4th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network – Quito, Ecuador

Dr. Juana Herrera Araúz
President
National Forum of Women in Political Parties of Panama
March 12 – 14, 2019
National Forum of Women in Political Parties

25th Anniversary of its founding
Challenges and Opportunities
It began in 1993 as an NGO working towards equal opportunities and gender equity in political activity.

Its members are women from all the active political parties, governed by principles of representativeness and dialogue.

Since obtaining its legal status in 1995 it is dedicated to the promotion and empowerment of women, especially those that have been candidates for elected office or internal positions within political parties.
National Forum of Women in Political Parties

- 1993 Convenor of the First Women’s Pact, Development and Equality
- 1993 Recognized by PARLACEN and have participated in Regional Meetings from 1995 up to today.
- In 1995 formed part of the National Committee on Electoral Reforms.
- 1995 Founders of the National Board of Women.
- By Law: Advisory Body to the Electoral Court.
- Advisory member on gender to the Ombudsman’s Office.
National Forum of Women in Political Parties

- Chapters across the country (established, revived, and being developed).

- Participates in national consultation processes: part of the Women’s Alliance.

- 1993-1994 Bambito I, II y III.


- 2012 in the discussions on Constitutional Reforms.

- 11 proposals for Legal Reforms that have led to modifications to the Electoral Code and the Statutes of Political Parties.
National Forum of Women in Political Parties

• In 25 years:

• 15 nationwide projects having a direct impact on more than 2,600 female leaders and indirectly on more than 65,000 people.

• Impact on the media

• Research projects.
### National Forum of Women in Political Parties

#### Statistics

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<tr>
<th>Voters 2019:</th>
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<th>50%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>1,385,076</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>1,372,747</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,757,823</td>
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| Members of Political Parties       | 1,333,308 | 48%   |

Source: Electoral Court
National Forum of Women in Political Parties

History of women’s participation

History of women’s participation
Barriers to women’s equitable participation in elected office, as well as in management and juridiccional positions both in the public and private sectors.


Political violence against women.

Insufficient funding

Invisible barriers
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Strategic Alliances

• Electoral Court
• Assembly of Deputies
• Ombudsman’s Office
• National Institute for Women (INAMU)
• Women’s Secretariats of the Parties
• Women’s Organizations
• Youth Organizations

ParlAmericas
UNDP
UN Women
UNFPA
Fes-America Central
Kas
Latin American Networks
In 2018 initiated the project:

“Promoting Women’s Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

Objectives:
- Foster favourable conditions for women’s leadership
- Position FONAMUPP as a place conducive to forming female leaders.

Financed by: ParlAmericas and Canadian Donors.
Memorandum of Understanding
Working Session
National Forum of Women in Political Parties
Proposals

From the Parliament:

Continue initiatives for training young female leaders implemented together with the National Assembly of Deputies and other partner organizations.

Making reforms to the laws on parity participation with clear mandates for the Electoral Court to comply with.

Strategic alliances with other civil society organizations.

Pass legislation against Political Violence towards women.

Funding for empowerment and political training.