This initiative is supported by Global Affairs Canada.

Summit of the Americas

By 2021, the Americas and the Caribbean will be more strategically placed to achieve SDG 5.5, 16.7 and 17.17. At the next Summit of the Americas, we want to see strong political support to fill the spaces in women’s and girls’ leadership — including financial resources and commitment to fill data gaps. The Summit process should itself be a model of inclusivity for women leaders, and the next generation of leaders, from all backgrounds.

Sustainable Development Goal – SDG 5 Target 5

“Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.”
**Who We Are**

The Inter-American Task Force on Women’s Empowerment and Leadership is composed of key inter-American and international institutions, which have recognized expertise and programming in the areas related to women’s leadership. Through the Task Force we are working jointly to increase the impact and sustainability of our efforts to contribute to strengthening women’s leadership in the public and private sectors and to advancing a policy agenda on gender equality and women’s rights issues in the Americas and the Caribbean.

**Goals**

- Enhance coordination and coherence of actions between international, inter-governmental and inter-American institutions and other stakeholders, to position the Americas as a leader in the SDG 5.5 in the framework of the Summit of the Americas process.
- Build understanding, develop evidence and share knowledge of how women’s leadership contributes and impacts the SDG agenda and inclusive societies.
- Develop a repository of replicable good practices and innovative approaches to promote and sustain leadership that can be implemented at scale.
- Amplify existing initiatives led by Task Force members and find opportunities to make them accessible to historically excluded groups.
- Create opportunities for women leaders to gain knowledge, build confidence and establish networks in order to support their continued personal and professional growth.

**Key stakeholders**

Effectively advancing women’s empowerment and leadership is only possible through multi-sectoral partnerships. The Task Force seeks to facilitate greater coordination of the efforts across our respective spheres of influence, all of which must be actively involved to see progress in the region.

**Why women’s leadership?**

Women have the right to be leaders in all areas of life, including economic, social, political, technological and cultural spheres. Women are 50% of the world’s population and 50% of our human talents. Greater diversity in leadership has also been shown to positively impact productivity, innovation, legitimacy and responsiveness.

The 2030 Agenda poses a great opportunity for all of us; there are many challenges still ahead and women need to be at the forefront on the design and implementation of programs initiatives and policy dialogue across the Americas. We want women to be included in finding solutions for climate change and renewable energy, to address inequalities in health, education and across public and private spaces. Finally, we want to support women to hold all of us more accountable, as we work towards more inclusive and transparent institutions.

**Areas of engagement**

- Advocacy to promote/generate changes and mobilize actors.
- Analysis and evidence to promote change of policies, programs and attitudes of key actors, understand and work towards the removal of barriers.
- Support for women’s leadership.