






#ParlAmericasGEN


 **TITLE:** Building networks of sisterhood to promote gender equality

 **THEMES:** Women's empowerment, political participation, eradication of political violence against women

 **DATE:** August 23 and 24, 2023

 **VENUE:** San José, Costa Rica

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 60 representatives of forums and fronts of women in political parties from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and the Dominican Republic; current and former women parliamentarians; representatives of international organizations and civil society

 **CO-ORGANIZER:** Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica



This activity is in line with SDGs 5, 16 and 17.



First Regional Gathering of the Forums of Women in Political Parties

This gathering brought together women leaders representing forums and fronts of women in political parties from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and the Dominican Republic to exchange reflections, experiences, and lessons learned on themes of common interest on the regional gender equality agenda and on the work of civil society to promote the political rights of women.

During the gathering, the participating representatives of forums and fronts of women in political parties, together with current and former women parliamentarians, experts, and representatives of international organizations and civil society, explored issues related to strengthening women's political participation, addressing and eradicating gender-based political violence, and promoting women's political leadership in the region.



MAIN SPEECHES

Opening remarks:

- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Rodrigo Arias** (Costa Rica), President of the Legislative Assembly
- The Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Kayra Harding Bart** (Panama), Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- **Marlene Mora**, President of the Forum of Women Politicians of Costa Rica
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), President of the Front of Women in Political Parties of Costa Rica and member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors

Keynote speaker:

- **Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women, Organization of American States

Panellists:

- **Máxima Apaza**, former senator and political leader, Bolivia
- **Eugenia Zamora**, President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Costa Rica
- **María de los Ángeles Alfaro Murillo**, former Member of the Legislative Assembly, Costa Rica
- **Allegra Baiocchi**, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Costa Rica
- **Lourdes Araya**, representative of the National Costa Rican Network of Municipal Women
- **María Rosa Belliard**, Forum of Women Politicians of the Dominican Republic
- **Honorina Rodríguez**, Forum of Women Politicians of Honduras
- **Waizaan Hin Herrera**, Front of Women in Political Parties of Costa Rica
- **Marcela Guerrero**, Forum of Women Politicians of Costa Rica
- **Sonia Maldonado**, Guatemalan Forum of Women in Political Parties
- **Dalila Mosquera**, National Forum of Women in Political Parties of Panama

Moderators:

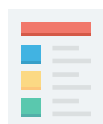
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Kattia Rivera Soto** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Olga Morera** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **María Marta Carballo Arce** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Kattia Cambronero** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Johana Obando** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Luz Mary Alpízar** (Costa Rica)
- Former Member of the Legislative Assembly **Pilar Porras** (Costa Rica)
- Former Member of the Legislative Assembly **Paola Valladares** (Costa Rica)
- Former Member of the Legislative Assembly **Paola Vega** (Costa Rica)
- **Delmy Ordóñez**, Forum of Women Politicians of Honduras
- **Onelia Roca**, Guatemalan Forum of Women in Political Parties
- **Adilia Caravaca**, Executive President, National Women's Institute of Costa Rica
- **Yosmar Castellano**, gender affairs consultant
- **Siany Villalobos**, Director of the Presidency, Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica

Reading of the declaration:

- **Milagros Díaz**, Forum of Women in Political Parties of the Dominican Republic

Closing remarks:

- **Cindy Quesada**, Minister of the Status of Women
- Her Excellency **Elizabeth Williams**, Ambassador of Canada to Costa Rica
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), President of the Front of Women in Political Parties of Costa Rica and member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors



[AGENDA](#)



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DECLARATION

Declaration:

During the Gathering, the representatives of forums and fronts of women in political parties adopted a declaration that includes, among other commitments:

- Continuing to promote sisterhood and collaboration between the forums and fronts of women in political parties and with women's organizations in the region to share good practices and lessons learned that result in benefits for women, particularly with regard to their political participation.
- Continuing to work towards political parties' adoption and effective implementation of criteria for equal representation in the composition of the entire party organization and their different bodies and mechanisms for the advancement of political rights.
- Continuing to advocate for political parties to adopt concrete and effective measures that enable women candidates to overcome structural obstacles in relation to the financing of political campaigns by establishing fundraising networks, creating specific internal funds, and/or allocating budget for their political training and education to advance women's leadership.
- Calling on electoral authorities and other relevant authorities in our respective countries to ensure that political parties comply with applicable provisions and regulations related to quotas, parity, and alternation criteria, as the case may be, in the creation of lists for electoral positions.

Participating forums and fronts of women in political parties:



FORO NACIONAL DE
M U J E R E S
DE PARTIDOS POLÍTICOS



FORO NACIONAL DE MUJERES DE PARTIDOS
POLITICOS DE LA REPUBLICA DOMINICANA, INC. 276-2000

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



Bolivia



Costa Rica



Guatemala



Honduras



Nicaragua



Panamá



Dominican Republic



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ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes **PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY** in the **INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM**



ParlAmericas mainstreams **GENDER EQUALITY** by advocating for women's political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work



ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES**



ParlAmericas is composed of the **35 NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** of the countries of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas fosters **OPEN PARLIAMENTS** by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity



ParlAmericas organizes consultations and builds **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS** with young leaders and civil society organizations



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **GOOD PRACTICES** and promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE** in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals



ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE**



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