

DECLARATION

17th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality *Beijing+30: Promoting Equality in a Changing World*

September 25-26, 2025

Brasilia, Brazil

We, parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean,¹ gathered on September 25 and 26, 2025, in Brasilia, at the Federal Senate of Brazil, for the 17th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality, held under the title *Beijing +30: Promoting Equality in a Changing World*.

The Gathering provided us with an opportunity to reflect on the progress made since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, the most ambitious and transformative international action plan for achieving gender equality, as well as to analyze the strategies needed to accelerate its implementation and protect the progress made in the face of new challenges to the equality agenda.

Our deliberations showed that, although significant progress has been made towards gender equality in recent decades, deep structural gaps persist, regulatory and institutional setbacks have intensified that put fundamental achievements at risk, and new political and social complexities have emerged, such as the proliferation of disinformation campaigns, anti-rights narratives, and the erosion of institutional mechanisms for equality.

In this context, we reaffirm that gender equality is an essential component of democracy, and that parliaments have a responsibility to safeguard the progress that has been made and to promote legislative, budgetary, and institutional frameworks that guarantee the full exercise of the rights of women and girls in all their diversity.

Considering the above and,

Recognizing:

1. That, thirty years after its adoption, the 1995 [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) remains a fundamental framework of reference for the promotion of gender equality worldwide and, due to its comprehensive nature, continues to provide a strategic roadmap to guide parliamentary action in priority areas such as education, health, poverty eradication, the elimination of all forms of violence and harmful practices, full and equal participation in decision-making, access to economic and natural resources, and the guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and girls;

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Parliamentary delegations representing the Parliaments of Curaçao and Sint Maarten also participated.

2. That, as established in the Beijing Platform for Action and other regional and global instruments and agreements on gender equality and women's rights,² it is essential to undertake sustained structural transformation to overcome the barriers that have historically limited the development, participation, empowerment, and inclusion of women and girls in all their diversity;
3. That gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, social justice, democratic legitimacy, and the construction of more prosperous, inclusive, and cohesive societies, as evidenced by the relationship between the full and equal participation of women in all areas of life and higher levels of well-being, economic growth, and democratic governance³; an objective that requires the commitment of all sectors in society, including men's participation as allies in transforming the norms that perpetuate inequalities;
4. That, gender equality implies the equality of rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for all people, as well as their equitable access to resources and full participation in all aspects of life, and that, though gender inequality affects all people and undermines development as a whole, evidence indicates that, in particular, women and girls face persistent structural disadvantages;
5. That these structural gender inequalities manifest in multiple ways, with women continuing to represent the majority of the illiterate population,⁴ to face a significant digital divide,⁵ to be disproportionately exposed to the effects of climate change,⁶ to spend between twice and three times as much time as men on unpaid domestic and care work,⁷ and to encounter other obstacles to fully exercising their economic autonomy⁸;
6. That gender inequalities are compounded when they interact with other forms of discrimination based on factors such as race, ethnicity, Indigenous identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, or geographic location, requiring the adoption of an intersectional approach capable of recognizing and responding to a diversity of experiences and needs;
7. That the current context in the Americas and the Caribbean is characterized by the exacerbation of structural inequalities and an increasingly coordinated offensive against women's rights, fueled by disinformation campaigns and deliberate narratives that undermine the principle of equality, threatening to reverse historic achievements and hinder further progress toward gender equality;
8. That in recent years there have been significant setbacks in key areas related to gender equality, political empowerment and leadership, sexual and reproductive rights, and the independence of state institutions responsible for promoting the rights of women and girls, which not only compromises women and girls' health, autonomy, and well-being, but also weakens equitable political representation, thereby undermining democratic legitimacy and restricting the full exercise of human rights;

² Such as the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW), the [Inter-American Convention and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women](#) (the Convention of Belém do Pará), the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), and the [Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality](#).

³ UN Women, [Women's Rights in Review 30 Years After Beijing](#)

⁴ UN Women – Latin America and the Caribbean, on [women's economic empowerment](#)

⁵ ECLAC, on the [gender digital divide](#)

⁶ UN, regional summary on [gender and climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

⁷ ECLAC, Gender Equality Observatory on [unpaid domestic and care work](#)

⁸ UN Women, regional statistics on [pay gaps, informality, and economic autonomy](#)

9. That, although there has been progress in women's political representation in different countries of the region, this has been quite slow and is now facing stagnation and even setbacks⁹ in the context of shrinking civic space and persistent attacks against women in public life, eroding progress towards substantive equality, political representation, and democratic legitimacy;
10. That the rapid development of digital technologies and artificial intelligence introduces new complexities in resolving the longstanding inequalities affecting women and girls as these tools can reproduce and amplify structural gender biases and create new obstacles to economic empowerment and political participation, requiring decisive parliamentary action to ensure a human rights-based, inclusive, and transparent digital transformation;
11. That the parliaments of the Americas and the Caribbean have played a decisive role in advancing gender equality in recent decades through the adoption of legal frameworks for the protection of women and girls, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms for equality, and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in public policies and national budgets – ensuring that these consider and address the diverse needs of all members of the population, as well as through actions to transform their own institutional structures by ensuring equitable working conditions, preventing gender-based violence and discrimination, and fostering inclusive and gender-sensitive parliaments;
12. That these advances now require a resolute defense that reaffirms their role as guarantors of the rights that have been won and as key actors in the consolidation of a parliamentary agenda to achieve substantive, intersectional, and transformative equality;
13. That the presence and leadership of women in parliament has been key to promoting more inclusive and gender-responsive laws and policies, but that persistent barriers – such as gender-based political violence, including digital violence – continue to limit their full participation, restricting equitable access to representative and decision-making spaces;
14. That, in a political and social context marked by resistance and setbacks, feminist movements, youth, and women's organizations in all their diversity have played a fundamental role in defending progress related to equality and promoting transformations towards more just and inclusive societies;
15. That progress toward gender equality and the full exercise of women's rights, today more than ever, requires solidarity and collective action by parliaments, civil society (including diverse women's organizations, feminist movements, and youth groups), and specialized international bodies such as the Inter-American Commission of Women, UN Women, and other multilateral actors;
16. That the active participation of youth in all their diversity in parliamentary and public life, contributing their voices, experiences, and leadership, promotes democratic renewal and intergenerational efforts to forge more inclusive and representative democracies;

We commit to:

1. Promote the effective and comprehensive implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action as a fundamental roadmap for gender equality, through the development and strengthening of regulatory, budgetary, and institutional frameworks that guarantee the full exercise of the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity;

⁹ UN Women, [Women's Rights in Review 30 Years After Beijing](#)

2. Firmly reject discourse and coordinated actions that seek to undermine women's rights, and develop legislative and political responses to the rise of anti-rights narratives, disinformation campaigns, and institutional setbacks that jeopardize the progress made on gender equality and women's rights;
3. Raise awareness of the economic, social, political, and cultural benefits of gender equality through our parliamentary work to contribute to strengthening commitment to a legislative agenda that promotes human rights, equality, and inclusion for all people;
4. Work through the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality to promote the implementation of recommendations, model laws, and other instruments developed by the Inter-American Commission of Women to harmonize national legislative frameworks with regional and international standards on gender equality, and to follow up on the commitments made by States within the framework of the Inter-American System;
5. Expand and strengthen mechanisms for citizen participation in legislative processes, ensuring the active inclusion of women and other underrepresented population groups, such as youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant and Indo-descendant peoples affected by the legacies of slavery and indentureship, people with disabilities, migrants and displaced persons, and LGBTI+ individuals, among others, as an indispensable condition for revitalizing democracy, promoting pluralism in decision-making processes, and ensuring that equality and inclusion remain central principles of parliamentary work;
6. Promote the meaningful participation of young people, in all their diversity, in legislative processes and in the formulation of public policies for equality by strengthening institutional mechanisms for consultation, deliberation, representation, and intergenerational dialogue that recognize their leadership, knowledge, and contributions to democratic renewal and promote intergenerational corresponsibility in decision-making;
7. Support women's leadership at the institutional level by strengthening legislative frameworks and policies that guarantee their participation in decision-making spaces, and at the personal level through intergenerational mentorship networks, partnerships with feminist movements and women's organizations, and the promotion of active engagement by men as allies in the promotion of diverse and inclusive leadership;
8. Prioritize legislative work, in accordance with jurisdictional structures, and, where applicable, through collaborative approaches with Indigenous peoples and across different levels of government, in areas of critical importance for the full exercise of the rights of women and girls in all their diversity in the region, such as:
 - a. the consolidation of comprehensive care systems, with frameworks to recognize, reduce, redistribute, reward, and represent care work, both paid and unpaid, as part of the social infrastructure necessary to guarantee social and economic justice;
 - b. the recognition and guarantee of sexual and reproductive health and rights, in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW, which enshrine the rights for women to decide on matters related to their sexuality and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, and to access comprehensive health services, information, and education of quality related to their sexuality.
 - c. taking gender-responsive climate action, ensuring the rights of women, particularly Indigenous, rural, and young women, to land and resources, their access to green jobs, and their meaningful participation in the just transition to sustainable and resilient economies; and

- d. the development and adoption of regulatory frameworks that incorporate gender and intersectionality approaches in digital governance to ensure equitable access to technology, the prevention of digital gender-based violence, and the active participation of women in the formulation of policies on artificial intelligence and the digital economy, among other emerging issues;
9. Guarantee adequate financing for gender equality through the allocation of dedicated resources, parliamentary oversight of their use, and support for fiscal measures that contribute to closing structural inequalities and meeting the needs of the population in all its diversity;
10. Support the historic and transformational role of feminist movements, women's organizations, including Indigenous and rural women's organizations, and human rights defenders in advancing gender equality through guarantees of protection, funding, and meaningful participation, ensuring a safe and enabling environment for their work in increasingly adverse contexts;
11. Take an active role in shaping a public discourse in favour of gender equality, highlighting its benefits for society as a whole, as part of a coordinated response with feminist movements and women's and youth organizations to collectively address these challenges;
12. Call upon the competent authorities to strengthen systems for the collection, gender analysis, and use of disaggregated data as an essential component of the design of evidence-based public policies, the exercise of parliamentary oversight, and accountability for commitments made in relation to gender equality;
13. Strengthen the institutional capacities of our parliaments to promote gender equality in parliamentary work, including support for committees, caucuses, technical units, and other specialized bodies, in order to ensure their effective contribution to gender mainstreaming across all dimensions of parliamentary work;
14. Collaborate with peers, exchange good practices, and build partnerships among parliamentarians committed to gender equality, including through exchanges with colleagues from other countries through ParlAmericas, to learn about effective legislative experiences that have contributed to advancing women's rights and assess the possibility for their adaptation in our respective contexts; recognizing the strategic value of solidarity, support, and collective effort to continue advancing toward more egalitarian and inclusive societies.

Adopted in Brasilia, Brazil, on September 26, 2025.