



Activity Report

2023

Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)



Prologue	3
Political rights	4
Economic rights and women's empowerment	9
Peace and security	11
Strengthening and Articulation of Key Actors to promote the Gender Equality Agenda	12
Intersectionality	15
Caribbean	17
Building bridges	18
Commemoration of the 95th Anniversary of CIM	19
Events in the Region	22
Results of the #95YearsCIM Campaign	24
Mesecvi	25

Prologue

Alejandra Mora Mora

Executive Secretary of CIM

For the Inter-American Commission of Women, 2023 has meant milestones and significant achievements, not only marking the progress of our Strategic Plan 2022-2026 but also our proud celebration of the 95th anniversary of our valuable work.

Throughout 2023, following the mandate received from the CIM 2022 Assembly of Delegates to build bridges to promote women's rights, we have forged important alliances, recognizing the vital importance of multi-actor collaboration to achieve better results in our areas of work. These bridges have allowed us to develop initiatives such as our ongoing annual efforts to strengthen women's political leadership, diagnostics to promote women's participation in the workforce, as well as efforts to promote co-responsibility of care with different sectors of society. We also strengthened our agenda on women, peace, and security, and, of course, inaugurated the Inter-American Dialogue Roundtable of Rural Women and the Inter-American Dialogue Roundtable of Indigenous Women. Additionally, we launched a new line of work focused on building capacities in women's and feminist organizations to continue promoting gender equality as a good of humanity.

All these advancements have been made possible because of the support of States that are committed to the equality agenda and the work of CIM: Canada, the United States, Spain, France, Italy, Mexico, Latvia, Liechtenstein, the United Kingdom, and Trinidad and Tobago.

In the following pages, we will detail meticulously the achievements and progress made by CIM in the past year. Beyond being a recount of our actions, we aim to highlight the tangible impact of our work at the regional level. Every step taken, every alliance forged, and every project undertaken contribute to building a more inclusive and just space for women in the Americas.

Like our foremothers 95 years ago, we continue our tireless work in defending women's rights, setting the pace, and leaving an enduring mark in the fight for equality.

We will continue to forge paths, and build equality.



Political rights

Strengthening Women's leadership in the Americas

+250 women electoral candidates and women interested in politics strengthened their capacities and received practical tools for conducting successful electoral campaigns:

Two editions of the Course for Women Electoral Candidates of the CIM and the OAS School of Government were held in Guatemala and Costa Rica, as well as the first virtual edition of the Leadership Program for Women in Politics, an initiative carried out jointly with the National Electoral Institute of Mexico (INE).

Virtual format:



Hybrid format

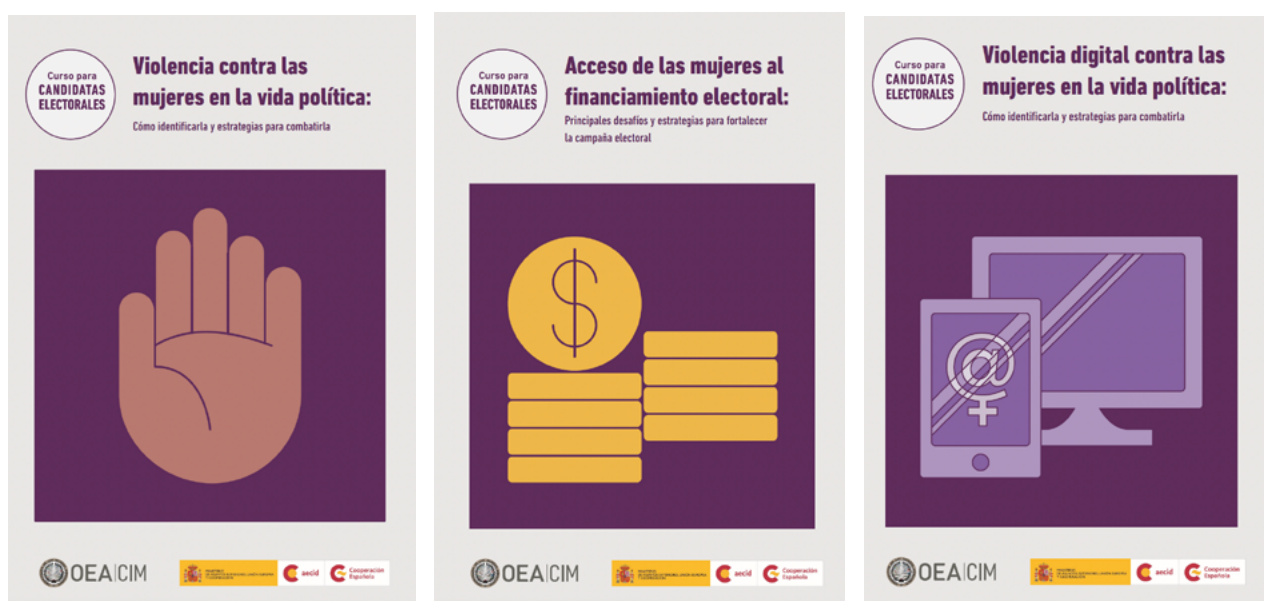


Virtual format:



Generation of new materials for the Course for Women Electoral Candidates.

Diverse materials were developed, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), for the participants of the Course, focused on political violence, digital violence and electoral financing.



Reconceptualization of the concept of political leadership from the voices of women in the Americas

Based on more than 40 interviews with women politicians from the region, a publication was launched during the 53rd OAS General Assembly, that detailed the results drawn from this process. The document also pushes the concept of “disruptive leadership” which was discussed in depth during the launch, on the way to reconceptualize the concept of leadership from the visions and experiences of women leaders in the Americas.

The event was attended by former President Michelle Bachellet and high-level gender authorities in the region.



Launch of the publication: “¿Dónde está el dinero para las campañas electorales de las mujeres?” (Where is the money for women’s electoral campaigns?)

Through a virtual event the CIM, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), launched the mentioned document with the objective of placing the problem of inequity in access to financing for electoral campaigns from a gender perspective and place it at the center of debate, taking into account that in Latin America the state contribution to political parties and electoral campaigns is, in most cases, substantial. The panel during the launch was attended by authorities and women politicians from Brazil, Ecuador, Spain, Mexico, Panama and experts from the CIM/OAS.

Download [here](#)



Report of recommendations for gender parity and geographical representativeness of the different legal systems in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

As part of the mandate assigned to the CIM during the 52nd OAS General Assembly (2022), a series of dialogues were held, in coordination with the OAS Commission on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and the organization GQUAL, with the objective of preparing a report of recommendations for gender parity and geographic representation of the different legal systems in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The report was presented and approved by the 53rd OAS General Assembly in 2023.



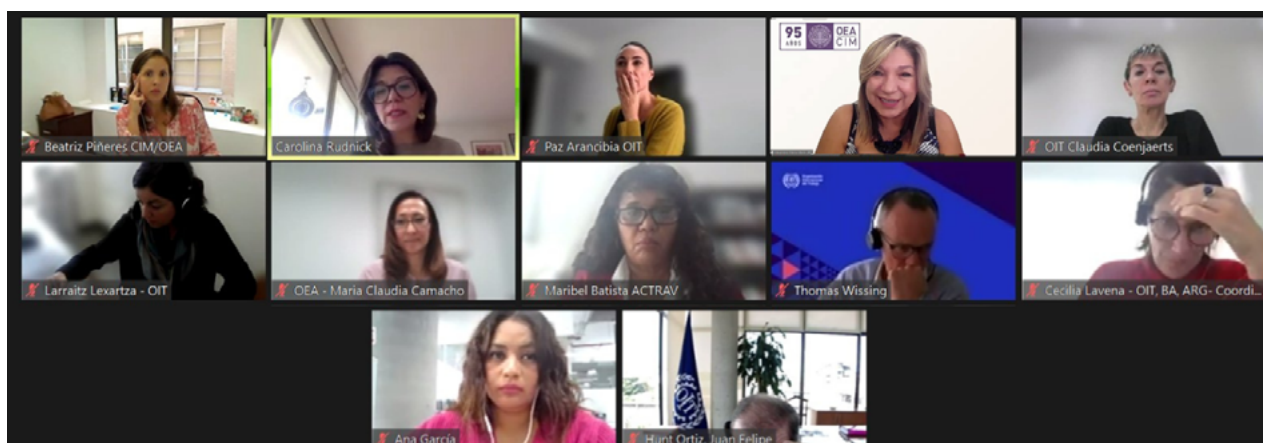


Economic rights and women's empowerment

Diagnosis for the Promotion of Efforts for Women's participation in the workforce:

Consultations were conducted with various relevant stakeholders with the purpose of analyzing and gathering inputs to promote women's formal labor market integration and female entrepreneurship. The results will be reflected in a document focused on specific affirmative measures to enhance women's participation in the labor market and productive life. The release of this publication is scheduled for the first months of 2024.

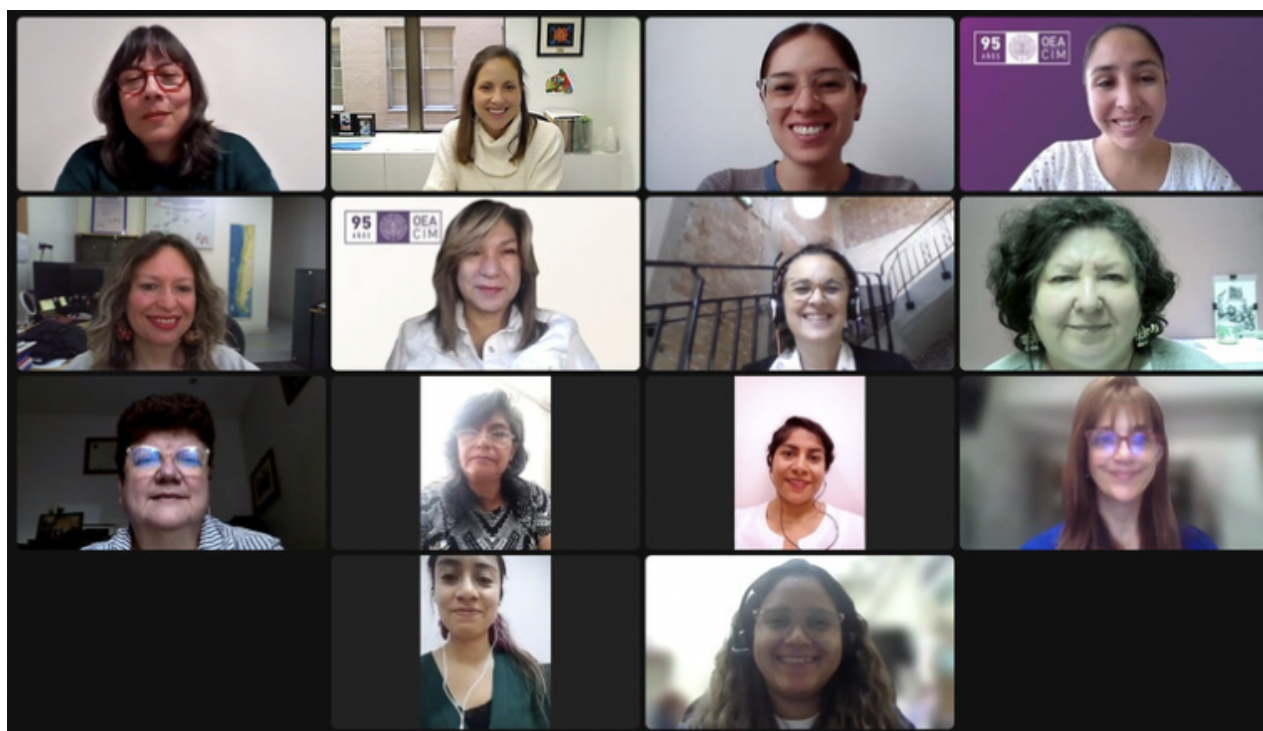
One of the consultations was carried out in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), with whom a dialogue exchange of practical recommendations was held to address existing gaps in labor markets.



Guide for the Implementation of Co-Responsibility Measures in Companies:

On the path to developing a Guide for the Implementation of Co-responsibility Measures in Companies, a document set to be published in the first semester of 2024, various activities were carried out to identify successful measures and practices regarding care co-responsibility at the corporate level. This initiative aims to involve the private sector as an additional ally to continue the promotion of closing gender gaps.

Among the activities, a series of efforts were made to collect information, both with Women's Advancement Mechanisms (MAMs) and companies with good practices on the co-responsibility of care. Likewise, dialogues were held with the government, civil society organizations, and businesses, all with the same objective



Work Plan for the Development of the Model Law on Financial Inclusion of Women in Collaboration with CAF:

In close collaboration with CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, a comprehensive work plan was designed for the development of the Model Law on Financial Inclusion of Women. This strategic step positions CIM to effectively address challenges in the financial inclusion of women, thereby contributing to the construction of more equitable and sustainable economic environments.



Peace and security

Support for the Elaboration Process of the National Action Plan in Colombia:

CIM deployed significant efforts to support the elaboration process of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security in Colombia. Comprehensive support was provided through virtual and in-person training sessions targeted at the ‘institutionality for peace.’ Representatives from 15 government entities, responsible for the implementation of the NAP, actively participated in these training sessions



Experts’ Meeting on Female Leadership in Crisis and Conflict Management:

CIM successfully coordinated an Experts’ Meeting focused on Female Leadership in Crisis and Conflict Management, held in Santiago, Chile. This gathering brought together women leaders from various sectors to share experiences and knowledge.

Participation in the Network of Focal Points on Women, Peace, and Security

The OAS, through CIM, joined the Network of Focal Points on Women, Peace, and Security, with the intention of strengthening the adoption and implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in the Americas.



Strengthening and Articulation of Key Actors to promote the Gender Equality Agenda

Launch of the regional initiative 'Feminist Alliances to Strengthen the Gender Agenda' ('Feminist Alliances')

Led by CIM/OAS, with the support of the Government of Canada, the initiative aims to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the hemisphere by promoting and strengthening collaboration among key actors and enhancing their capacities for analysis, advocacy, and strategic communication. It also seeks to promote increased capacity of states to implement gender equality commitments, specifically strengthening the capacity of feminist leaders and organizations to mobilize collective strategies.



Dialogue with the Women's Rights Movement



During the 53rd General Assembly of the OAS, as part of this project, a roundtable discussion was held with the women's rights movement. The objective was to create a space for exchange between CIM and feminist and women's organizations in the Americas, discussing challenges related to the social and political agenda for gender equality.

Access the report of the discussion [here](#).

Needs' Assessment among Women's Social Organizations

CIM conducted a diagnostic assessment of capabilities and needs among selected women's and feminist organizations from different Latin American countries with the objectives of:

- I) identifying and characterizing the capabilities of women's social organizations to participate in advocacy spaces,
- II) identifying specific needs that these organizations have in areas where capacity-building opportunities exist with the contribution of CIM,
- III) characterizing the current threat landscape they face, especially in light of the proliferation of movements and discourses against the gender equality agenda and human rights.



Establishment of the Advisory Group of Women's Social Organizations

Within the framework of the 'Feminist Alliances' project, an Advisory Group was formed consisting of nine prominent social organizations dedicated to the promotion of women's rights at the national and regional levels. This group serves as an essential consulting body to comprehensively assess the achievement of the project's objectives, particularly regarding the creation and strengthening of capacities.

Registration of Social Organizations with CIM

CIM has established a registry for women's rights social organizations, and so far, 578 organizations from 25 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean have registered. The purpose of the registry is to map and identify social organizations working in the defense of women's rights and gender equality to facilitate potential synergies and collaborations with them. The registration form is available at:

Spanish: <https://forms.office.com/r/9xJcqEHqdN>

English: <https://forms.office.com/r/1q4aqrz4jh>



Intersectionality

Inter-American Decade for the Rights of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Environments of the Americas



The 53rd General Assembly of the OAS approved the Declaration on the Rights of Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Environments of the Americas and proclaimed the Inter-American Decade for the Rights of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Environments of the Americas between 2024-2034. The Declaration aims to promote progressive measures for the advancement of all their rights and the eradication of all forms of discrimination they face.

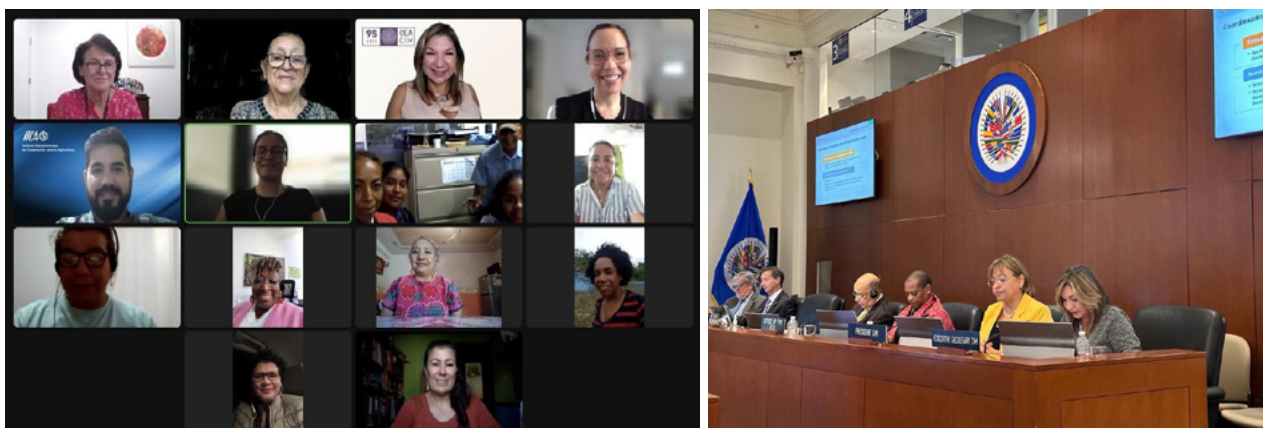
The CIM assumed the mandate to coordinate, in collaboration with various OAS entities and international, regional, and national organizations, specific actions and activities. The goal is to highlight the situation of all rural women and strengthen their capacity to lead and participate in decision-making processes and the formulation of public policies

[Download available here](#)

Inter-American Forum of Rural Women:

In February of this year, the Inter-American Dialogue Roundtable of Rural Women was established, which currently has more than 30 members. The forum held meetings from which various inputs were collected to contribute to the Declaration on the Rights of Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Environments of the Americas, ultimately adopted by the 53rd General Assembly of the OAS.

The CIM, in collaboration with the Inter-American Dialogue Roundtable of Rural Women, worked on a proposal to define strategic lines of work for the mentioned Decade. This proposal was presented to the Permanent Council in October of this year and will be documented in an official publication soon.



Inter-American Dialogue Roundtable of Indigenous Women

CIM formed the Inter-American Dialogue Roundtable of Indigenous Women, which serves as the regional mechanism enabling CIM to incorporate the principles of diversity and intersectionality into institutional activities based on the voices and demands of indigenous women, as outlined in the CIM Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

During the first meeting, the objective was to facilitate an exchange of experiences regarding the political participation of indigenous women to enrich the CIM Electoral Candidates Course.





Caribbean

Membership in the Gender Working Group of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

CIM has formalized its membership in the Gender Working Group (GWG) of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). This group brings together experts from across the Caribbean region to promote the integration of gender perspectives into disaster management initiatives.

Inaugural Consultation in the Caribbean for the Design of the Electoral Candidates Course:



With the support of the United States Mission to the OAS, CIM conducted the first consultation with key stakeholders in the Caribbean region to design the Caribbean edition of the Electoral Candidates Course. This initiative provided valuable insights into adapting course materials to the political context of the Caribbean region for greater applicability and maximized results



Building bridges

Cooperation between CIM and the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity of Chile



The CIM signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity of Chile, focusing on areas of great relevance to the gender agenda, such as political participation, eradication of violence, comprehensive development, and security.

The CIM and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) signed a joint work agreement.



The institutions committed to: training rural women on crucial topics such as economic autonomy, access to financial services, and the use of new technologies applied to agriculture. They also pledged to jointly follow up on the Declaration for the Rights of Women in Rural Environments.



Commemoration of the 95th Anniversary of CIM

The 95th anniversary of CIM involved regional celebrations, initiatives that delved into the Commission's history, and, above all, a strong emphasis on highlighting the work of women who brought about significant changes and established the equality agenda in the inter-American and international systems.

Key Activities:

Special Session at the OAS Permanent Council



The celebration kicked off on February 16 with a special session at the OAS Permanent Council. This high-level dialogue aimed to recognize the pioneering work of CIM's creators in 1928 and provide a historical overview of the advances and challenges in the gender agenda.

The event featured the participation of high-ranking authorities and gender experts who delved into CIM's strategic pillars: violence, the advancement of gender-balanced democracy, and economic empowerment. The session concluded with the inauguration of the photographic exhibition.

More information [here](#)

High-level Dialogue available [here](#)



Launch of the Historical Document “Forging Paths, Building Equality”

Under the title ‘Forging Paths, Building Equality: 95 years of the Inter-American Commission of Women,’ a historical compilation document was published, showcasing the actions and milestones in which CIM has been involved. It recognizes the women who successfully carved out a space in multilateralism for the defense of women’s rights.

Download [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

“Women Who Transform the Americas” - Space Inaugurated with the Art Museum of the Americas (AMA):



Clara González (Panama)



Doris Stevens (USA)

Through the resolution approved by the OAS Permanent Council, in collaboration with the Art Museum of the Americas (AMA), the ‘Women Who Transform the Americas’ space was inaugurated. This artistic exhibition aims to showcase and vindicate the struggles, work, and activism carried out by women in the region.

Throughout 2023, the Missions of the United States, Panama, Costa Rica, and Argentina donated portraits of prominent women in their countries and in the Americas



Ángela Acuña (Costa Rica)



Eva Duarte de Perón (Argentina)



Events in the Region

Argentina

In Argentina, the celebration of the 95 years of CIM took place within the framework of the 'Supraregional Women's Encounter.' The government of the province of Córdoba awarded CIM a plaque in recognition of its trajectory and all contributions to the regional equality agenda.



Saint Lucia:

The Parliament of Saint Lucia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Affairs and the Saint Lucia mission to the OAS, joined the commemoration through a high-level event focused on increasing gender parity in political participation and leadership in Saint Lucia.



Uruguay

In Uruguay, the 95 years of CIM were part of an event on gender-based political violence. During this meeting, advances in women's political participation and the CIM's fundamental contribution were highlighted. The leaders of the main political parties expressed their recognition and rejection of political violence through the signing of a commitment.





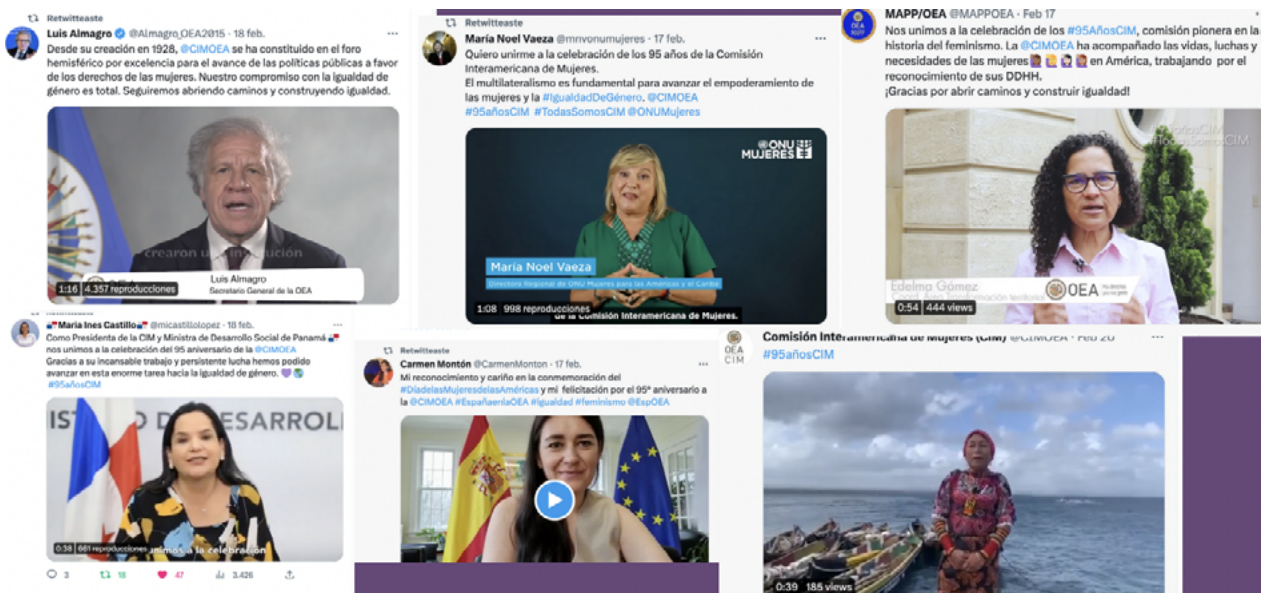
Results of the #95YearsCIM Campaign

The campaign consisted of three stages, focusing on the history of CIM, its past, present, and future. Using educational materials, a journey was taken through the contributions made by the construction of CIM in multilateralism, its present agenda, working methodology, and the importance of considering future challenges, collaborating with younger generations, and rethinking the equality agenda.

+700 uses of the hashtag #95YearsCIM



+40 accounts of organizations and authorities joined the #95YearsCIM campaign during the anniversary on February 18, 2023.





Mesecevi

Women and Disabilities

Girls and women with disabilities disproportionately experience gender-based violence. In response to this situation, the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI presented two new publications in June of this year that provide recommendations for preventing, addressing, investigating, sanctioning, and repairing violence against them.

[‘Thematic Report on Gender-based Violence against Girls and Women with Disabilities’](#) and [‘General Recommendation \(No.4\) on Gender-based Violence against Girls and Women with Disabilities.’](#)



The MESECVI initiated efforts to develop a comprehensive Model Law to prevent, penalize, and eradicate gender-based violence against women facilitated by technologies



The project is driven by a broad global alliance, including the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), Equality Now, the Republic of Italy, CICTE, UN Women, the European Union program EUROsocial, the Wilson Center, the Regional Alliance for Free Expression and Information, UNFPA, UNESCO, and civil society organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean.



MESECVI Member States and the Committee of Experts approved the Regional Declaration on Symbolic and Political Violence against Women

During the Third Extraordinary Conference of MESECVI Member States of the Belém do Pará Convention, the [Regional Declaration on the Eradication of Gender Stereotypes in Public Spaces Leading to Symbolic and Political Violence Against Women](#) was approved. The declaration marks a regional milestone by acknowledging symbolic violence as a manifestation of historical discrimination against women



Strategic litigation, a tool to address violence against women in politics

In August of this year, MESECVI, the Inter-American Commission of Women, and UN Women introduced two new documents providing tools for safeguarding women's political rights. These are the *"Guide for strategic litigation of cases of violence against women in public and political life"* and the second updated edition of the document *"Standards for the protection of the Human Rights of Women: Necessary Tools for the Defense of Women's Political Participation."*

These documents aim to support women and organizations in the region in their strategic litigation initiatives as a means to access justice and achieve a transformative social and institutional impact that strengthens democracies.

Official Visit to the State of Argentina



In March 2023, the Committee of Experts of MESECVI conducted an official visit to the State of Argentina with the aim of addressing violence against women in the political sphere and providing technical assistance to the authorities in this regard. Throughout meetings held with government authorities, women victims of violence, civil society organizations, academia, and the media, the report 'Self-censorship, Harassment, Fear, and Impunity: Violence against Women in Public and Political Life in Argentina' was published as a result of these exchanges. The report includes recommendations to the State for addressing such violence.



OAS | CIM

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