



PERMANENT COUNCIL  
CP/RES. 1149 (2278/20)

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE OAS <sup>1</sup>

(Adopted by the Permanent Council at its special meeting of March 12, 2020)

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

CONSIDERING the objectives and principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Pará), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

HIGHLIGHTING that the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), since its inception in 1928, has played a key role in protecting and promoting women's political and participation rights in the public sphere;

RECALLING the commitments under the Declaration of the Inter-American Year of Women "Women and Power: For a World with Equality" [CIM/DEC. 10 (XXXV-O/10)]; the Declaration of San José on the Economic and Political Empowerment of the Women of the Americas [CIM/DEC. 14 (XXXVI-O/12)]; and, in particular, the Declaration of Santo Domingo on Equality and Autonomy in the Exercise of Women's Political Rights for the Strengthening of Democracy [CIM/DEC. 16 (XXXVIII-O/19)];

RECOGNIZING the important role that women play in the consolidation of a representative, plural, and inclusive democracy, and underscoring the importance that they participate on an equal footing in (i) the various OAS mechanisms that contribute to strengthening democracy, human rights, integral development, and multidimensional security and (ii) the special mechanisms for addressing political situations and humanitarian emergencies, particularly within the framework of missions, commissions, and special panels;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the progress that has been achieved thus far in terms of women's participation in institutional spaces and the incorporation of a gender perspective in the OAS, in keeping with resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, without prejudice to the fact that women's representation on an equal basis in decision-making and in the highest positions of employment remains a challenge in the Organization;

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1. The Government of the Republic of Paraguay joins the consensus on this resolution. However, it does not agree with the relevance of the reference to General Secretariat Executive Order No. 16-03 and ...

UNDERSCORING that electoral observation missions with input from the CIM systematically make observations regarding the situation of women's political rights and their impact on the quality of democracy, which should be considered; and

BEARING IN MIND that the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1625 (XXIX-O/99), recognizes the Inter-American Commission of Women as the principal hemispheric policy-generating forum for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality, and that the General Secretariat, based on the powers conferred by the Charter and General Standards, issued Executive Order No. 16-03 on the Institutional Policy of Gender Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights of the General Secretariat of the Organization,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its condemnation of the multiple forms of discrimination and violence against women in the Hemisphere, in particular the lack of access for women to full participation in the public sphere, in both representation and decision-making positions.

2. To request that the General Secretariat (i) progressively increase women's participation and representation in decision-making positions within the Organization, as well as in all the commissions, missions, panels, and collegiate groups, including electoral observation missions, with the aim of attaining parity, the latter being understood as the equal and active participation of women in their leadership and composition, and (ii) devise a plan to achieve that goal, which should be submitted to the Permanent Council no later than November 2020.

3. To reiterate to the General Secretariat the necessity to (i) adopt all measures to implement the provisions of Executive Order No. 16-03 in all spheres of the Organization, including its programs, projects, and actions, and (ii) strengthen the CIM to ensure its full participation in its coordination, monitoring, and advisory role, reinforcing parity from a diversity approach.

4. To insist that it is the responsibility of member states to generate conditions and spur opportunities for the nomination and/or appointment of women in OAS organs and entities.

5. To request the General Secretariat to make all necessary efforts to facilitate coordination between the Inter-American Commission of Women and the rest of the Organization in order to advance women's representation and participation, especially in the follow-up on the recommendations of OAS electoral observation missions regarding women's rights.

6. To request the General Secretariat to report to the Permanent Council in March of each year on progress in implementing this resolution.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... its annexes, owing to the incompatibility of some of the concepts contained in that document with the country's domestic laws.