

Annual Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians
“Women in Power: Recent Changes in the Political Arena”
Paramaribo, Suriname – May 16-17, 2013

EXPERTS

BEATRIZ RAMÍREZ ABELLA

Since her youth, Beatriz Ramírez Abella has been an activist for the rights of Afro-Uruguayan people. Later, she would incorporate a gender perspective into her activism and the double discrimination faced by women of the Afro-Uruguayan community.

Founder of the ACSUN Youth Groups (Black Cultural and Social Association, 1973) and cofounder of the Afro World Organization (1988). Cofounder of the Network of Afro-Latin and Afro-Caribbean Women (Dominican Republic, 1992) and Coordinator of the Southern Cone Region between 1996 and 2006. Founder of the Strategic Alliance for African Americans (2001).

In 2005 she joined Uruguay's National Women's Institute of the Ministry of Social Development (INMUJERES). She was named Head of the Department of Afro-Descendant Women in 2009 and Director of INMUJERES in 2010.

CYNTHIA BARROW-GILES

At the University of the West Indies, Cynthia Barrow-Giles served as Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences (1994-1996) and as Head of Department of Government, Sociology and Social Work (2004-2006). She has authored, co-authored, edited and co-edited 4 books and numerous journal articles.

In addition to her scholarly work, she has participated in a number of Election Monitoring and Expert Groups in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. She served as a member of the St. Lucia Constitution Reform Commission and as a member of the International Advisory Board for the (Journal) Round Table (Commonwealth), and is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Eastern Caribbean Affairs.

MAUREEN CLARKE CLARKE

Maureen Clarke Clarke currently serves as the President of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) (2013-2015), as Minister for the Status of Women and as Executive President of the National Institute of Women (INAMU) of Costa Rica (2011-2014), from where she is responsible for the implementation of the National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity (PIEG) 2007-2017 and its Action Plan 2008-2012.

Previously, she served as deputy mayor of San José (2007-2010), where she led the formulation of the Municipal Plan for Gender Equity, as Minister of Justice and Grace (1995-1996) and was the first woman Minister of Governance and Policy (1994-1995). During her tenure, she served as the President of the Centre for Joint Anti-Drug Intelligence (CICAD), whose aim is the fight against illegal drug trafficking and related crimes.