



THEMES: Women's political participation and leadership, parity democracy, addressing political violence

DATE: October 2, 2024

LOCATION: Guatemala City, Guatemala

PARTICIPANTS: More than 50 parliamentarians, parliamentary staffers and representatives of international organizations

HOST: Congress of the Republic of Guatemala



This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 9 and 16.



Towards Women's Full Political Participation in Guatemala

In this space for exchange, parliamentarians and parliamentary staff explored the challenges and opportunities for strengthening Guatemalan women's political participation and leadership.

With the support of international specialists and dialogue on the Costa Rican experience, the participants discussed good parliamentary practices and legislative strategies for advancing gender equality objectives at the national level.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks:

- Member of the Congress **Nery Rodas** (Guatemala), Third Vice-President of the Congress of the Republic and ParlAmericas Board Member
- **Anabella Zavagno**, Deputy Director General, ParlAmericas

Speakers:

- **Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women, Organization of the American States [*video participation*]
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), ParlAmericas Board Member
- **Ana Isabel Garita V.**, Policy Advisor, Governance and Participation Representation, UN Women Office in Guatemala

Interventions:

- Member of the Congress **Karina Paz**, First Secretary of the Congress' Board of Directors
- Member of the Congress **Carolina Orellana**, President of the Women's Committee
- Member of the Congress **Sonia Gutiérrez**, Fifth Secretary of the Congress' Board of Directors
- Member of the Congress **Olga Villalta**
- Member of the Congress **Lucrecia Marroquin de Palomo**
- Member of the Congress **Laura Marroquín**
- Member of the Congress **Evelyn Morataya**
- Member of the Congress **Andrea Villagrán Antón**, Vice-President for Central America of the PNGE
- H.E. **Olivier Jacques**, Canadian Ambassador to Guatemala



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KEY CONCLUSIONS

- Women's effective participation in the spheres of power is essential to strengthen our democracy and advancements towards sustainable development. However, there are still structural, political, social, economic and cultural barriers that limit their access.
- **Parity** is a **measure of distributive justice** based on the equal participation of women as an essential component of democracy. It implies **equal participation in decision-making positions** in the public and private sectors, from the international to the local level; the **exercise of political and economic power under conditions of equality**: free from discrimination and gender-based violence; and the mainstreaming of the **gender equality agenda** in public policy with an intersectional, intergenerational, intercultural and human rights perspective.
- To move towards parity, it is necessary to outline a parliamentary agenda that prioritizes electoral and political party reforms. Key factors in this process include: inter-party articulation; alliances with civil society organizations, activists, international agencies, academia and other stakeholders; the support and advocacy of the feminist movement; and the involvement of men as allies in the promotion of gender equality.
- Legal reforms to strengthen women's political participation and leadership have proven to be a powerful tool for the promotion of gender equality.



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