

CIM and CAF sign agreement to enhance women's economic inclusion and empowerment in the region



Buenos Aires, November 11, 2022- Within the framework of the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, authorities of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and CAF-Development Bank of Latin America signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen the cooperation ties between both entities, and thus work in coordination to promote the agenda of gender equality and women's empowerment in the region.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Executive Secretary of the CIM of the OAS, Alejandra Mora Mora; CAF's Director Representative in Argentina, Patricia Alborta and; as a witness of honor, CAF's Gender, Inclusion and Diversity Manager, Ana Baiardi.

Through this alliance, both organizations will make coordinated efforts to promote the closing of gender gaps in the region, focusing on two strategic priorities: economic autonomy and decision-making autonomy. The agreement seeks for the CIM and CAF to work in coordination with States in the definition and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks that promote women's economic autonomy by addressing care and financial inclusion, as well as the participation and promotion of leadership in decision-making positions and lives free of violence.

Both organizations will coordinate intergovernmental dialogues that will contribute to generating participatory and situational diagnoses and deepen their understanding of the particular needs within the countries and their territories in terms of women's autonomy.



Regarding this alliance, the Executive Secretary of the CIM expressed the importance of establishing these processes to avoid setbacks in the advancement of rights. *"The philosophy of the CIM as the main political forum for women's rights in the hemisphere, is to build alliances and build bridges with strategic organizations to implement concrete actions that contribute to the construction of this Agenda. That is why this alliance with CAF is so valuable: it allows us to join efforts to address inequalities from different approaches, strengths that give comprehensiveness to products that improve the lives of women."*

On the other hand, CAF's Representative in the Republic of Argentina stated that the *"achievement of Sustainable Development Goal number 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, will only be possible if all the actors that promote development in Latin America and the Caribbean unite and coordinate to offer solutions to our countries that translate into real opportunities for women and girls. This agreement between the CIM and CAF constitutes an alliance from which we hope to mobilize knowledge, resources and technical assistance in favor of the countries of the region and for the promotion of gender equality policies."*

Finally, Ana Baiardi, Manager of Gender, Inclusion and Diversity, added that *"from CAF's Strategy for Gender Equality, which seeks to contribute to equal opportunities and the empowerment of women and girls through support for public policies for equality and gender mainstreaming in the different services we*

offer, we are committed to the development of strategic alliances that translate into actions for women and girls to achieve full economic, physical and financial autonomy in decision-making. With this agreement, CAF and the CIM take an important step forward in cooperating for equality.”

CIM/OAS and CAF will continue working to strengthen alliances and concrete initiatives to contribute to gender equality, women's autonomy and the full exercise of their rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The [Inter-American Commission of Women](#) of the Organization of American States (CIM/OAS) is the region's principal political forum for the recognition of women's human rights and gender equality. Since its creation in 1928, the CIM has played a predominant and strategic role in the promotion of women's rights in the hemisphere.

CAF -Development Bank of Latin America- has as its mission to promote sustainable development and regional integration by financing public and private sector projects, providing technical cooperation and other specialized services. Established in 1970 and currently composed of 21 countries -19 from Latin America and the Caribbean, together with Spain and Portugal- and 13 private banks, CAF's mission is to promote sustainable development and regional integration by financing projects in the public and private sectors, providing technical cooperation and other specialized services.