

“INSTRAW : Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)”

Date: Friday, March 5

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An event titled Political participation of women in local Governance in North Africa and the observatory for gender equality in Latin American and the Caribbean on March 5th of CSW week was organized by UN-INSTRAW. Panelists present at this even were Ms. Alejandra Valdes (coordinator of Gender Equality Observatory of Latin American and the Caribbean), Ms. Nielsen Perez (Project Coordinator, Support to Strengthen the Quito Consensus for Women's Empowerment UN-INSTRAW-AECID) and Ms. Boutheina Gribaa (Regional Advisor for Women and Politics UN-INSTRAW/CAWTAR). The panelists discussed three projects in which they are implementing in various regions: one in Latin America and the Caribbean, Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia) and the third in Central America and the Andean Region. The first project helps to strengthen governments from a gender perspective, the second project looks to strengthen decision making and leadership for women, and the third project works to empower and increase the capacity for women in decision making processes in addition to ensure women are gaining access and equal participation in the government. Each project in their respective region works from the local and national level. The projects seem to be successful however questions of how to improve the level of participation still pose to be an issue such as removing barriers of entry for women at the municipal level of government and how to incorporate agendas of women from different social, generational, and ethnic backgrounds.