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STATEMENT OF CONCERN FOR THE SITUATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS), as the first hemispheric political forum created to ensure the recognition of women's human rights, brings together in its Assembly the Ministers of Women and/or high gender authorities of the American region, within the framework of conventional instruments, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994).

The Executive Committee of the CIM, which brings together the authorities of Panama, Chile, El Salvador, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Canada, Honduras and Uruguay, warn of the deepening of discrimination and violence against women and therefore, we renew our work effort in favor of the rights of women in the American region.

In solidarity, we express our deep concern over the situations that deteriorate the rights of women, adolescents, and girls in Afghanistan and Iran. We warn of the negative impacts when there are setbacks in, or retaliation for, the exercise of the freedoms of expression, association and movement, the rights to physical integrity, political participation, education, and health. In this context, the Committee calls for human rights to be guaranteed and to ensure a life free of violence and without discrimination for women, adolescents, and girls in those countries.

The Committee expresses its solidarity with Afghan and Iranian women and girls and reminds the international community of the need to make every effort so that equality and dignity are rights that women can enjoy: likewise, to guarantee protection and justice in the face of omissions or abuse. Only when the international standards for the protection of all their agreed rights and freedoms also reach women, the world will be safer and more inclusive.