Gender Equality - The Legislative Agenda

Dr. Teresa Incháustegui Romero
* History: 34 years of progress; 100 years of struggle

* CEDAW - The Course: equality - non-discrimination
  * Incorporate both into constitutions as principles.
  * Standardize all legislation
  * Guarantee (protection, complaint mechanisms)
  * Affirmative Actions
  * Laws favouring equality

* Sector-specific summits, regional conferences
  Follow-up Meetings (Beijing, Cairo)

* **Progress:** Conventions & Treaties with Constitutional Status
* Groups; national assemblies, commissions; parliamentary groups (UIM - Unión Iberoamericana de Municipalistas);...

* Experts (gender and law; gender and public policies; gender and institutions; gender and statistics)

* Follow-up Committees (CWS; Co-CEDAW; MESECVI)

* Civil Society Organizations

* CIM, ECLAC

* Major Contributions
* First Conference (Mexico, 1975) Review of National Legislation: political involvement, education, training, employment and economic activity, health and nutrition, family, involvement in the dynamics of demography

* Second Conference (Copenhagen 1980): legal status; economic rights (right to property, to inheritance), family rights (parental rights and duties, custody; protection to motherhood; time to care for children; sexual and domestic violence (customs and traditions); legal counsel, information on rights.

* Pending Agenda
Third Conference (Nairobi, 1985) Progress towards 2000. Ratification of CEDAW; agricultural reform, work and employment; awareness raising among and training of civil servants; follow up by legislative bodies.

Fourth Conference (Beijing, 1995) Platform for Action: women's human rights in all pieces of legislation (family, civil, criminal, labour and commercial codes, and in administrative regulations)

*Pending Agenda*
* El Cairo Conference (1994): Promote the combination of reproductive rights and freedoms with the right to economic advancement and participation; reconciliation among men and women regarding the performance of household chores

* 12 ECLAC Regional Conferences; legal and de facto discrimination (race, marital status, religion); standardization with conventions; equality in employment, household work, rights of married women or of those cohabiting in apparent marriage; sexual slavery, sexual and all forms of violence, imprisoned women; political involvement.

* Regional Consensuses. Path towards PPs

*Pending Agenda
| REGIONAL AGENDA |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Full equality before the law | Havana, 1977 Guatemala, 1988 | Treaties Conventions Standardization Constitution | Marriage Couple Education Protection for Migrants |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Political Rights | Quito Consensus | Participation in Political Positions Institutionalization of PPs-PEG Media, discriminatory and humiliating contents |
* Violence
* Free, elected motherhood
* Therapeutical abortion and abortion attending rape
* Parity, quotas

* Backward Steps and Stagnation: Conservative reformist wave; inefficient articulation; dead letter