

CIM/OAS holds in Antigua Guatemala a hybrid meeting of the High-Level Panel on New Challenges for Democracy and Equality in the Americas

- *Over two days, authorities, experts, and social leaders discussed parity democracy, security with equality, and digital governance and artificial intelligence from a women's rights perspective.*
- *The meeting served to compile inputs for the panel's final report, which will be presented to the Delegates to the CIM and the OAS Member States.*
- *The meeting was held at the Spanish Cooperation Training Center in Antigua Guatemala, with the participation of OAS agencies, international organizations, and women's organizations.*

Antigua Guatemala and Washington, D.C., November 14, 2025. The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) held this Thursday, November 13, and Friday, November 14, a hybrid meeting of the *High-Level Panel on New Challenges for Democracy and Equality in the Americas* at the Spanish Cooperation Training Center in Antigua Guatemala. The meeting is part of the panel's work process, created by the CIM to strengthen democratic quality and women's rights in the region through evidence, informed dialogue, and recommendations for action.

The High-Level Panel was set up in October as a space for dialogue, exchange of best practices, and identification of recommendations in three areas: (1) representative democracy and parity between women and men in decision-making; (2) security from a perspective of equality; and (3) digital governance, artificial intelligence, and women's rights. Their work will culminate in a report that will be made available to the Delegates to the CIM and the OAS Member States.

The meeting in Antigua Guatemala brought together members of the panel and a large group of authorities, experts, and representatives of civil society in the Americas, in a face-to-face and virtual format, with the support of various agencies of the OAS General Secretariat and international cooperation agencies.

The first day of work began with welcoming remarks by the Director of the Spanish Cooperation Training Center in Guatemala, Elena Diego, and the opening remarks by the Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS, Alejandra Mora Mora; the Permanent Observer Representative of Spain to the OAS, Carmen Montón; the Vice President of the Republic of Guatemala, Karin Larissa Herrera Aguilar; and the Presidential Secretary for Women of the Government of Guatemala (SEPREM), Ana López.

Extensive discussions. Over the two days, the agenda included four big topics of discussion. The first addressed the state of democracy and human rights in the Americas from the perspectives

of parliaments, academic research, and civil society, with a focus on attitudes towards democracy, democratic resilience, and the legislative agenda for equality. The second space analyzed the progress and challenges towards parity in all decision-making spaces, including the executive branches, justice systems, and boards of directors of public and private companies, with emphasis on the CIM/OAS Model Law on Parity between Women and Men in the State and in Political and Public Life, the participation of indigenous women, and experiences in the Caribbean.

The third panel delved into the relationship between security and equality, examining the impact of insecurity on the democratic and gender agenda, new forms of violence against women, and the women, peace, and security agenda in different contexts in the region. Finally, the fourth panel explored the benefits and risks of digital governance and artificial intelligence for gender equality, with emphasis on the use of technologies and interoperability to protect women in situations of violence, as well as the opportunities these technologies offer for women.

The reflections and recommendations derived from the hybrid meeting will be incorporated into the final report of the *High-Level Panel on New Challenges for Democracy and Equality in the Americas*, which will be made available to the Delegates to the CIM and the OAS Member States as input for decision-making and the strengthening of parity democracy in the Americas.

***INFORMATION FOR JOURNALISTS**

About the CIM/OAS

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) is the principal hemispheric forum dedicated to the promotion and protection of 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 them. CIM works in collaboration with OAS Member States, civil society organizations, and other key actors to advance the gender equality agenda in the Americas.

Other resources

- [Model Law on Parity between Women and Men in the State and in Political and Public Life \(Available only in Spanish\)](#)

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