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**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE SARAH FLOOD-BEAUBRUN TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF  
THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) IN COMMEMORATION OF FEBRUARY 18TH  
- DAY OF THE WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021**



Madame Chair of the Permanent Council

I am pleased to address this august body of the Permanent Council, as we celebrate the Day of Women of the Americas. The inclusiveness of women in politics and foreign affairs in the Caribbean is important to note and is a hallmark of our democracies. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the legacies of female Prime Ministers, Presidents, Governors General and Ministers in the Caribbean and the wider Hemisphere who have preceded me and commend those currently serving in government for the valuable contribution being made to their respective countries, the region and the world.

The foundation upon which we stand was built by them and other women within our societies who demanded and created space in positions of power for women throughout our societies. We owe a lot to their unwavering confidence in our ability to deliver solutions for our people, while fulfilling our irreplaceable roles as wives and mothers.

We as a group of five are an example that the role of foreign minister in all its complexity, is attainable for all women within our societies. The desire and ability to effectively represent one's country in an increasingly multifaceted world, where one has to advance the national interest while balancing that of the regional and international community and essential family roles is no longer an aspirational goal – it is attainable. Our numbers will undoubtedly grow, as they should. We are proof that it is ours to grasp and excel at, for our nations and for our people.

I wish to thank the Chair of the Permanent Council, Ambassador María del Carmen Roquebert, Permanent Representative of Panama, for inserting this item on the agenda.

I would also like to congratulate the CIM on the important work they have done over the years, work which continues to be important to our Hemisphere. I also take this opportunity to welcome the stated commitment by the leadership of the CIM that more focus will be placed on the Caribbean going forward.

I thank you.