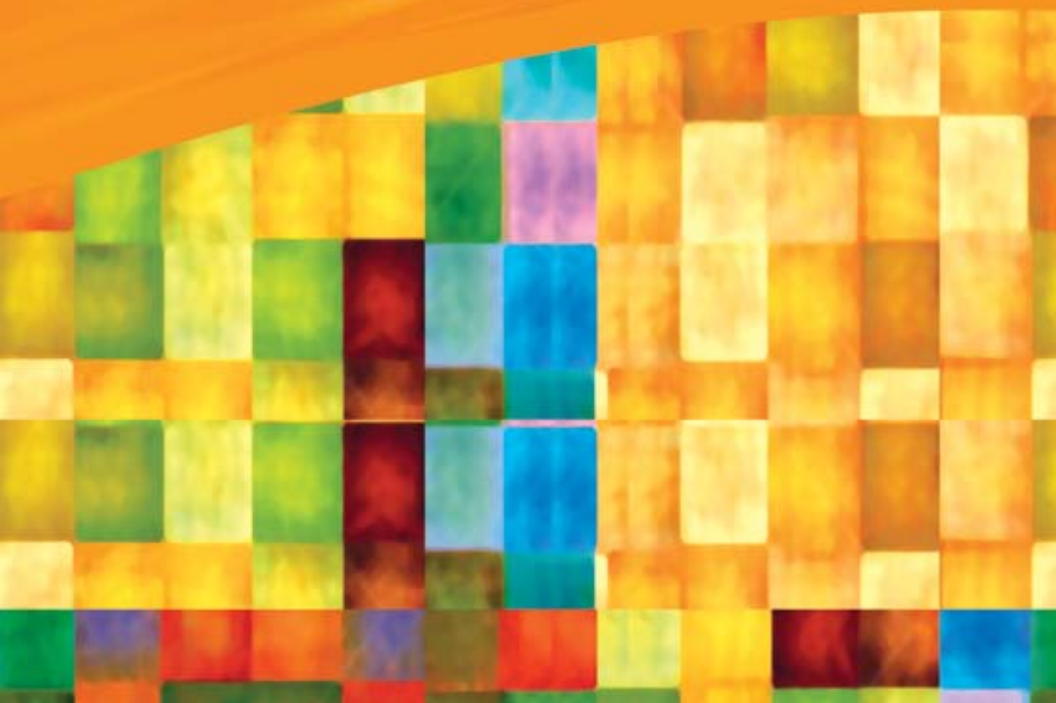


Second Hemispheric Forum

Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy



Second Hemispheric Forum Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy

From July 18th to 21th 2012, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

The Second Hemispheric Forum “Women’s Full citizenship for Democracy” is being carried out as part of the activities of the project “Development of capacity for women’s leadership and incidence in public policy for gender equality” and in follow up to the recommendations of the First Hemispheric Forum “Women’s Leadership for a Citizens’ Democracy”, which was held from April 4th to 6th 2011, in Washington, DC, in collaboration with UN Women and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).

The purpose of the Second Hemispheric Forum is to identify and discuss the necessary political and state reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to expedite the exercise of women’s full citizenship in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event seeks to promote synergy, consensus and joint activities between the government’s executive, legislative and judicial branches, women’s networks and organizations and ombudsmen. This event is co-sponsored by UN Women and International IDEA.

The expected outcomes of the Second Hemispheric Forum include: a) Recommendations on priorities, strategies and opportunities for incidence in the reform and modernization processes of the governmental branches, political parties and electoral institutions; b) exchanged experiences on strategies, outcomes and lessons learned on political reform and

modernization of the state from a gender mainstreaming and women's rights perspective, and c) the creation of spaces for pluralistic dialogue, cooperation among states and promoting synergies between governmental branches, ombudsmen, women's organizations/networks and civil society.

The participants of the Second Hemispheric Forum will include the ministers and directors of the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, the Presidents of the Commissions for Gender Equality of the parliaments of the region; parliamentarians; judges/ministers of the Supreme and Electoral Courts; public defenders and women's rights advocates from Latin America and Caribbean; women's networks and organizations, representatives of international organizations, the diplomatic corps accredited to the Dominican Republic and special guests of the Dominican government.

Venue of the Second Hemispheric Forum

Ministry of External Relations
Avenida Independencia No. 752
Santo Domingo
Tels. 809-987-7002; 809-987-7060

Live Webcast

The Second Hemispheric Forum “Women’s full citizenship for democracy” will be transmitted live in four languages (Spanish, English, Portuguese and French), through the OAS online platform. You can connect to the event using the following links:

- **Original:** <http://www.livestream.com/OASLive2>
- **English:** <http://www.livestream.com/OASEnglish2>
- **Spanish:** <http://www.livestream.com/OASSpanish2>
- **French:** <http://www.livestream.com/OASFrench2>
- **Portuguese:** <http://www.livestream.com/OASPortugues2>

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AGENDA

Wednesday July 18th

6:00 p.m - 7:00 p.m. Convention Center

Opening Session of the II Hemispheric Forum

- Carlos Morales Troncoso,
Minister for External Relations of the Dominican Republic
- Alejandrina Germán
Minister for Women of the Dominican Republic
- Rocío García Gaytán
President of the Inter-American Commission of Women
- Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu
Representative of International IDEA
- José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General of the OAS
- Leonel Fernández Reyna
President of the Dominican Republic

7:30 p.m - 9:00 p.m. Lobby

Welcome cocktail

Thursday July 19th

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Convention Center

Dialogue on “State reforms and the agenda for gender equality in electoral processes”

- Marisol Espinoza Cruz
First Vice-President of Peru (invited)
- Lilian Soto
Presidential Candidate for Paraguay
- Margarita Cedeño
Vice President-elect of the Dominican Republic (invited)

Moderator: Kevin Casas-Zamora
Secretary for Political Affairs of the OAS

Question and answer session

10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Convention Center

“Women’s citizenship and democracy in Latin America”: presentation of the Latin America study

Belkys Mones, Virginia Vargas y Lilian Soto
Regional Working Group on Women’s Full Citizenship for Democracy

Moderator: Alejandra Liriano
Vice-Minister for External Relations of
the Dominican Republic

Question and answer session

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Lunch

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Convention Center

“Women’s citizenship and democracy in the Caribbean”: presentation of the study in the English-speaking Caribbean

Rawwida Baksh y Linette Vassell

Regional Working Group on Women’s Full Citizenship for Democracy

Moderator: Wanda K. Jones

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health,
Department of Health and Human Services,
United States.

Question and answer session

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Break

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Convention Center

“Women’s citizenship and democracy in Canada”: presentation of the Canada study

Jane Jenson

Department of Political Science of the University of Montreal and Canada Research Chair in Citizenship and Governance

Moderator: Irene Sandiford-Garner

Senator of Barbados and Vice-President of the CIM

Question and answer session

Friday July 20th

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Convention Center

Democracy, citizenship and society: Transformations in gender relations

Gilles Lipovetsky

Philosopher and Professor of the University of Grenoble

Moderator: Virginia Vargas

Expert on women's rights, Peru

Question and answer session

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Convention Center

Panel on “Parity in political representation on Latin America: progress and lessons learned from Costa Rica, Bolivia and Ecuador”

Isabel Torres

Specialist of the Center for Law Studies, Costa Rica

Marlene Choque Aldana

Specialist on citizenship, Bolivia

Solanda Goyes

President of Mujeres por la Equidad de Género y la Autonomía and member of Colectivo Nosotras, Ecuador

Moderator: Niurka Palacio

President of the Forum of Women in Political Parties, Panama

Question and answer session

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Coffee break

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Convention Center

Panel “Challenges for Public Defenders in assuring the fulfillment of women’s rights”

Pilar Rueda

Ombudsperson in charge of Women, Children and Youth’s Rights of the Public Defender, Colombia

Ana Gladys Olla

Office of the Ombudsman for Women of the Human Rights Public Defender, Guatemala

Alejandra Mora

Director of Women of the Public Defender, Costa Rica

Teresa Paniagua

National Commission on Human Rights, Mexico

Moderator: Otilia Lux de Cotí

Former Deputy, Director of the Movimiento Winaq Party, Guatemala

Question and answer session

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Lunch

Concurrent Panels

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Convention Center

Panel I: “Status, challenges and strategies of executive-level reforms for gender equality”

- *Status of policy and administrative reforms at the executive level in Latin America and the Caribbean*

Gregorio Montero

Secretary General of the Latin American Center for Management for Development (CLAD)

- *State reforms and gender equality*

Lilian Soto

Expert in public management and gender equality, Paraguay

- *Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the modernization of public management: the case of Chile*

Andrea Reyes

SERNAM Expert, Chile

Moderator: Elizabeth Quiroa

Secretaria Presidencial de la Mujer, Guatemala

Question and answer session

Panel II: “Status and current perspectives on legislative-level reforms for real equality”

— *Status of the reform of legislative bodies in LAC*

Fátima Anastasia

Legislative issues professor and researcher of Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais, Brasil

— *Pay equity law*

Danielle Doyer

Member of the National Assembly of Québec

— *Law on women’s access to a life free of violence*

Norma Esparza

Senator of Mexico

— *Quota laws in Argentina*

Alicia Gutiérrez

Deputy of Argentina

Moderator: Diputada Diva Gastélum

President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Confederation of Parliaments of the Americas (COPA)

Question and answer session

3:30 p.m. -3:45 p.m.

Coffee break

Concurrent Panels

3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Convention Center

Panel I: “Reforms in the judicial system for gender equality and women’s rights”

— *Status of the reform of justice systems in Latin America*

María Mercedes López Mora

Judge, Supreme Court of Justice, Colombia

— *Violence against women and the reform of the justice sector in Brazil*

Aparecida Gonçalves

Secretary for the Confrontation of Violence, Brazil

— *Reform of the judiciary in Costa Rica*

Zarela Villanueva

Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Justice, Costa Rica

— *Judicial initiatives for gender justice*

Josefina Durán

Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género, Argentina

Moderator: Rocío García Gaytán

President of the CIM

Question and answer session

Panel II: “Reforms and democratization of political parties: the agenda for gender equality and parity in political representation”

- *Status of equality in Latin American political parties: challenges and good practices*

Percy Medina

Specialist, International IDEA

- *Women and political and party leadership: challenges and opportunities*

Margarita Pércovich

Former parliamentarian, Frente Amplio Uruguay

- *Inside political parties: equality and ethnicity, two pending issues*

Blanca Gamez

Former Federal Deputy of the Acción Nacional Party, México

Otilia Lux de Cotí

Former Deputy, Director of the Movimiento Winaq Party, Guatemala

Moderator: Beatriz Llanos

Specialist in political participation

Question and answer session

Saturday July 21st

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Convention Center

Road maps and synergies for gender equality in the exercise of women's rights

(Concurrent working groups)

Working Group I Convention Center

Priorities and strategies for ensuring gender equality and women's rights in Executive reforms and modernization

Moderator: Moni Pizani

Director of the UN Women Regional Center

Rapporteur: Narda Henriquez

Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

Working Group II Auditorium

Priorities and strategies for ensuring gender equality and women's rights in Legislative reforms

Moderator: Minerva Tavarez Mirabal

Deputy of the Dominican Republic

Rapporteur: Belkys Mones

Specialist in women's rights, CIM/OAS

Working Group III Room 2A of the Diplomatic School

Priorities and strategies for ensuring gender equality and women's rights in Judicial reforms

Moderator: Doris María Arias Madrigal

Judge of the Supreme Court of Justice

Rapporteur: Susana Chiarotti

Expert in women's human rights

Working Group IV

Room 3A of the Diplomatic School

Priorities and strategies for democratization and gender equality in political parties

Moderator: Percy Medina

International IDEA specialist

Rapporteur: Beatriz Llanos

Political participation specialist

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Convention Center

Road maps for gender equality: Strategies and actions for policy reforms and State modernization in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Presentation of the results of the working groups
- Plenary debate

Moderator: Jéssica Mualim Fajuri

Under-Secretary of the Servicio Nacional de la Mujer, Chile

1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Convention Center

Closing session of the Second Hemispheric Forum

Moni Pizani

Director of the UN Women Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean

Rocío García Gaytán

President of the CIM

ABOUT THE
PANELISTS



Alejandrina Germán

Minister for Women of the Dominican Republic

Alejandrina Germán currently serves as Minister for Women of the Dominican Republic. In 1996, she was appointed to the post of President of the National Council on Higher Education (CONES) as a State Secretary. From 2004 to 2008 she served as State Secretary of Education. Since the 2008 elections, she has served as State Secretary for Women. Minister Germán holds degrees in Educational Sciences (Magna Cum Laude, 1974), French (Cum Laude, 1976), and Higher Education (Summa Cum Laude, 1984). She has also participated in various specialized courses and seminars on education both nationally and internationally.



Carlos Morales Troncoso

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic

Minister Morales Troncoso was a member of the Monetary Board of the Dominican Republic before serving as Vice-President of the country for two consecutive constitutional periods. In addition to his mandate as Constitutional Vice-President, he has occupied posts as Ambassador to the United States and Secretary of Foreign Affairs. From 1994 to 1996, Morales Troncoso also served as Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, a position that he has again occupied since 2004.



María del Rocío García Gaytán

CIM President 2011-2012

President of the National Institute of Women of Mexico

Rocío García Gaytán was appointed President of the National Women's Institute (Inmujeres) of Mexico in February 2007. In her career, she has served as delegate of the State of Jalisco to Congress, where she promoted the formation of the Committee on Equity and Gender and legislation against gender-based violence. Beginning in 2002, she headed the Jalisco Women's Institute, where she implemented the "women's line" and the on-site assistance program to guide and advise women on matters such as violence in the family, education, health, and labor. She was a federal delegate to the 57th Legislature of the Mexican Congress, where she served as Secretary of the Committee on Equity and Gender and member of the Committee on Population, Borders, and Migration.



Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu

Senior Programme Manager, International IDEA

Rumbidzai Kandawasvika holds a Master's degree in Policy Studies, with specialization in Gender in Policy Making (2000) and post-graduate studies in Women's Law. A sociologist and practitioner of multi-disciplinary gender studies, she has several years of hands-on professional experience in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives at national, regional and international levels. An expert in the area of knowledge transfer and training on gender mainstreaming in institutions, including in parliaments and democracy and governance processes and systems, as well as the management of electoral processes from a gender perspective and the design and facilitation of additional empowerment strategies for women in politics.



José Miguel Insulza

Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS)

José Miguel Insulza was elected OAS Secretary General on May 2, 2005, and reelected March 24, 2010. A lawyer by profession, he has a law degree from the University of Chile, did postgraduate studies at the Latin American Social Sciences Faculty (FLACSO), and has a master's in political science from the University of Michigan. Until 1973, he was Professor of Political Theory at the University of Chile and of Political Science at Chile's Catholic University. He also served, until that year, as Political Advisor to the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile. In 1994, Insulza became Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs and then Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1999, he became Minister Secretary General of the Presidency, and the following year he became Minister of the Interior and Vice President of the Republic.



Leonel Fernández Reyna

President of the Dominican Republic

Since 2008, Leonel Fernández has served as the President of the Dominican Republic. He was also President from 1996-2000 and 2004-2008. He joined the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) in 1973, where he has occupied various positions in its leadership. Following his term as President in 2000, he founded the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUN-GLODE). President Fernández holds a doctorate of law (Magna Cum Laude) from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD, 1978) and has been awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa in recognition of his contributions to political science. He has been awarded a number of other titles from prestigious universities around the world, include the Sorbonne and Harvard. In addition to his academic, professional and political work, he has established himself as an essayist.



Marisol Espinoza

First Vice-President of Peru

Marisol Espinoza Cruz has served as First Vice-President of Peru since 2011. She has been a Congresswoman since 2006 and was reelected in 2011. She serves as the spokesperson for the Caucus of the Peruvian Nationalist Party in Congress. From 1990 to 2006, she occupied various positions in national communications media, including as a political and economic journalist. From 2002 to 2006, she was the copy editor and chief of the economics page of the daily “El Tiempo.” Ms. Espinoza is a graduate in Information Sciences of the University of Piura and holds a Master’s degree in Business Economics from the same university.



Margarita Cedeño de Fernández

Vice-President elect and First Lady of the Dominican Republic

Margarita Cedeño de Fernández has served as First Lady of the Dominican Republic since 2004 and in May 2012 was elected as Vice-President. Ms. Cedeño has supported social policy in the Dominican Republic from the Office of the First Lady; a technical and administrative office associated with the Office of the President. Previously, she has worked in prestigious law offices and from 1996-2000 was the legal advisor to the President, with the rank of Under-Secretary of State. The First Lady holds a doctorate in law and a master’s degree in Business Law and Economic Legislation. She has undertaken international studies at the Universities of Georgetown, Harvard and Geneva.



Lilian Soto

Ex-Minister of Public Functions and candidate to the Presidency of Paraguay

Regional Working Group on Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy

Lilian Soto participated in the creation of the Asunción para Todos Citizens' Movement (APT), which won the first-ever municipal elections. She was elected as councillor and assumed the leadership of the party caucus, then its presidency (for two periods). She has also served as Councillor of the Municipal Board of Asunción (1991-2000). She holds a doctorate in Medicine and Surgery from the Catholic University of Asunción, a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Ohio and a graduate diploma in Public Budgets for Gender Equality from the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO).



Kevin Casas-Zamora

Secretary for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS)

Dr. Casas-Zamora is currently the Secretary for Political Affairs at the OAS. Previously, he served as Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution, in Washington DC. He has also served as Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy and Second Vice-President of Costa Rica. Dr. Casas-Zamora has also been Program Officer of the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, and General Coordinator of the National Human Development Report, Costa Rica, United Nations Program for Development. He received his Law Degree from the University of Costa Rica and MA and Ph.D. in Political Science from the Universities of Essex and Oxford, respectively. He is the author of numerous studies on campaign finance, elections, democratic governance and human security in Latin America.



Belkys Mones

Principal Specialist in Women's Rights, Inter-American Commission of Women, OAS

Coordinator of the Regional Working Group on Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy

Belkys Mones currently serves as Principal Specialist in Women's Rights and Gender Equality at the Inter-American Commission of Women of the OAS, where she also coordinates the Regional Working Group on Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy. From 1996 to 2002, she served as a Gender Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). From 2003 to 2007, she was a Advisor with the Program for the Support of Women's Leadership and Representation (PROLEAD) at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). An economist with post-graduate studies in public administration, strategic planning and social policy from the Ibero-American University of Mexico and the University of Chicago, Ms. Mones has worked for over 20 years as an international expert in public policies for gender equality and women's rights in various multi-lateral and bi-lateral cooperation bodies, development banks and private foundations. She is a member of the International Feminist Economist Network and of the Executive Committee of the Euro-Latino Women's Forum.



Virginia Vargas

Regional Working Group on Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy

Founder of the Flora Tristán Peruvian Women's Center

A sociologist specializing in political science and a militant feminist founder of the Flora Tristán Peruvian Women's Center in 1978. Coordinator of NGOs in Latin America and the Caribbean at the NGO forum connected with the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Author of various books on gender, politics, and development. Virginia Vargas has continued her active participation in the World Social Forum as a member of the International Committee of the Marcosur Feminist Articulation. She continues her work at Flora Tristán in the feminist studies and polemics program and at the National University with the Democracy and Global Transformation program.



Alejandra Liriano de la Cruz

Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic

Alejandra Liriano de la Cruz currently serves as Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic. She holds a doctorate in international relations from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), a doctorate Honoris Causa from the Institute for Higher Studies in National Security and Defense of the Secretariat of the Armed Forces (Dominican Republic), and academic experience in various national and international universities. She has published on democracy and governance in the Caribbean, women and the slave trade in Santo Domingo, globalization, poverty, development and the role of afro-descendent women in Santo Domingo's colonial period, among other issues.



Rawwida Baksh

Lecturer, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

Rawwida Baksh is a coordinator of the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) and has served as Director of the Women's Rights and Citizenship Programme at the International Development Research Center (IDRC) in Canada, where she coordinated project in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, touching on such issues as women's political identity, access to justice and migration. She has also served as Gender Director of the Commonwealth Secretariat, where she coordinated the development of the Gender Equality Action Plan and led work on gender, democracy, peace and conflict. She holds a doctorate in socio-historical linguistics from the University of the West Indies, a master's degree in gender and development from the Institute for Social Studies in the Hague and a degree in international relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Linette Vassell

President, Women's Resource and Outreach Centre, Jamaica

Linette Vassell has dedicated her years of service to working on gender-related issues pertaining to women. She is currently the chairperson for Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC), an organisation that aims to provide services and programmes to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth. WROC also caters to the development of inner-city women. She is also a member of the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action, Gender and Water Alliance. She is currently working in the rural water and sanitation programme of the Ministry of Water and Housing. Vassell is also involved in writing on issues of gender and governance and especially looking at the challenges to secure women's empowerment in the context of political decentralisation.



Wanda K. Jones

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Wanda Jones is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and also serves as the Director of the Office of Women's Health (OWH). Over the course of her career, she has also served as Associate Director for Women's Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. A Penn State graduate in medical technology, she has worked in an inner city blood bank and its hematology laboratory; in a small town hospital as its night shift technologist and then as its microbiologist; and for a state public health laboratory as a laboratory improvement consultant. She obtained her doctorate in Public Health Laboratory Practice from the University of North Carolina.



Jane Jenson

Professor of Political Science at the Université de Montréal and Canada Research Chair in Citizenship and Governance.

In 2001 Jane Jenson was awarded the Canada Research Chair in Citizenship and Governance at the Université de Montréal, where she is Professor of Political Science. She has been a member of the Successful Societies programme of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), a Fellow of the Trudeau Foundation, and is a member of the Royal Society of Canada. She has published widely on the changing social architecture and gender relations in Canada and Europe, and in particular the consequences of new social policy perspectives for gender equality. Recent articles have appeared in *Social Politics*, *International Studies in Gender, State and Society*, *Global Social Policy*, and *Estudios de Sociología*. See www.cccg.umontreal.ca.



Irene Sandiford Garner

Senator, Barbados
Vice-President of the CIM 2011-2012

Irene Sandiford Garner was appointed to the Senate in February 2008 as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Culture and Community Development. She was subsequently assigned to the Prime Minister's Office and became the country's Principal Delegate to CIM (Inter American Commission of Women) in August 2008. She is currently Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health. A graduate of the University of the West Indies with an MBA in business administration, she also holds a post-graduate Diploma in Business Management and studied journalism at the Virginia Commonwealth University at Richmond. She has worked for many years with the Barbados Public Workers' Co-operative Credit Union Ltd., initiating their launch into the United States in 1996.



Gilles Lipovetsky

Philosopher and sociologist

Gilles Lipovetsky is a philosopher and sociologist. A Professor of Philosophy at the University of Grenoble, in 1983 he published his main work, *L'Ère du vide* [The Era of the Empty]. His works analyze what is considered post-modern society, with recurring themes such as consumption, contemporary hyper-individualism, hyper-modernity, mass culture, hedonism, fashion and the ephemeral, mass media, the cult of leisure, culture as marketing, and ecologism as a social pose and disguise, among others. In 2002, he published *The Third Woman*, which holds that, though post-modern societies try to reduce gender oppositions, they are not prepared for their confluence - men continue to be associated primarily with public and “instrumental” roles and women with private, esthetic and affective roles. The book develops ideas from Lipovetsky’s previous works: the process of personalization, the innovative way in which society tries to organize itself and control behaviours according to the values of the free development of the human personality, the legitimacy of enjoyment and the need to modulate institutions as a function of the aspirations of individuals.



Isabel Torres García

Specialist with the Centre for Law Studies (CEDE)

A sociologist with the Central American University (Nicaragua), Ms. Torres has concluded post-graduate studies in Social Sciences with FLACSO and holds a master’s degree in International Relations and Cooperation from the National University of Costa Rica. A specialist in women’s rights and gender equality, she has worked as an independent consultant and member of the Centre for Law Studies (CEDE). She has professional experience as an advisor to UN System agencies and other international organizations (UNDP, UN Women, International IDEA, UN-HABITAT, UNFPA, UNICEF, PAHO/WHO, FLACSO, IICA, COMMCA/SICA), and as a Human Rights Program Officer with the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights (2002-2009). Author, co-author, academic coordinator and editor of numerous articles and publications on women’s rights, particularly political rights.



Marlene Choque

Specialist in women's political participation and citizenship, Researcher on citizenship with the Community of Social Studies and Public Action

A sociologist and social communicator, Ms. Choque holds a master's degree in Social Sciences (FLACSO, Mexico) and is a doctoral candidate in Sociology (College of Mexico). Researcher and affiliate in Citizenship of the Community of Social Studies and Public Action (Cochabamba, Bolivia). Post-graduate lecturer in several Bolivian universities. Member of the Bolivia-Peru Bi-national Network on Democracy and Inter-culturalism. Consultant in citizenship, gender and political participation. She has published in books and journals in Bolivia, Colombia, Spain, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. Among her latest publications are: *Democracia directa y participación en la Nueva Constitución Política del Estado* (International IDEA) and *El camino y el caminante se hacen al andar. Los proyectos de estatuto autonómico en los departamentos de Bolivia* (UNDP-Bolivia).



Narda Solanda Goyes Quelal

President of Mujeres por la Equidad de Género y la Autonomía and member of Colectivo Nosotras, Ecuador

Feminist lawyer and activist for women's rights, graduate of the Central University of Ecuador. Specialist in alternative methods of conflict resolution at the Andean University. Ms. Goyes has worked as a parliamentary advisor during several parliamentary session and in the Ecuadoran Constituent Assembly of 2008. Executive Director of the Foundation for Equity and Development, responsible for the Gender and Democracy area of Agora Democrática and the International IDEA office in Ecuador. Ms. Goyes was the first General Coordinator of the Institute for Political and Electoral Training and Promotion in Ecuador. She currently presides over Mujeres por la Equidad de Género y la Autonomía and is a member of Colectivo Nosotras in Ecuador. She also works to defend women victims of physical, psychological, sexual and political violence.



Niurka Palacio

President of the Forum of Women in Political Parties, Panama
Under-Secretary of the Women's Front

Principal Commissioner of the National Political Committee of the Cambio Democrático party

A graduate of law and political science with a master's degree in strategic management from the University of Santa María in Antigua, Ms. Palacio has completed post-graduate studies in political and campaign strategies at American University. She has held the post of Executive Secretary of the National Secretariat for the Food and Nutritional Security Plan (SENAPAN) and currently serves as Vice-Minister at the Ministry of Social Development of Panama. Her political trajectory has focused consistently on women's political empowerment.



Pilar Rueda

Ombudsperson in charge of Women, Children and Youth's Rights of the Public Defender, Colombia

Anthropologist with the National University of Colombia, Ms. Rueda holds a master's degree in international peace studies from Notre Dame University. Ombudsperson in charge of Women, Children and Youth's Rights of the Public Defender of Colombia. University professor with experience in research on social issues. Defender of human rights with a wide knowledge of the situation of women and children's rights. Experienced in the design and evaluation of public policies and legislative initiatives that impact women's rights, as well as in international cooperation projects, Ms. Rueda has worked with women's, grassroots and professional organizations.



Ana Gladis Ollas Hidalgo

Office of the Ombudsman for Women of the Human Rights Public Defender, Guatemala

University Student Leader and participant in the creation of the Degree in Social Work of the National University of Guatemala. Leader in the defense of union rights and popular educator. Representative of the Women's Movement of the Civil Society Assembly with responsibility for preparing documents for discussion at the negotiating table during the signature of the Peace Accords that signaled the end of the internal armed conflict. Founder and member of the Directing Committee of the Foundation for Community Development (FUNDESCO). Coordinator of the Human Rights Ombudspersons' Unit (UNDEFEGUA). Currently serves as Ombudsperson for Women of the Human Rights Public Defender, Guatemala.



Alejandra Mora

Director of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Women and Inhabitants, Costa Rica

A graduate in law of the University of Costa Rica with a master's degree in constitutional law from UNED. Specialist in women's rights and gender equity strategies of the University of Lund, Sweden, with post-graduate studies in women's and human rights from the University of Chile. Ms. Mora has served as Director of the Advisors on Parliamentary Fractions in the Legislative Assembly and currently serves as Director of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Women and Inhabitants of Costa Rica. She is also a professor of Family Law in the Notarial and Registry Law Master's Program of the University of Costa Rica. Ms. Mora has written books, including *Ley contra el Hostigamiento sexual anotada y comentada* and *Hacer visible lo invisible* and other publications, including *El mundo jurídico como instrumento para el adelanto de las condiciones y situaciones de las mujeres* and *Una aproximación a la Ley de Paternidad Responsable*.



Teresa Paniagua Jiménez

Fourth General Visitor of the National Commission on Human Rights, Mexico

Teresa Paniagua Jiménez, from Mexico, currently serves as the Fourth General Visitor of the National Commission on Human Rights. She holds a master's degree in Institutional Communication, with post-graduate work in investigative journalism and law. Holder of a scholarship from the Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund to cover the 44th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. For 12 years, Ms. Paniagua was a lead news commentator and chief editor, for which she received the National Journalism Prize for reporting. Coordinator of Notimex in Central America and Director General of Social Communication of the Secretariat for Agrarian Reform.



Otilia Lux de Cotí

Ex-Deputy, Leader of the Partido Movimiento Winaq, Guatemala

Otilia Lux de Cotí is one of the delegates to the Congress of Guatemala with the most experience in gender issues. Activist and promoter of the law against femicide and other forms of violence against women, she is a Mayan woman who has twice served as vice president of the Women's Commission. She has been a member of the Commission for the Historical Investigation of Human Rights Violations and Acts of Violence in Guatemala and has participated in the Executive Council of the Political Association of Mayan Women (MOJOJ), the Forum for Social Equality, and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.



Gregorio Montero

Secretary General of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD)

Gregorio Montero has worked as a consultant for various international organizations, including the European Union and the Inter-American Development Bank. At the international level, he has given conferences on issues such as public service in various countries and has worked as an advisor in the formulation of laws with the governments of Nicaragua, Uruguay and El Salvador, among others. He has worked as a professor in the Faculty of Juridical and Political Sciences at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) and has occupied the post of Vice-Minister of the Public Function of the Dominican Republic. Mr. Montero currently serves as Secretary General of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD).



Marcela Díaz Cofré

Chief of OIRS and Participation of the National Service for Women, Chile

Marcela Díaz Cofré is a psycho-pedagogue and holds a master's degree in Pedagogical and Curriculum Management. She has worked in the municipalities of Vitacura and Santiago of the metropolitan region of Santiago, Chile, on various social projects and as the head of community organizations. She is currently the Chief of OIRS and Participation of the National Service for Women (SERNAM) of Chile.



Elizabeth Quiroa Cuellar

Presidential Secretary for Women, Guatemala (2012-2016))

An economist with a master's degree in political science and local economic development, Ms. Quiroa has completed post-graduate studies in environmental sociology and strategies for international insertion and external finances in Latin America. She has held various positions both within the government and with international cooperation organizations and the private sector. She has participated directly in the formulation of public policies from a gender perspective for various agencies of the Guatemalan government and has also participated in research related to gender-sensitive public budgets, femicide, implications of the FTA for peasant economies, maternal-child health and valuation of the contributions of women to the economy, among other issues.



Fátima Anastasia

Lecturer, Catholic University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

Lecturer (DCP-UFMG) and Doctorate (IUPERJ) in political science, with post-doctorate work at the New York University, Ms. Anastasia has worked as a professor and research with the Department of Political Science at the Federal University of Minas Gerais and with the Department of International Relations at the Catholic University of Minas Gerais, in the areas of institutional analysis, decision-making processes, legislative studies and parliamentary elites. Founding member and first Director of the Centre for Legislative Studies of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, with various publications in this area.



Norma Esparza Herrera

Senator, Mexico

Currently a Senator, Norma Esparza is a member of, among others, the Commission on Social Development and the Secretariat of the Commissions on Gender Equality and on Municipal Development of the Mexican Senate. Within the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, she occupies the post of Representative for North America. She also served as a Congressional Deputy for the State of Aguascalientes, where she also acted as President of the Commission for Gender and Equity and was the spokesperson for the Commission for Education. She is the founding president of “Women for Aguascalientes.”



Danielle Doyer

Member of the National Assembly of Quebec

Representing the district of Matapédia as a Member of the National Assembly (MNA) of Québec since 1994, Danielle Doyer has held various posts in the Government, including as assistant to the Minister of Regions and as Vice-President of the Commission of Territorial Order. She currently serves as President of the Transportation and Environment Commission and as spokesperson for the opposition for social services. Before beginning her political career, Danielle Doyer accumulated experience in various areas, including teaching. She holds a master’s degree in regional development from the University of Québec at Rimouski.



Alicia Gutiérrez

Provincial Deputy from Santa Fe (Argentina)

Alicia Gutiérrez was a political activist in university and a political refugee in Brazil and France, returning to Argentina in 1985, where she began working as a teacher. A member of the political party Frente Grande, she eventually became its president. In October 2001 she was elected as a National Deputy and participated in the Commissions on Human Rights, Social Promotion and Public Health, Old Age and Population and Human Resources. Since 2003, she has served as a Provincial Deputy for the Progressive Civic and Social Front in Santa Fe, where she has worked on the Commissions for Health, Rights and Guarantees, Constitutional Issues, and as President of the Commission for the Ombudsperson. She has also worked presenting projects on equal opportunities and gender, on the basis that social inclusion both saves and generates citizenship.



Diva Gastélum

President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)

Diva Gastélum has a degree in Law and a Masters in Family Law, as well as specializations in Parliamentary Law, Public Policy from a Women's Human Rights Perspective, Public Administration, Criminal Law, Family Law and Media Training. Both a lawyer and politician, she is currently a Federal deputy of the LXI Legislature (2009/2012) and a Senatorial Plurinominal candidate. She is the President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, a continental body that is part of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) and the National Director of the Prístas Women Organization (ONMPRI).



María Mercedes López Mora

Judge of the Supreme Judicial Council, Colombia

Prestigious Colombian jurist, criminal law and criminology specialist, Master in Penal and Criminal Science, with high level government studies and PhD in law. She has a distinguished career as a panelists and is famous for her interventions on gender issues and emergency measures against the judicial congestion phenomenon. She has acted as a criminal judge in the criminal field and currently acts in the disciplinary field. Apart from leading a courageous campaign against corruption in the judicial system, the software she has designed for the intense scrutiny of judicial proceedings, is also a valuable tool against impunity.



Aparecida Golçalves

National Secretary to Combat Violence Against Women

Advocate and activist for women and the feminist movement, she is an expert on gender and violence against women. Her experience and activism have led her to run for the Federal Assembly in 1986, when she was the only woman to compete in that space. She was a technical and political advisor of the Special Coordinator for Policies for Women of the People's Government of Mato Grosso do Sul and assistant to the Coordinator for Assistance for Women in the State Department of Citizenship, Labor and Social Welfare. Since 2003, she has been acting as National Secretary to Combat Violence against Women of the Secretariat for Policies for Women of the Presidency of Brazil.



Zarela Villanueva Monge

Vice President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica

Judge Zarela Villanueva Monge is a lawyer, specialized in Agrarian Law, with a Masters in Social and Family Violence. She has a 36-year judicial career, during which he has served in all ranks of the legal system. Since 1989, she holds the highest post in the judiciary, as a member of the Supreme Court, acting as a judge of the Second Chamber, which acts on Labor and Family issues. Since 1990, she has been working to improve the care for women in the judiciary in situations of violence. In the modernization and judicial reform process of Costa Rica, which was funded by the IADB, she promoted the incorporation of a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue. In 2010 she was elected Vice President of the Supreme Court, a position she currently holds.



Josefina Durán

Director of the Legal Area of the Latin American Team for Justice and Gender (ELA)

Coordinator of the Legal Observatory of the Regional Feminist Articulation. Consultant for the Gender Secretariat of the Union of Education Workers. Lawyer from the University of Buenos Aires. Master cum laude in Fundamental Rights from the University Carlos III of Madrid. Specialization in Women and Human Rights from the Human Rights Center of the University of Chile. Member of the External Auditors Committee of the Human Rights Yearbook of the University of Chile Law School.



Percy Medina

Head of the International IDEA's Mission to Peru

Political parties and elections expert, he has participated in international electoral observation missions in 9 different countries and has advised electoral agencies and civic and domestic electoral observation groups in 12 countries. He was Secretary General for Transparency in Peru for nine years; during his tenure he promoted training and democratic education initiatives, assistance to political parties, national electoral observation, political consensus building, and public dialogue and debate. He has been a consultant on democracy and elections for the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the World Bank, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI).



Margarita Percovich Aldabe

Former parliamentarian, Uruguay

Margarita Percovich has studied philosophy, public administration, strategic planning and group management. Founder of the Broad Front Party, she has been a political activist since her 20s and was a state and national legislator for 20 years, having participated in the drafting of numerous laws that guarantee the rights of individuals. She participated in the founding of Women's Plenary of Uruguay (PLEMU), an autonomous women's organization that was created to fight for human rights. She was also a founder and a member of the National Women's Coalition of Uruguay in 1985. She is now a member of the Civil Association "Citizenship Network".



Blanca Gámez

Federal Deputy, México

Blanca Gámez is a Federal Deputy of the National Action Party in Mexico. She is currently a member of the Group for the Promotion of Political Rights of Women Citizens and has participated in the Circle of Gender Studies. Among her main proposals as a federal deputy is to promote the development of a database of all the Mexican states with information on femicide, in order to facilitate the prosecution of these crimes.



Beatriz Llanos

Women's political participation independent expert,
International IDEA

Beatriz Llanos is the IDEA's international coordinator for training and dialogue, and the coordinator for gender and politics projects in Peru. She is also a consultant on political communication and women's political participation. She has published numerous articles and co-authored the IDEA International manual "From Words to Action: best practices for women's participation in Latin American political parties".



Moni Pizani

Director of the UN Women Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama

A lawyer by training, with vast experience in social projects, Moni Pizani Orsini is currently the Director of the UN Women Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean. Highlights from her résumé, include her work experience in the governmental, nongovernmental, international cooperation, and even private sectors. She has a pluralistic background, which has benefited from her social project management skills and her commitment to social and gender equity.



Narda Henriquez

Coordinator of the sociology section and of the gender studies program of the Department of Social Sciences of the Catholic University of Peru.

Narda Henriquez focuses her academic research on the role of women as local opinion leaders, how the body is treated and the relationship between memory and imagination, in addition to the codes of war, power and violence. She was a cofounder of the feminist organization Flora Tristan. She graduated in sociology from the National Major University of San Marcos in Peru, and completed her postgraduate studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is also a doctoral candidate at the School for Advanced Studies in Paris.



Minou Tavarez Mirabal

Deputy, Dominican Republic

Current Deputy from the Dominican Republic and former Vice-President of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) and member of the Executive Committee of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), Ms. Tavarez is also a member of the Central Committee of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) and has served two terms as delegate for Precinct No. 1 of the National District. During the first PLD administration, from 1996 to 2000, she served as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Foreign Policy. She was also Assistant Secretary of State of Foreign Relations for Consular Affairs. Since August 2006, she has chaired the Foreign Relations and International Cooperation Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. She is a member of the Equity and Gender Committees and of the Special Committee.



Doris María Arias Madrigal

Judge of the Supreme Court of Justice, Costa Rica

Doris Maria Arias Madrigal is a PhD in Criminal Law, with a specialization in Human Rights and Women. She was the Vice President of the Costa Rican Judiciary Association and a member of the executive board of the Women Judges Association of Costa Rica. She has also served as a professor at Inter-American University of Costa Rica. In 2004, she redacted the project for the creation of the Gender Secretariat of the Costa Rican Judiciary Association and is currently a Judge of the Supreme Court of Costa Rica.



Susana Chiarotti

Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM)

Lawyer with post-graduate degree in Family Law. Director of INSGENAR (Instituto de Género, Derecho y Desarrollo). Part of the Consultative Council of the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM). Among her academic activities, Ms. Chiarotti is a Professor of the Masters Program on Power and Society from a Gender Perspective of the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Rosario. She is a guest lecturer at the PRIGEPP program (Diplomados de Género y Justicia) coordinated by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO). Member of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI and of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group for the Global Study on Violence against Women



Jéssica Mualim Fajuri

Under Secretary of the Women's National Service of Chile

Graduated in Public Administration from the Catholic University of Valparaiso, has a specialization in Urban Economics from the Catholic University and in the Logical Framework Approach from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Among other public functions, she acted as Director of the Executive Secretariat of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Sustainable Development Council of the Presidency of the Republic of Chile and as President of the Environmental Commission of the Chilean Association of Municipalities. In 2010 she served as Regional Ministerial Secretary for the Environment of the Metropolitan Region, and currently is the Under Secretary of the National Women's Service.



Carmen Moreno

Secretaría Ejecutiva de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres, CIM/OEA

Carmen Moreno, an internationalist and diplomat, began her work on women's rights and gender equality as a member of the Mexican Delegation to the first UN Conference on Women (1975). She has since served as the Mexican Ambassador to Costa Rica and Guatemala, as well as the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Organization of American States (OAS). In 2003, Carmen Moreno was appointed by the Secretary-General of the UN as Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW). In July 2009, Jose Miguel Insulza, the Secretary General of the OAS appointed Ms. Moreno as Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

