundamental areas:

- Promotion of the adoption of inter-American agreements for the recognition and promotion of women's rights;
- Provision of technical support to OAS Member States for these agreements to be translated into public policies and programs for women's rights and gender equality; and
- Institutionalization of a gender equality and human rights approach in the work of the OAS.

The 90 years of the CIM provide an opportunity to take stock of achievements and to identify remaining challenges for the full enjoyment of women's rights and to refine the priorities that the CIM has established as the basis of its work for the next years. In this context, and with a view to reaffirming and strengthening the commitment of States to women's human rights and gender equality, the following activities are proposed:

1. Preparation of a balance sheet document on the persistent challenges to the achievement of gender equality and the full exercise of women's rights in the Americas:
  - In the preparation of the document, each Delegate of the CIM will contribute a short chapter from her own national context (34 chapters, 1,000-1,500 words each), based on a series of guiding questions to be developed by the Secretariat. Final articles should be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017;

- The CIM Secretariat will prepare an introductory chapter on the main achievements of the CIM in its 90 years and the main challenges it still faces, as well as a regional balance on progress and challenges to the full exercise of women's rights;
  - The CIM Presidency (Peru) will contribute (in addition to the 'Peru' chapter) the preface and the conclusions.
2. Organization of a public event for the 90th anniversary and the launch of the book:
    - Date: Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 (since February 18<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday) and the Third Regular Session of the Steering Committee of the CIM will be scheduled for Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>;
    - Place: OAS headquarters in Washington, DC;
    - Format: Round-table debate (4-5 people), facilitated by guiding questions on advances and innovative strategies to advance women's rights and gender equality. The debate could include the current and some of the previous Presidents of the CIM, some of the Foreign Ministers of the region, as well as members of the Inter-American Commission and/or Court of Human Rights.
  3. Dissemination campaign, prepared by the Secretariat of the CIM and replicated by the Delegates:
    - Design of a logo and visual materials, with the support of the Delegation of Mexico;
    - Preparation of a brochure on the achievements of the CIM in its 90 years;
    - Social networking campaign (Facebook, Twitter) - development of specific messages;
    - Publication of the articles of the book as opinion articles in national and regional media; and
    - Preparation of a promotional video with the members of the Executive Committee, the Secretary General of the OAS and some of the Foreign Ministers of the region.
  4. Organization of commemorative activities at the national or sub-regional levels - conferences, lectures, art exhibitions, book presentations, theater, music, etc.
  5. Coordination with the General Secretariat of the OAS to highlight CIM, and its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is activities to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Organization of American States (1948, to be held throughout 2018).

### Timeline of work

|   | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Preparation of work proposal and adoption by the Executive Committee of the CIM |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Development of the balance sheet document                                       |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 90th Anniversary Event  |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Commemorative activities at the national or sub-regional levels                 |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| CIM visible within the 70 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OAS                  |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Dissemination campaign  |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |

All 2018

## **Annex 1**

Guidelines for the preparation of the national chapters of the balance sheet on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CIM

Length: 1,000 to 1,500 words  
Due date: November 30th 2018

1. Reflections on the degree of harmonization between the legal and political framework on the rights of women and gender equality at the international level, and the guarantee and protection of women's rights at the national level:
  - a. Major advances and gaps in legal coverage;
  - b. Existence (or shortage) of jurisprudence based on the international framework;
  - c. Conflicts and inconsistencies between the national and provincial / state level (if applicable)
2. Reflections on the implementation (gap):
  - a. Major advances and challenges in terms of the implementation of the legal framework, from the perspectives of public policy and justice;
  - b. National priorities in terms of bridging the implementation gap.
3. Reflections on the role and added value of the CIM in this process.

## Annex 2

**#SheAlso** – a photo exhibit on women leaders of American history

The OAS headquarters in Washington, DC includes a Hall of Heroes, which features busts, portraits, phrases and other memorabilia from 38 leaders of the history of the continent of the Americas\* To date, this Gallery does not include women, who are key agents of American history, although not always recognized as such.

As part of the CIM's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2018, a temporary exhibit will be organized at the Hall of Heroes to highlight some of the leading women in American history and their contributions to the advancement of democracy and development in the region, as well as the guarantee and protection of women's rights.

To this end, the CIM Delegates will be asked for suggestions of women leaders to include in the exhibition. The photos of these women will be printed along with short biographies and will be displayed in the Hall of Heroes.

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\*Members of the Hall of Heroes of the OAS

|                     |  |                            |                          |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Argentina:</b>   | José de San Martín                           | <b>United States:</b>      | George Washington        |
| <b>Bahamas:</b>     | Lynden Pindling                              |                            | Andrew Carnegie          |
| <b>Bolivia:</b>     | Antonio José de Sucre                        |                            | Leo Stanton Rowe         |
| <b>Brazil:</b>      | José Bonifácio                               |                            | Henry Clay               |
|                     | Joaquim José da Silva Xavier<br>(Tiradentes) | <b>Guatemala:</b>          | Justo Rufino Barrios     |
| <b>Canada:</b>      | Samuel de Champlain                          | <b>Haiti:</b>              | Jean-Jacques Dessalines  |
| <b>Chile:</b>       | Bernardo O'Higgins                           |                            | Toussaint Louverture     |
|                     | Andrés Bello                                 | <b>Honduras:</b>           | Francisco Morazán        |
| <b>Colombia:</b>    | Francisco Santander                          | <b>Jamaica:</b>            | Marcus Garvey            |
|                     | Alberto Lleras Camargo                       | <b>Mexico:</b>             | Benito Juárez            |
| <b>Costa Rica:</b>  | Juan Rafael Mora Porras                      | <b>Nicaragua:</b>          | Miguel Larreynaga        |
| <b>Cuba:</b>        | José Martí                                   | <b>Panama:</b>             | Tomás Herrera            |
| <b>Ecuador:</b>     | Eugenio Espejo                               | <b>Paraguay:</b>           | José Rodríguez de Pascua |
|                     | Galo Plaza Lasso                             | <b>Peru:</b>               | Hipólito Unanue          |
| <b>El Salvador:</b> | José Matías Delgado                          |                            | Víctor Haya de la Torre  |
|                     | José Gustavo Guerrero                        | <b>Dominican Republic:</b> | Juan Pablo Duarte        |
| <b>Spain:</b>       | Cristobal Colón                              |                            | Eugenio María de Hostos  |
|                     | Francisco de Vitoria                         | <b>Uruguay:</b>            | José Gervasio Artigas    |
|                     |  | <b>Venezuela:</b>          | Francisco de Miranda     |
|                     |  |                            | Simón Bolívar            |