

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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RESOLUTION

PROMOTION OF PARITY IN ELECTIONS OF COLLEGIATE BODIES, ORGANIZATIONS,
AND ENTITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES^{1/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 28, 2024)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

MINDFUL of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man;

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes that the elimination of all forms of discrimination, especially gender, ethnic, and race discrimination, as well as diverse forms of intolerance, and respect for ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity in the Americas contribute to strengthening democracy and citizen participation;

CONSCIOUS that gender equality and full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of all women and the elimination of all of sexual and gender-based violence in all areas of political, social, and economic life are fundamental for democratic development and the construction of more just and inclusive societies;

COGNIZANT of the historical underrepresentation of women in forums for political activity, particularly women who are part of groups that have been historically marginalized, its negative impacts on representative democracy, and the need for gender equity in leadership roles;

RECALLING resolution CP/RES. 1149 (2278/20) "Women's Representation and Participation in the OAS," adopted by the Permanent Council at the special meeting of March 12, 2020; and resolution AG/RES. 2994 (LII-O/22) "Women's Leadership for the Advancement of Gender Equality and Democracy in the Americas", adopted by the Assembly at its fifty-second regular session;

^{1.} The delegations of Trinidad and Tobago and Argentina will submit a footnote.

RECOGNIZING that the collegiate bodies, organizations, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS) can influence decision-making and policy formulation in the Organization's member states;

CONVINCED that the adoption of measures to promote gender parity and equitable geographical distribution in elections to collegiate bodies will contribute to achieving equal participation of women and men in decision-making and strengthen the discussion and analysis of these, taking into account the particular situation of each subregion of the Americas; and

MINDFUL that the collegiate bodies, organizations, and entities of the Inter-American system of the OAS whose members are elected in a personal capacity are the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the OAS Administrative Tribunal, and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to promote gender parity in the elections of institutions that are part of the Organization of American States (OAS), through the adoption of effective measures and the implementation of policies and programs aimed at ensuring a balanced representation of women and men.

2. To request the General Secretariat, prior to each election of authorities of the collegiate bodies, organizations, and entities of the Organization, to inform the Member States of the importance of gender parity, geographic distribution and complementarity of legal systems in the elections of collegiate bodies, organizations, and entities of the OAS ; the number of quotas that are available, detailing those who occupied them and those who will continue to hold office for the period of elections that is opening and the total number of eligible positions.

3. To amend Article 8 of the Statute of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as follows:

Article 8. Election – Preliminary Procedures

1. Six months before the regular session of the OAS General Assembly prior to the end of the mandate for which the judges of the Court were elected, the Secretary General of the OAS shall address a written request to each State Party to the Convention that it nominate its candidates within the next 90 days.

2. After that period ends, the General Secretariat shall review the gender balance among the candidates. If the difference between the number of women and men candidates is greater than one, the Secretariat shall grant a one-time, ten calendar day extension to promote the submission of new nominations. This will allow OAS member states to present candidates whose election will help achieve gender parity.

3. The Secretary General shall be requested to draw up an alphabetical list of the candidates nominated and to forward it to the States Parties at least thirty days before the next session of the OAS General Assembly.

4. In the event of vacancies on the Court or the permanent disability of a candidate, the aforementioned time periods shall be shortened to a period that the Secretary General shall deem reasonable.

4. To amend Article 4 of the Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as follows:

Article 4.

1. Six months before the regular session of the OAS General Assembly prior to the expiration of the terms of office for which the members of the Commission were elected, the Secretary General shall request, in writing, each member state of the Organization to present its candidates within 90 days.

2. After that period ends, the General Secretariat shall review the gender balance among the candidates. If the difference between the number of women and men candidates is greater than one, the Secretariat shall grant a one-time, ten calendar days extension to promote the submission of new nominations. This will allow OAS member states to present candidates whose election will help achieve gender parity.

3. The Secretary General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of the candidates nominated and shall transmit it to the member states of the Organization at least thirty days prior to the next General Assembly.

5. To amend Article 7 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Juridical Committee as follows:

Article 7. Before each election, whether to replace a member at the end of their term or to fill a vacancy that has arisen, the General Secretariat shall invite member states to submit candidates at least 30 days prior to the election. This submission should include the candidates' biographical data, which will be immediately communicated to all member states. After this period, the Secretariat shall assess the gender balance among the candidates. If the difference between women and men candidates exceeds one, a one-time, ten calendar days extension shall be granted to allow member states to present submit additional candidates to ensure gender parity. Following this, the Secretariat shall compile a shortlist of candidates, with their biographical data, in alphabetical order by the nominating countries' names, and present it to the General Assembly.

6. To adopt the following text as a new paragraph 1 of Annex II to the Rules of Procedure of the OAS General Assembly titled "Procedure for the Election of Members of the Administrative Tribunal":

1. Before each election, the General Secretariat shall invite member state governments to submit their candidacies at least 30 days in advance. These submissions shall include the candidates' biographical data, which will be immediately shared with all member states. After this period, the Secretariat shall assess the gender distribution among the candidates. If the difference between the number of women and men candidates exceeds one, the Secretariat shall grant a one-time, ten calendar days extension. This extension will allow

member states the opportunity to present additional nominees whose election will help achieve gender parity.

7. To amend Article 11 (1) of the Statute of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas as follows:

1. The Board of Directors shall be composed of seven members elected in their personal capacity by the OAS General Assembly from among candidates nominated by the member states of the OAS. To facilitate each election, the General Secretariat shall invite member states to submit their candidacies at least 30 days in advance. Those submissions shall include the candidates' biographical data, which will be immediately shared with all member states. After this initial period, the Secretariat shall evaluate the gender balance among the candidates. If the difference between the number of women and men candidates exceeds one, the Secretariat shall implement a parity extension. This extension grants a one-time additional period of ten calendar days to permit the submission of new candidacies, enabling OAS member states to nominate candidates whose election will help to achieve gender parity.

The ways and means of ensuring representation on the Board of Directors for the host institution of the Center and for the associate members shall be determined by the REMJA on the basis of the recommendation of the Board of Directors.