

## High-level authorities agree to accelerate progress on the rights of rural girls and women in the next ten years

- The event sought to generate commitments within the framework of the Inter-American Decade for the Rights of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Environments of the Americas (2024-2034).

New York, Thursday, March 14, 2024 - High-level authorities from the region concurred on the importance of accelerating progress on the rights of rural girls, adolescents, and women in the Americas over the next ten years. The parallel event "Alliances for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Decade of Rural Women, Adolescents, and Girls in the Americas and its globalization" took place during the 68th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) in New York.

Juana Herrera Araúz, Minister of Women of Panama and President of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS), highlighted the approval of the Inter-American Decade for the Rights of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Environments of the Americas by the member states of the Organization of American States in June 2023. Luz Haro, Executive Secretary of the Network of Rural Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC), called on decision-makers to promote the autonomy of rural women. "We want rural women to be landowners," she emphasized.

During the main panel, authorities emphasized the relevance of approving policies that ensure the rights of rural women as local actors in the care of life, food, and territorial development. In addition to Minister Herrera, participants included the Vice Minister of Women of the Ministry of Equality and Equity of Colombia, Diana Gómez; the Minister of Women's Affairs of Costa Rica, Cindy Quesada; and the Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic, Mayra Jiménez.

Also lending their voices in support of the rights of rural women were Maria Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN Women; Mar Merita Blat, Gender Expert of the French Development Agency; and Melba Segura de Grullón, President of the Sur Futuro Foundation. Finally, the event also featured the participation of the Minister of Women of Chile, Antonia Orellana, and the Presidential Secretary for Women of Guatemala, Ana Leticia Aguilar.

The dialogue was organized by the governments of Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica, with the support of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS) as the promoting organization of the Inter-American Decade for the Rights of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Environments of the Americas.