



Organization of  
American States

**Statement by Rocío García Gaytán of Mexico,  
President of the Inter-American Commission for Women of the OAS, during the 56th  
session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

Madame President, governmental and non-governmental authorities, distinguished delegates:

It is with great honor that I address you in the framework of this period of sessions of the CSW, as President of the Inter-American Commission of Women at the Organization of American States, the CIM.

The CIM, with 84 year of existence, is the first intergovernmental mechanism of the Americas for the promotion and protection of the human rights of women.

Today, in this second decade of the XXI century, in which the democracy and governability of our hemisphere faces innumerable challenges, we find ourselves encountered with the urgency of generating the appropriate condition in order to guarantee the full exercise of women's citizenship at the local, in conditions of equality with men, and all other levels of decision making.

In this framework, the empowerment of rural women, which in our region reaches numbers of around 58 million, is fundamental. The work of rural women and girls contribute to agricultural production, food security and sustainable rural development. For these reasons, they should play a central role in the decision making process at all levels.

The Brasilia Consensus that was adopted by governments in the XI Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Women, of ECLAC, and the Declaration of the Inter-American Year of Women, adopted during the XXXV Delegates Assembly of the Inter-American

Commission for Women of the OAS, constitute the base of the intergovernmental agenda for the human rights of women in our region.

In this framework, the synergies between international and intergovernmental bodies present here today form part of the new architecture for the XXI century, and are fundamental in the implementation of these accords in order to combat structural inequality and the discrimination that rural women suffer.

In this sense, during the next period of sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS, taking place this upcoming June in Cochabamba, Bolivia, the theme of "Food security with sovereignty" will be examined. This constitutes an opportunity for our governments to incorporate the agreed conclusions on this topic during the 56<sup>th</sup> period of sessions of the CSW, to the commitments that will be adopted during the next period of session of the General Assembly of the OAS.

I would lastly like to reaffirm that at the Inter-American Commission of Women, we endorse the recommendations of the proposals found in the Secretary General's report, and we emphasize the importance of the following:

- Valuing and recognizing the economic contributions of rural women.
- Supporting development and the use of technologies and infrastructure
- Including gender-perspectives in production development policies, especially agricultural and land development policies.
- Improving displacement conditions, transport and access for rural women.
- Promoting policies aimed at improving labor opportunities in rural areas and ensuring equal access to benefits and services.
- Guarantying women access to productive assets, including land titles, natural resources and access to productive credits and financial services.

Thank you.