



Red CIM de Mujeres Políticas



CIM/OAS Launches Pioneer Program for Women in Politics in the Region

Washington DC, August 3, 2020 - [The Inter-American Commission of Women](#) (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS), with the support and cooperation of the Permanent Observer Mission of Spain to the OAS, announces the launch of the Inter-American Program for Democratic Strengthening and Leadership of Women, in follow-up and deepening of the Course for Women Electoral Candidates created by the CIM in 2018, which has already trained more than 500 women electoral candidates.

The initiative, a pioneer at the regional level, seeks to promote women's leadership and political empowerment from an integral perspective, through actions for the political empowerment of women, the generation of knowledge, and the creation of a regional network that, from ideological and partisan plurality, articulates women in the promotion of the agenda for equality. The elements that make up this program are: (1) Course for Women Electoral Candidates; (2) Specialization on Leadership and Public Policy; (3) Research on women's political leadership; and (4) the CIM Network of Women Politicians.

"With this Program, the CIM/OAS creates a space for empowerment, sisterhood, knowledge and articulation among women politicians. The objective is not only to contribute to women's access to government positions, but also to ensure that they remain on an equal footing. From the first day of the pandemic, we have been emphatic in stating that we cannot allow setbacks in the rights achieved by women," concluded the Executive Secretary of the CIM and highest authority on gender at the OAS, Alejandra Mora Mora.

On her part, Carmen Montón, Ambassador of the Permanent Observer Mission of Spain to the OAS, stated that "For Spain, strengthening the spaces and leadership of women is a priority commitment. This initiative seems to us to be key in the framework of the work that the OAS carries out to strengthen democracy in the hemisphere. To promote women's leadership and feminism is to strengthen democracy and to bet on the

progress of societies. From this Mission we support this Program with the objective that in this crisis the gaps of inequality in the representation of women do not widen".

The CIM/OAS, in collaboration with the OAS School of Government, is working with the Ministries of Women's Affairs of Honduras and Paraguay, and with the National Electoral Council of Ecuador to offer new online editions of the Course for Women Electoral Candidates, in the framework of the elections scheduled for 2021.

In this regard, the Paraguayan Minister for Women, Nilda Romero Santacruz, stated that "The Paraguayan State has the obligation to provide the conditions for elections to be held with the greatest guarantees, including gender equality. The CIM Course and the OAS School of Government provide women with strategies and new perspectives to combat discrimination, which, of course, is replicated in electoral campaigns".

Meanwhile, the Minister of the National Women's Institute of Honduras, Ana Aminta Madrid stated that "The Course for Women Electoral Candidates is a high-level training that we want to offer to Honduran women who decide to run for election. In this opportunity, we want to target women belonging to groups traditionally excluded from politics, women from indigenous populations and women from the country's Afro-descendant communities. With the course we will offer the possibility for the candidates to access a quality program, with an international teaching team that incorporates the gender equality agenda".

The Permanent Representative of the Mission of Ecuador, Ambassador Carlos Alberto Játiva, pointed out that "Ecuador was the first Latin American country to recognize women's suffrage in 1929, so gender equality is a central component of electoral processes. While much progress has been made with the enactment of the parity law and more recently with the reform of the Electoral Code (Democracy Code) to incorporate violence against women in politics, the goal remains the achievement of equality. For this reason, we have asked the CIM to conduct the Course for Women Electoral Candidates, a task that is even more relevant in the new context that COVID-19 leaves us."

The [CIM/OAS](#) is the region's main 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.