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## XLVII Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States

### THEMATIC PANEL “OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP IN THE AMERICAS”

*Tuesday, June 21st 2017  
Cancun, Mexico*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In our countries, the agendas of women, in all of their diversity, arising from their knowledge, wisdom and strategic interests and promoted by social and political leaders, are influencing public policy decisions and budgetary frameworks.

This is ensuring the active participation of women in resource management, the definition of mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change, the construction of national development models, the change of power relations, roles and tasks, and above all, in the formulation of political, economic and social models for equality.

With respect to political participation and political violence, Bolivia has incorporated in its Constitution the principle of parity in the representation of Parliament and the Executive and has rules to penalize political harassment and violence against female authorities.

These and other practices in countries in the region, such as Ecuador and Argentina, have allowed for consensus on the *Inter-American Model Law on Political Violence against Women* developed by the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), which is inspiring national standards in this area.

This proposal is fundamental to increasing the number of women candidates for elected offices, generating the opportunity to influence electoral reforms and the formulation of policies on gender equality.

Another important aspect is the articulation between the mechanisms for the advancement of women of the United Nations system and the Inter-American Commission of Women, as a platform for the defense of our rights and gender equality in the region.

A strategy to improve this coordination is the construction of a common platform with priority themes and budgetary resources, for implementation in each country and in international mechanisms. One pending challenge is to mainstream this Platform into the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The women of the Americas are key players in the development of our countries. Only with our contest will justice, democracy and equality be possible.