

I N T E R - A M E R I C A N  
task**FORCE**  
On Women's Leadership

63rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status  
of Women

Side Event: *“WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE  
NATIONAL AGENDAS OF THE AMERICAS AND  
CARIBBEAN”*

*March 13, 2019  
New York, United States of America*

BY INVITATION ONLY

63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women  
Side Event: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL AGENDAS  
OF THE AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

**March 13, 2019**

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**“Women’s Leadership in the National Agendas of the Americas and Caribbean”** is a side-event which is being hosted by the Government of Canada, in partnership with the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (CIM) and the Inter-American Task Force on Women’s Leadership, and will bring together Ministerial representatives from OAS Member States and senior officials and experts from key Inter-American institutions. It will take place on the margins of the sixty-third session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in New York City.

The side-event will be divided into two distinct moments: a **Ministerial-level meeting** to set the tone and gain political support to increase the commitment about women’s leadership, followed by a **technical meeting** of senior officials and advisors to focus on five broad themes linked to the barriers to women’s empowerment and to challenges and opportunities for coordinated action between Member States and the Task Force.

**Goals:**

1. Open a political dialogue among Ministers of Women and Senior Authorities on key issues related to women’s leadership.
2. Reflect on the key barriers to women’s empowerment in the Americas and Caribbean with a view to setting a strategic direction for future collaboration.

## Purpose of the Ministerial Level meeting

The Ministerial-level Meeting is meant as an opportunity to reflect on the key barriers and challenges to advancing women's leadership in the hemisphere, to exchange national best practices, to discuss policy options, and to set a strategic direction for future collaborative work on these issues in the Americas and the Caribbean.

In addition, the meeting will aim to create a bridge between the national perspectives of the region's Ministers of Women and the work of the Inter-American Task Force on Women's Leadership and Empowerment, a regional mechanism set up to leverage and better coordinate efforts related to women's leadership in the Hemisphere at the programmatic and technical levels<sup>1</sup>.

Ministers are invited to present short statements that highlight the following:

1. Greatest challenges to women's leadership in their countries;
2. Current national policy frameworks related to women's leadership;
3. Best practices for implementing policies to support women's leadership from personal experience.

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<sup>1</sup> NOTE: the Ministerial session will be simultaneously translated across all four OAS languages (Spanish, Portuguese, French and English)

## MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING

March 13, 2019, 1:00-3:00pm

*United Nations headquarters Conference building, 405 E 42nd St, New York, NY 10017, in the Delegates Dining Room*

<b>12:40-1:00 pm</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>1:00-1:30 pm:</b> Welcome and national perspectives on three of the key barriers to women's leadership	<b>The Hon. Maryam Monsef</b> Minister for Women and Gender Equality of Canada   <b>Mr. Terry Duguid</b> Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Women and Gender Equality (TBC)  <b>The Hon. Ana María Mendieta Trefogli</b> Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru (TBC)  <b>The Hon. Janet Camilo</b> Minister for Women of the Dominican Republic (TBC)
<b>1:30-1:50 pm:</b> Presentation of key barriers to women's leadership (short six minute introductions)	<b>Mrs. Alicia Bárcena</b> Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)  <b>Mrs. Luiza Carvalho</b> Regional Director UN Women for Latin America and the Caribbean  <b>Mrs. Margarette MaCauley</b> Commissioner Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
<b>1:50-2:55 pm:</b> Ministerial statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greatest challenges to women's leadership in their countries</li><li>• Current national policy frameworks related to women's leadership</li><li>• Best practices for implementing policies to support women's leadership from personal experience.</li></ul>	Moderator: <b>Mr. Luis Felipe López Calva</b> Assistant Secretary General and Regional Director for Latin American and the Caribbean United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  <b>Mrs. Mariella Mazzotti</b> Director National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Uruguay and Chair of the Presiding Officers of

the ECLAC Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	
<b>2:55-3:00 pm:</b> Closing remarks: The path forward	<b>H.E. Penelope Beckles-Robinson</b> Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations and President of the Executive Board of UN Women
<b>3:00-3:10 pm:</b>	Group Photo

**Purpose of Technical Working Group Meeting**

The purpose of the Technical Working Group is to provide an opportunity for senior advisors and subject matter experts from Members States to collaborate directly with Task Force members on key topics from which shared projects or policy initiatives can be developed. Working Group topics include the following:

1. *Violence against women;*
2. *Education and training;*
3. *Gender based stereotypes;*
4. *Autonomy and economic opportunity; and*
5. *Political leadership.*

Regarding each thematic axis, the working groups will address barriers to the leadership of women from the national perspective focusing on challenges as well as opportunities; and from the regional perspective with the objective of finding a common agenda of strategic articulation among the Member States, oriented to support, promote and strengthen the leadership of women<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> NOTE: the Technical Session will be simultaneously translated between Spanish and English.

For this purpose, follow-up meetings among Task Force members and Member States will be scheduled, fostering a permanent dialogue among the Member States and Task Force partners to consolidate political commitments in a specific roadmap that will contribute to breaking the barriers to the empowerment of women and strengthen their leadership as strategic actors of democratic improvement and inclusive and sustainable development.

## TECHNICAL MEETING

March 13, 2019, 4:00pm -6:00pm

*Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations,  
466 Lexington Ave New York, NY 10017, Multi-Purpose Room (20/Floor)*

<b>3:45-4:00 pm:</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>4:00-4:15 pm:</b> Opening remarks and overview of agenda	<p>Welcome: <b>Mrs. Carmen Moreno</b> Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women/OAS</p> <p>Overview of Agenda: <b>H.E. Jennifer Loten</b> Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Organization of American States</p>
<b>4:15-4:20 pm:</b> Overview of current status of Task Force, results of needs assessment mapping	<p>Remarks: <b>Mrs. Flavia Tello</b> Coordinator, Inter-American Task Force</p>
<b>4:20-5:30 pm:</b> Concurrent working group discussions:	<p>Introduction: <b>H.E. Jennifer Loten</b> Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Organization of American States</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Violence against women</b></li> <li>2. <b>Education and training</b></li> <li>3. <b>Gender-based stereotypes</b></li> <li>4. <b>Autonomy and economic opportunity</b></li> <li>5. <b>Political leadership</b></li> </ol>	
<b>5:30-5:55 pm:</b> Rapporteur presentations from Working Groups	

<b>5:55-6:00 pm:</b> Closing remarks	<b>H.E. Jennifer Loten</b> Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Organization of American States
<b>6:00-6:10 pm:</b>	Group Photo

## TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

During the VIII Summit of the Americas (Peru, April 2018), leaders of the Americas and Caribbean approved the creation of the Inter-American Task Force on Women's Empowerment and Leadership, charging it with promoting gender equity and equality and women's empowerment through enhanced cooperation and synergies between international and inter-American institutions. The Task Force will have three-year tenure, and will report on its accomplishments to the 2021 Summit.

### **PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE**

The Inter-American Task Force on Women's Empowerment and Leadership is composed of regional and international institutions that address women's empowerment and leadership across various sectors and at multiple levels throughout the Americas and the Caribbean. Our mission is to strengthen the commitment of key actors and harmonize our efforts to achieve even greater efficacy in achieving the SDG 5 by reinforcing commitment and progress on women's empowerment and leadership and SDG 17 to set up strategies and specific patterns to harmonization of efforts and efficacy of cooperation.

### **COMPOSITION**

The Task Force is composed of key inter-American and international institutions, which have recognized expertise and programming in the areas related to women's leadership and include the following organizations: the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organization of American States/ Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), ParlAmericas, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWiL) and the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM).



The Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States serves as the Task Force’s Secretariat, with responsibility for its day-to-day operations.

**TASK FORCE GOALS**

- Address women’s leadership initiatives, current barriers, and good practices in the region.
- Enhance cooperation to increase the impact and sustainability of our work.
- Amplify existing initiatives and make them more accessible to historically excluded groups, including Indigenous, Afro-descendent, rural, young, and LGBTI women, among others.
- Fill key policy and programmatic gaps through evidence-based collaboration.
- Leverage funding for women’s leadership initiatives.

**TASK FORCE MOMENTS 2019-2021**

The Task Force will meet as needed in order to design a work plan that creates a partnership between the representatives of the Member States and the Task Force members. Key dates have been identified and will be added to the timeline (below).

