

Foreign policy as a tool: Dialogue on women's rights within the framework of the OAS General Assembly



Lima, October 5, 2022- In parallel to the 52nd OAS General Assembly, the Government of Peru and the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (CIM/OAS) held the event *"Women's Leadership in International Policy to Combat Gender Inequality and Discrimination: High-Level Dialogue with the Foreign Ministers of the Americas."* In line with the theme of the General Assembly, "Together against discrimination and inequality," the objective of the dialogue was to discuss the role of international policy and multilateralism in advancing gender equality in the region and ensuring the progressive realization of women's rights.

In her opening remarks, the Vice President of Peru, Dina Boluarte, highlighted Peru's progress in terms of parity and underscored women's leadership in the international arena to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The opening was accompanied by the President of the CIM, Minister María Inés Castillo, who highlighted the importance of international agreements and legal instruments and their transformative impact at the national level, and called on the OAS General Assembly to accelerate its commitments and actions to eradicate gender inequalities.

The panelists shared best practices, progress and challenges in incorporating a feminist foreign policy. They discussed the lack of representation of women and the urgency of gender parity in foreign policy, greater effectiveness in mainstreaming a gender and intersectional approach in all areas of work of multilateral organizations, the inclusion of policies that consider transparency and, in the current context, actions that promote peace.

The dialogue was moderated by Claudia Liliana Dávila Moscoso, Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru, with the participation as panelists of the following high-level authorities: Evelyn Wever-Croes, Prime Minister of Aruba; Erika Mouynes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama; and Laura Gil Savastano, Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs of Colombia.

The Executive Secretary of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora, closed the meeting by mentioning that multilateralism as an engine of change requires the voices of women in all their diversity and affirmed that different leadership styles are exercised in the many ways that women negotiate, inspire and transform.