

Chile's experience: Participation of Women in Politics and Commerce

12 April 2022, 12:30 – 13:30 Zoom Webinar

Abstract

Far beyond any other, Politics and Commerce are at this moment two crucial domains for development. They both have been historically and traditionally driven by men, perpetuating a model which has not been permitted to benefit from the active female perspective. This fact was observed by Governments and it was considered influential enough to adjust and make significant efforts aimed at achieving gender balance. In this respect, Chile is not the exception, and different administrations have established incentives and systems which provide the space for women to assume an active role and participate in politics and commerce.

Since 2015, Chile has passed laws that encourage political parties to include female representatives and support their candidacies. The most insightful example is the composition of the Constitutional Convention, which is the first body in the world in charge of writing a new constitution that has gender parity. As in politics, women also face barriers to participate in trade. In order to find a solution to this noticeable inequality, Chile has developed noteworthy measures, such as to implement public policies that foster a higher participation of enterprises led by women in international trade, and drives initiatives that aim at the participation of women in the labour market including the improvement of their work conditions.

Biography of the speaker



Natalia Nahmías is a career representative of the Foreign Service, she is currently the acting Consul in the Chilean Consulate in Bern, and at the Embassy of Chile in Switzerland. She assumed her position on June 16, 2021.

Prior to her current destination, Natalia Nahmías served in the European Affairs Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, actively involved in the negotiations to modernize the Chile-EU Association Agreement, and engaged as a desk officer of Nordic European countries.

She studied linguistics in Chile, obtained a master's degree in Diplomacy and International Relations from the Diplomatic School of Spain, acquiring also a master's degree in International Development with a major in Governance and Law from Nagoya University. Lastly, her studies also include the extensive Diplomatic Training Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.

This lecture is part of the Gender Lecture Series 'Know the GAP! Looking for Gender Parity' organized by **Prof. Elisa Fornalé** who leads the SNSF-funded research project '*Gender Equality in the Mirror (GEM): Clothing the Invisibility of Women's Participation at International Level*' housed at the World Trade Institute, University of Bern.

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