

## **Ministers of Women and activists agree on the urgency of joint work in favor of women's rights**

- The meeting took place during the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) in New York.

New York, Wednesday, March 13, 2024 - Women's ministers, high-ranking officials, and activists from the region gathered at the CSW68 side event "Intersectoral partnerships to promote the gender equality agenda and women's rights," organized by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS), in partnership with the Government of Canada. Authorities and activists shared their experiences of working in partnerships and underscored the urgency of working together across sectors in defending the rights of girls, adolescents, and women in the hemisphere.

During the opening, the Vice President of the Republic of Guatemala, Karin Herrera, emphasized the necessity of forging alliances to achieve immediate results. "We have to take responsibility for these advances within our democracies. Our government understands the need for strategic alliances with all women because together we can move faster," Vice President Herrera said.

The need to build bridges in the work for women's rights was a consensus among the participating authorities, including the Minister of Women of Brazil, Aparecida Gonçalves; the Minister of Women of Canada, Marci Ien; Minister of Women of Chile, Antonia Orellanay; the Minister of Women of Panama and President of CIM/OAS, Juana Herrera Araúz; and the Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic, Mayra Jiménez.

"Our diversity is our strength, and we must leverage it to advance gender equality and counter the rollback of women's rights," commented Marci Ien, Minister of Women of Canada. Meanwhile, Juana Herrera, Minister of Women of Panama and President of CIM/OAS, highlighted the need to "strengthen relations with other state offices and work in partnership with social organizations."

Also participating were the Minister of Social Services, Information and Broadcasting of the Bahamas, Myles LaRoda; the Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs of Belize, Dolores Balderamos; the Minister for the Status of Women of Costa Rica, Cindy Quesada; the Minister of Women of Ecuador, Arianna Tanca; the Minister of the Secretariat of State for Women of Honduras, Doris García; the Minister of Women of Paraguay, Cynthia Figueredo; as well as other authorities from Mexico and St. Kitts and Nevis, in addition to the First Lady of Brazil, Rosângela Lula da Silva.

"Representatives from social organizations of indigenous women, Afro-Latinas, and young people emphasized the need to recognize their capacities and experiences in advancing women's rights and eradicating various types of violence from an intercultural, multiethnic, and intergenerational perspective.

Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of CIM/OAS, concluded by emphasizing the commitment of organizations and states. "We recognize the work of organizations in the field and women's ministers leading the defense of this agenda. We are open to all partnerships that enable us to progress," she said in closing.