XXXIII ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
13 – 15 November 2006
San Salvador, El Salvador.

OEA/Ser.L/II.2.32
CIM/doc.4/06
November 3, 2006
Original: English

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF CIM TO THE THIRTY-THIRD ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION **5**

I. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE XXXII ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES **7**

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES **8**

A. WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 8

1. Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará *8*

2. Trafficking in Women and Children in the Americas for Purposes of Exploitation *12*

3. Gender Aspects of HIV/AIDS *13*

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM ON THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY (IAP) 13

1. Capacity Building *13*

2. Integration of a Gender Perspective in Ministerial Meetings *15*

3. Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families. *16*

4. Other activities *17*

C. SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS 18

D. SPECIAL EVENTS AND DISSEMINATION 19

III. RELATIONS WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS **19**

A. THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM 19

1. Within the OAS *20*

2. Other Inter-American Organizations *20*

B. THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM 21

C. OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS 21

D. CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS 21

IV. FINANCIAL SITUATION **22**

ANNEX I: CIM MEETINGS MARCH 2005-NOV. 2006 ..... **23**

INTRODUCTION

The 2004-2006 was a period of intense work for the Inter-American Commission of Women.

The CIM continued its pioneering work on behalf of women's human rights, by putting into practice the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI), adopted by the States Parties in 2004. The work of the CIM Permanent Secretariat as Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism was fundamental in the preparation and development of the first round of multilateral evaluation that is currently in progress.

Through the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit, the CIM continued to develop activities to strengthen and encourage governmental and nongovernmental response to the problem of trafficking in the Member States. This included the first phase of research on trafficking of persons in Haiti. Although the Anti-Trafficking Unit is now under the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security,as a result of the restructuring of the OAS General Secretariat, the CIM will continue to collaborate to ensure that a gender perspective is integrated in OAS efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

During this biennium the CIM also began to address a new issue in the area of women's human rights, namely, the subject of HIV/AIDS, its impact on women in the Hemisphere and their future roles in society. This will be the topic for the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation of the XXXIII Assembly of CIM Delegates, which will define the mandates and activities to be carried out during the next biennium.

The CIM also continued working on implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human rights and Gender Equity and Equality. Within the OAS General Secretariat, the CIM continued to expand the CIDA/CIM/OAS training project for OAS officials funded by the Government of Canada. Phase II of the project targeted specific areas, providing appropriate tools for integrating a gender perspective in those particular sectors.

Additionally, the Commission executed the project "Training Course on Gender, Conflict, and Peace Building, in partnership with the Office for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts of the OAS (OPRC), and the Program Initiative for Inclusive Security"(IIS) of Hunt Alternatives Fund. Two trainings sessions were held, one for the Andean Region and the other for Central America. As a result, sixty women and men working in the areas of peace and security were trained in promoting the integration of the gender perspective and participation of women in conflict resolution and peace-building and a virtual network on gender and peace was created.

Finally, the CIM cooperated with the Secretariat of the Summit Process and the Permanent Missions to ensure the integration of gender-perspective into the deliberations of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, in which the governments expressed their commitment to eliminating gender discrimination in the labor sector and to achieving equal employment opportunities for all. The Summit mandates constitute the basis for the development of initiatives to provide women, especially poor women, with decent and productive work, and to adopt key strategies to achieve effective results in poverty reduction.

I. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE XXXII ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

The XXXII Assembly of Delegates, held on October 27-29, 2004, in Washington, D.C., elected the Executive Committee for the 2004-2006 biennium as follows: President, Nilcéa Freire (Brazil); Vice President, María José Argaña de Mateu (Paraguay); Members, the delegates of: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Mexico and Suriname. The following mandates were received from the Assembly and were executed during this reporting period.

CIM/RES. 229 (XXXII-O/04)	Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará
CIM/RES. 230 (XXXII-O/04)	Gender and Access to Decent Work to Address Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance
CIM/RES. 231 (XXXII-O/04)	Promoting the Role of Women in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Peace Building
CIM/RES. 232 (XXXII-O/04)	Integration of a Gender Perspective into Hemispheric Policies and in the Summit of the Americas
CIM/RES. 233 (XXXII-O/04)	Biennial Work Program of the CIM 2004-2006: Program Guidelines
CIM/RES. 234 (XXXII-O/04)	Meetings of the Executive Committee for the Period 2004-2006
CIM/RES. 235 (XXXII-O/04)	Venue and Date of the Thirty-Third Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women
CIM/RES. 236 (XXXII-O/04)	Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents and Children
CIM/DEC. 02 (XXXII-O/04)	Declaration on the Adoption of the Statute of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará"
CIM/DEC. 03 (XXXII-O/04)	Declaration on the Impact of the Proposed Restructuring of the Organization of American States

MEETINGS OF THE 2004-2006 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
April 21-22, 2005	First Regular Session	Washington, DC
December 8-9, 2005	Second Regular Session	Washington, DC
May 15-16, 2006	Third Regular Session	Washington, DC

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

CIM activities during this reporting period were aimed at implementing its 2004-2006 Biennial Work Plan, adopted by the XXXII Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, as well as the mandates received from the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas.

The priorities were: 1) Women's human rights and the elimination of violence against women; 2) Implementation of the Inter-American Program on Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality; and 3) Integrating a gender perspective in the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

A. WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará

The CIM continues to urge ratification of the Convention of Belém do Pará by all OAS member states. On December 14, 2005, the Government of Jamaica deposited its instrument of ratification, bringing the total of States Party to the Convention to 32.

a. Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI)

During the period covered by this report, the CIM Permanent Secretariat focused on putting into practice the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI). The following is a brief summary of the activities completed. A full report is contained in document CIM/CD.doc.10/06 of this Assembly, entitled "Report of the Technical Secretariat on Implementation of Follow-Up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention for the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, *Convention of Belém do Pará*." (MESECVI)

As an initial step, the President of the CIM sent a note to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States Party to the Convention on January 28, 2005, asking them to designate an expert to serve on the Committee of Experts (CEVI), the Mechanism's technical organ. To date, 27 experts have been named.

Following said designations, and with the generous support of the governments of Mexico and Brazil, the CIM convened the first meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI), in Washington, D.C. from August 22-24, 2005. As Technical Secretariat, the CIM Secretariat provided the CEVI with the draft agenda, rules of procedure, questionnaire to send to the governments, annual work calendar, and methodology. After a detailed review, and with the necessary changes, the CEVI approved these instruments. It also elected Leila Linhares Barsted, the Brazilian expert, as Coordinator, and Margarita Puerto Gómez, the Honduran expert, as Alternate Coordinator. They will serve in these capacities for a two-year term.

On September 13, 2005, the Secretariat sent a note to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States Party inviting them to designate a Competent National Authority (ANC) who will serve as a

liaison between the governments and the MESECVI Secretariat, as provided in Article 9 of the Rules of Procedure. To date, 27 States Party have appointed their Competent National Authority.

On November 7, 2005 the Secretariat sent a questionnaire for evaluation of the Convention's implementation to the ANCs that had been named, and to the permanent missions of the states party that had not yet designated their contact point. The CEVI reviewed the replies at its first meeting of the multilateral evaluation round held on July 24-25, 2006.

Presentation of the report on the launch of the MESECVI to the OAS Permanent Council's General Committee — On April 26, 2006, the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), as Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism, presented the "Report on the Launch of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI)" (CIM/doc.93/06) to the General Committee for its consideration, . The member States' observations were noted and introduced into document CIM/doc.93/06 rev. 1.

Support for the Competent National Authority. National Women's Institute of Mexico: In November, 2005, the National Women's Institute of Mexico organized a meeting in the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs to discuss implementation of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI), and to report on its implementation at the national level and its relation to the "National Program for a Violence-Free Life." Participants in the meeting included the Director of Global Affairs of the Mexican Foreign Ministry, Ernesto Céspedes, the Principal Delegate to the CIM, Patricia Espinosa, representatives of the judicial branch, international organizations, civil society organizations, and the media. The Principal Specialist of the CIM made a presentation on the nature and operation of the MESECVI and the current status of its implementation.

b. Interagency Initiatives on Violence

- **Validation of Model Law and Policies on Intra-family Violence against Women,"**
  Continuing with an interagency initiative started several years ago, in September, 2005, the CIM participated in the meeting "**Validation of Model Law and Policies on Intra-family Violence against Women,"** organized by the Gender, Ethnicity, and Health Unit of the Pan American Health Organization, and made a presentation on the MESECVI. Other participants included representatives of UNIFEM, CLADEM, IPAS, ISIS International, the International Parliamentary Group, governmental representatives and NGOs for women's human rights. The event occurred in Washington, D.C.

- **International Campaign on Violence Against Women.**

  2005- The CIM, in partnership with other international organizations, sponsored and carried out the international campaign of "16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women, November 25-December 10, 2005." The campaign's slogan was "For the Life of Women. For the Health of the World. No more Violence!" The 16-day campaign spanned and stressed four significant dates related to violence against women and human rights: the International Day of No More Violence Against Women (November 25), the World Day of HIV/AIDS (December 1), the anniversary of the massacre of Montreal (December 6), and International Human Rights Day (December 10).

This initiative endeavored to promote the organization and mobilization of civil society in order to denounce various forms of violence against women, and to strengthen the work of anti-violence women's movements on the world level. The primary focus was the link between gender-based violence and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has struck a growing number of women and girls.

General coordination of the campaign was the responsibility of the NGO, Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), with ISIS International as the focal point for information for Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to the CIM, the participants in the project were: the United Nations, through the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Inter-American Antiparliamentary Group on Population and Development (GPI), and the Inter-American Alliance for the Prevention of Gender-based Violence through Health (INTERCAMBIOS).

"**2006** -In March, UNIFEM kicked off activities in preparation for the 2006 campaign, in partnership with the Center for Women's Global Leadership, UNFPA, ISIS International, PAHO, INSTRAW, PATH, CIM, and the Family Violence Prevention Fund. In a conference call, the partners examined the previous campaign's successes, mistakes and the lessons learned. Based on these findings, work got underway on preparations for the next campaign, which will be number 16. In April, discussions were held with all the partner organizations to begin planning an agenda, to identify each participating organization's responsibilities and the deadlines for completion of assigned functions.

CIM's role will be to provide information on the progress made over the last 16 years on the issue of gender-based violence and the challenges at the hemispheric level.

c. Other activities in the Area of Violence against Women

- **"International Congress to Support Harmonization of Domestic Legislation with International Instruments on Women's Human Rights—Full Force for Human Rights of Women in Mexico."** At the invitation of Mexico's Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, the Principal Specialist of the CIM made presentations on "The right of women to live without violence and the obligation of the Mexican State to guarantee it in the framework of the Convention of Bélem do Pará", in seminars held in 2005 in San Luis de Potosí, Potosí (April), Federal District (July) Morelia, Michoacán (September) and Villahermosa, Tabasco (October). The Principal Specialist of the Department of Legal Affairs and Services of the OAS represented the CIM at seminars held in Tijuana, Baja California (June) and Monterrey, Nuevo León (August).

- In January 2005 the Executive Secretary took part in the **Panel on Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children** that was sponsored by FLACSO Ecuador. The trip was coordinated by Victoria Moncayo, President of CECIM and Principal Delegate to the CIM. During the trip the Executive Secretary visited training centers and met with regional representatives of CECIM. On this visit the Executive Secretary gave an address on the topic to a network of Ecuadorian women organized by a local NGO, "*Sí SePuede*" [Yes, one can].

- The Executive Secretary made a presentation at the **Regional Forum of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas. Meeting of Women FIPA,** held in Barbados March 20-23, 2005. The presentation covered regional efforts to combat violence against women.

- The Executive Secretary participated in the panel "Results and Lessons Learned from Studies on Gender and Justice" in the framework of the meeting "**Protection of Women's Human Rights in the Inter-American System: A Look at Access to Justice,"** organized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The events in which the CIM participated took place in Washington, D.C. in April 2005, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in September 2005.

- The Principal Specialist of the CIM was invited to make a presentation on the Belém do Pará Convention and its follow-up mechanism in the teleconference **"Strengthening Legal Institutions for Development with Equity in Uruguay,"** sponsored by the World Bank. The event was held in Washington, D.C. on May 3, 2005.

- The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation invited the CIM to the **Seminar on the Anti-violence Network.** On that occasion, the Principal Specialist made a presentation to showcase the CIM's work and to report on the characteristics of the new Follow-up Mechanism for the Convention of Bélem do Pará. The event took place in May 2005 in Antigua, Guatemala.

- The Executive Secretary and the Principal Specialist of the CIM took part in various panels in the seminar **"Alternative Approaches in the Health Sector for Women Survivors of Sexual Violence,"** organized by the Gender, Ethnicity, and Health Unit of the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), and IPAS Mexico. The seminar was held August 2-4 in Washington, D.C., and was attended by representatives of nongovernmental organizations, regional networks, international organizations and aid agencies that work in this area.

- In November, 2004, the CIM attended a World Bank workshop on "**The Development Implications of Gender-Based Violence**", held in Washington, D.C., and participated in a session on legal aspects of gender-based violence, as well as a meeting with international organizations and NGOs to discuss possible collaboration. A proposal was presented to the World Bank requesting support in implementing the Follow up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará.

- The CIM took part in the **Dialogue with Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** on the subject "***Gender-based Violence and Equitable Development: the Role of the International Community***," which took place on October 24, 2004 at the headquarters of the World Bank, in Washington, D.C. The event was inaugurated by the Bank's President, Paul Wolfowitz, and Vice President and General Counselor Roberto Dañino. The Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women of the United Nations, Yakin Ertürk, referred to the role that should be played by nongovernmental actors to deal with the problem of violence. The Special Rapporteur on Women's Human Rights of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS, Susana Villarán, addressed the topic from a regional perspective. Finally, the Principal Economist of the Gender and Development

Unit of the World Bank, Andrew Morrison, presented the findings of a recent study on how to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in medium and low-income countries. On March 6, 2006 officials from **Amnesty International** (AI), met with the Executive Secretary and staff of the CIM to learn what progress had been made with implementation of the MESECVI and the issue of the trafficking of persons. Mr. J. Hugo Rodríguez Brignardello, Legal Advisor for the Americas, Legal Advisory Services and Liaison with International Organizations, and Anna-Karin Holmlund, Assistant to the Advisor on International Organizations, have been following CIM's activities on these subjects and are particularly interested in learning about opportunities to participate as an NGO in the activities of the MESECVI. Their interest was conveyed to the MESECVI Coordinator On, March 6 2006 CIM staff attended a meeting organized by the Washington Office on Latin America and Amnesty International on the document "**Feminicide in Latin America: a Regional Problem.**" That document had also been presented earlier that day to the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The presentations dealt with issues that claim more and more victims every day in Latin America, such as domestic violence, discrimination against women, impunity vis-à-vis the abuse of women, the lack of stringent legislation as State and society alike disregard the problem. It also focused on armed conflicts, the lack of statistical records, the lack of research, follow-up of cases of massacres, the lack of access to the male-dominated justice systems, the death of rape victims which authorities do nothing to stop. The meeting concluded with the proposals and requests that this group of experts presented to the Human Rights Commission in their report. Salient among these are efforts to lobby States to guarantee the lives and personal integrity of women, their families and the people who work to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women.

2. Trafficking in Women and Children in the Americas for Purposes of Exploitation

As a result of the restrucuting of the OAS General Secretariat, the Anti-Trafficking Unit, which had been under the CIM since its inception in 2004, was placed within the Department for the Prevention of Threats to Public Security of the Assistant Secretariat for Multimensional Security. The CIM will continue to collaborate with the Public Security Department to ensure that a gender perspective continues to be integrated into the work on trafficking in persons.

Until the new structure was put in place, the Anti-Trafficking Unit, the CIM continued to implement the mandates of resolutions AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05) "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons" and CIM/RES.225 (XXXI-O/02) "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children." The complete report of activities of the Anti-Tip Unit is published in document CIM/doc.11/06, of this Assembly, entitled "Report of Activities by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Section".

The anti-trafficking web site, http://www.oas.org/atip, has been completed and is now available to the public.

Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons. The CIM Executive Secretary served as Technical Advisor to the Working Group in Charge of Preparations for the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons", convened by the Permanent Council to comply with Resolution AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05) "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons". She also attended the meeting, which was held on Margarita Island, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, March 14 to 17, 2006. The Meeting was the first hemispheric forum where the countries of the Americas met to deal with issues related to implementation of legal instruments to fight the trafficking in persons,

prevention and punishment of traffickers, protection of and assistance to victims, to share information and experiences and international cooperation. The results of the meeting are contained in document RTP/doc.16/06 rev. 1, including the meeting's conclusions and recommendations. The document was introduced at REMJA VI, held in the Dominican Republic, April 24-26.

3. Gender Aspects of HIV/AIDS

As a result of the Executive Committee's decision, the CIM began addressing the issue of gender and HIV/AIDS. In February 2006, CIM retained the services of a consultant, who prepared a research paper entitled **HIV/AIDS: Where do Women stand in the Caribbean?"**

On March 30, CIM staff attended the meeting on "The Global Challenge of HIV/AIDS: The Impact of Gender Disparities on the Growth and Spread of HIV/AIDS", organized by the United States Congressional Human Rights Caucus. The presentations of the various panelists covered issues related to HIV/AIDS and the trafficking of persons for sexual purposes: orphans and the girl-child; inheritance and property rights; unequal access to education; sexual violence in violent conflict; nutrition and food security, and microbicides research and development to prevent HIV/AIDS.

As a result of the contacts made at that event, the Executive Secretary of CIM and her team met with Roxana Rogers, Deputy Director of USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS and members of her team, who expressed great interest in the CIM initiative. They offered valuable information about their agency's activities in the region, and the names of USAID officials in the field who could be helpful in developing future projects.

In April, CIM held a meeting with the Pan American Health Organization's Gender, Ethnicity and Health Unit to discuss a partnership on the issue of gender and HIV/AIDS. It was agreed that a plan would be developed after the meeting of the Executive Committee in May, taking into account the comments, suggestions and contributions from the delegates.

In May, the CIM Executive Committee decided that the issue HIV/AIDS would be the only topic for the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation of the XXXIII Assembly of Delegates, to be held in November in El Salvador.

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM ON THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY (IAP)

The CIM is responsible for monitoring, coordinating and evaluating the implementation of this program, in coordination with National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women. Through Resolution AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05), "Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality," the Thirty-fifth Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly reiterated its support for the efforts of CIM to carry out and follow up on the Inter-American Program and to implement activities and programs to mainstream gender into ministerial agendas.

1. Capacity Building

a. Integrating a Gender Perspective within the OAS

Following the success of the "Project for Integration of Gender Perspective" in 2000-2003, in which OAS staff in charge of programs and policies received gender training, the Government of Canada provided funding for additional training courses. On October 24, a meeting was held to coordinate Phase II of the project, with participation of representatives of CICAD; the Office of Human Resource Services; the Office of Education, Science and Technology; the Office of Public Information; and the Office for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts of the Department of Democratic and Political Affairs.

Two half-day seminars were held on issues of particular importance to the units involved, to follow up on, and reinforce the more general training courses conducted in 2002-2003. The instructors prepared work materials/tools using differing models of gender analysis, the method of reporting results and analyzing gender issues from a full life cycle perspective, and supplied those materials/tools to the participants.

On February 28 and March 1, a seminar was held for staff of the Department of Crisis Prevention and Special Missions (DPCME) of the Secretariat for Political Affairs. The CIM Secretariat, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, in cooperation with Kartini International, hosted a working luncheon on March 1 with the Directors and Chiefs of Office to inform them of the features of the project and the importance of actively participating in this training on integrating the gender perspective into their work and of the positive outcomes that would result. The Assistant Secretary General, his Chief of Staff, one of his advisors and high-level staff from 15 areas of the Organization participated.

The training seminars were concluded in August, 2006. A full description of the seminars, area-specific workshops, gender integrations tools, and outcomes-actual and anticipated-are contained in CIM Document CIM/doc/13/06 entitled "Report on the Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, pursuant to resolution AG/RES 2124 (XXXV-0/05".

b. Training on Gender, Conflict, and Peace-building

In 2005, the CIM, the Office for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts of the OAS (OPRC), and the Program "Initiative for Inclusive Security"(IIS) of Hunt Alternatives Fund formed a strategic partnership to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of peace and reconstruction processes in the Americas and to promote the inclusion of women in these processes.

As an initial activity, the partners developed and implemented the Project "Training Course on Gender, Conflict, and Peace-building" The first stage of the project was a training course for the Andean Region, held in Lima, Peru, October 3-7, 2005.. The second stage entailed a course for Central America, held in La Antigua, Guatemala, September 17-22, 2006. Both courses were financed by Hunt Alternatives Fund and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

The primary purpose of the course was to give government and civil society leaders of countries with current or recent conflicts the tools needed to integrate a gender perspective in mediation,

negotiation, peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction, and to encourage the participation of women in these processes. This process is intended to develop a support network of men and women in civil society and political parties in each country, and at the hemisphere level, that will be able to promote and strengthen the initiatives to achieve participation and inclusion of women in the peace processes at all levels. This course was targeted to countries where there are various conflict situations and where women play a key but under-recognized role in the promotion of peace, democracy, and development.

The courses were very successful. The participants designed and presented projects to address specific conflicts in their countries with a gender perspective and drafted recommendations to achieve the integration of the gender issues in the processing of the social conflict in the Andean region. An immediate consequence of this course was the creation by the participants of a virtual network on gender and peace, generoypazamericas (generoypazamericas@yahoo.com) which includes both the Andean and the Central American groups, to connect the different actors in the region working on the issue, to support their work and to promote the sharing of information, methodologies and lessons learned.

Another important result of the project was the creation of a unique curriculum and methodology that focuses on gender as a crosscutting issue in the conflict resolution field, and that can be replicated in the countries

A complete report on the results of the project is published in the document CIM/doc.15/06, of this Assembly, entitled "Final Report of the Training Course on Gender, Conflict and Peace-building". Other pertinent information is also available on the CIM web site: www.oas.org/cim.

As a direct result of the training, the Coordinator of the Area for Advanced Studies of the Arias Foundation, a participant in the Central American training, invited the CIM to make a presentation on peace-building with a gender perspective, in the Seminar "Towards Good Government: Pending Tasks", organized by the Arias Foundation, and held in San José, Costa Rica, October 11-12.

2. Integration of a Gender Perspective in Ministerial Meetings

To comply with the IAP mandate to "ensure that a gender perspective is consistently mainstreamed into the preparation and application of international instruments, mechanisms, and procedures within the framework of the OAS, and particularly on the agendas of ministerial-level meetings," the CIM instituted a process to integrate the gender perspective into Ministerial agendas. Entitled **SEPIA,**[1/] the process has enabled the CIM to work with civil society experts, governments and other regional and international organizations, to present gender mainstreaming recommendations to Ministerial Meetings and subsequently, to develop specific lines of action for implementing and follow up on the recommendations. The SEPIA process has been applied in the areas of Labor (SEPIA I), Justice (SEPIA II), Education (SEPIA III) and Science and Technology (SEPIA IV).

a. Follow-up to SEPIA I – Gender and Labor

The CIM made a presentation at the Second Meeting of the Working Groups in the Framework

1. Spanish language acronym for 'follow up to the Inter-American Program'

of the Thirteenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) of the OAS, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from April 11-13, 2005. This presentation focused, on the CIM's recommendations concerning the integration of gender perspective in the policies of the Ministries of Labor. CIM also shared the results with the Forum on Gender held in Buenos Aires on April 7 and 8, 2005. This meeting was held in the framework of preparations for the Fourth Summit of the Americas, which took place in November in Argentina.

In 2006, the CIM Executive Secretary met with a delegation from Canada to explore opportunities to cooperate in following up on the **Plan of Action of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML)**.

b. SEPIA IV- Gender and Science and Technology.

The CIM and the OAS Office of Education, Science and Technology (OEST) took the lead in this initiative. Recommendations on gender mainstreaming in S&T policies and programs developed by OEST, the CIM and other partners, including civil society, were adopted in full at the 2004 *First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities in Science and Technology within the Framework of CIDI-OAS*, as one of the hemispheric initiatives of the Plan of Action. A joint project is currently under development by the OEST, the CIM, the Gender Advisory Board of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development and other partners, to implement this hemispheric initiative.

3. Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.

The CIM participated in the preparatory process for the elaboration of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, adopted at the XXXV General Assembly (AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05)

CIM was invited to make a presentation at the Special Meeting of the Permanent Council's Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, on the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families held in Washington, D.C., March 16, 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to compile information on the fulfillment of the mandates assigned to the various organs and entities of the OAS by the Program. In addition, this meeting provided a sharing of best practices and activities conducted since the program's approval and the new proposals on ways to support it.

The Migrants Program assigns specific mandates to the CIM. The first is to conduct research on female migration and its impact on, *inter alia,* family structure, the labor market and migratory control. Although the CIM at the moment has neither the financial nor human resources to comply with this mandate, it did research on work done by on the gender dimension of migration by organizations, such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). These documents and research are listed in the Appendix to this report.

The second mandate is to develop policies and programs to protect migrant women and their

families. This is one of the issues that will be developed in CIM's Biennial Plan for 2004-2006.

The third mandate assigned to the CIM addresses the issue of trafficking in persons. Since all anti-trafficking activities have been moved to the Department of International Threats to Public Security of the Secretariat for Multi-Dimensional Security, the CIM will coordinate activities with that section, based on the mandates received from the OAS General Assembly and those adopted at its own Assembly of Delegates.

4. Other activities

- In February 2005 the Executive Secretary took part with representatives of other intergovernmental organizations in a panel of the **United Nations Commission on the Legal and Social Status of Women** on "The Role of Intergovernmental Organizations in Shaping Policies on Gender Equality."

- The CIM, as a member of the **Working Group on the Role of Women in Reconstruction and Stabilization Operations**, took part in a series of meetings (November 2004-February 2005) that identified the major issues and lessons learned with regard to the role of women in reconstruction and stabilization operations. This working group met to draw up policy recommendations aimed at correcting gaps in the inclusion of women in reconstruction and stabilization operations to those responsible for drafting U.S. government policies. These recommendations sought a systematic approach to the cause of failures in specific areas of post-conflict reconstruction and to generate policy options. The initial discussions focused on: the role of women in reconstruction; the role of the media; natural resources; civil and military planning; evaluation of progress in reconstruction; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; telecommunications; and justice in transition and reconciliation.

- The CIM attended the 21st session of the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development of the **Pan American Health Organization**, held in Washington, D.C. on March 14 and 15, 2005. The topic of the meeting was "Drafting and implementation of a PAHO Policy on Gender Equality." CIM presented a paper on "Mainstreaming a Gender-Equality Perspective in the OAS: Lessons Learned." The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) also presented their experience in this area.

- In April 2005, the Principal Specialist participated as a panelist in the **Forum of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas (FIPA)**. These meetings, titled "Improvement of Leadership by Women to Strengthen democracy," sought to enhance the leadership capability of the women parliamentarians.

- In May 2005, the CIM attended the seminar **Gender and Trade: Identifying Myths, Overcoming Challenges and Developing Alternatives,** organized by Woodrow Wilson Center, the Center of Concern, the Hispanic Council on International Relations, and the International Gender and Trade Network. José Manuel Salazar, Director of the Office for Trade, Growth, and Competitiveness, took part in the panel "Addressing Gender in Trade: Economic, Legal, and Political Challenges."

- In June 2005, the Principal Specialist of the CIM was a panelist in the teleconference **Development with Equity and Millennium Development Goals: Challenges for Equity in the Labor and Trade Agendas**. The event, organized by the World Bank and UNIFEM, was held in Washington, D.C.

- The CIM attended the **International Symposium on Women and Information and Communication Technology (ICT): Creating Global Transformation**, held in Baltimore, Maryland, June 13 and 14, 2005. The event was organized by the Center for Women and Information Technology of the University of Maryland to conduct, disseminate, and implement research, processes, and to focus on activities that will substantially increase women's participation and leadership in education and information technology.

- The Principal Specialist of the CIM took part in the **Course on Leadership and Social Management for Gender Equality** organized by the Inter-American Institute for Social Development (INDES) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), held in Washington, D.C. from September 12 to 17, 2005.

- The CIM was invited to attend a **Joint Meeting of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), IDB, ECLAC and the OAS** on gender equality in trade-related projects financed by CIDA, held at the Inter-American Development Bank in March 2006. The CIM was asked to share its experiences on gender equality and trade and future plans to promote gender equality in the trade-related projects funded by CIDA with the other invited international agencies.

- The CIM met several times with staff from the Natural Disasters Unit, to explore possibilities for joint action. The Natural disasters unit received gender training targeted to their area during this year. Gender has been integrated as a crosscutting theme in their work for the upcoming Ministerial on First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development which will be held in December, 2006, in Bolivia.

- In April, 2006 the CIM met with the **Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission** (CICAD) to get information about CICAD's Program on Women, Drugs and Violence and to explore future cooperation.

C. SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

The CIM worked with the Office of Summit Process on the preparation of the IV Summit of the Americas, held in Argentina in November, 2005. Meetings were held with the Secretariat of the Summits of the Americas to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in the preparatory process for the Summit and to guarantee the CIM's participation.

The recommendations of the XXXII Assembly of Delegates on "Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Summit of the Americas" were presented at the preparatory meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) held in Argentina in March of 2005. Additionally, in compliance with CIM/RES.230 (XXXII-O/04) "Gender and Access to Decent Work to Address Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance," the Permanent Secretariat prepared recommendations that were transmitted for the consideration of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

The CIM attended several meetings of the SIRG held in Washington, where the drafts of the Declaration of Mar del Plata and its Plan of Action were negotiated. The Executive Secretary also attended the meeting of the SIRG held in Argentina in September 2005, and in that framework took part, as well, in the meeting organized for representatives of civil society. She also participated in the Gender Forum of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Argentina, April 7-9, where she made a presentation on the CIM recommendations to the summit. Topics covered in the forum included: poverty, exploitation of women, trafficking in women and children, violence in gender relations and the role of gender in the economy, migration, and indigenous communities. There was also a panel on "Labor: Training, Development, and Empowerment" and one on "Strengthening of Democracy."

As a result of all of these activities, the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, express the commitment of the Heads of State and government to eliminate gender discrimination in the labor sector and to achieve equal employment opportunities for all, giving special attention to gender-based needs. The Summit mandates constitute the basis for the development of initiatives to provide women, especially poor women, with decent and productive work and to adopt key strategies to achieve effective results in poverty reduction.

D. SPECIAL EVENTS AND DISSEMINATION

- Special meeting of the Permanent Council on "Gender and Development in the Americas - Remembering the Margins". In commemoration of International Women's Day, on March 7, 2006, the Chair of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Sonia Johnny of Saint Lucia, convened a Special Meeting of the Permanent Council entitled: "Gender and Development in the Americas: Remembering the Margins." The Chair of the Council was the moderator of the meeting, while the Secretary General of the OAS delivered the welcoming remarks. CIM's Executive Secretary presented a report on the subject of "Gender and HIV/AIDS: Where do Women Stand in the Caribbean?." The meeting was also addressed by Dr. Violet Eudine Barriteau, Head of the Gender and Development Unit of the University of the West Indies, who spoke on the subject of "Gender Analysis and the Management of Natural Disasters in the Commonwealth Caribbean"; Mrs. Elena Crespo, Director of Gender, Office of the Vice Minister of Gender of Bolivia, who spoke on "Gender and Development: the Indigenous Perspective"; and Dr. Linden F. Lewis, Associate Professor of Sociology, Bucknell University, who spoke about "Men, Masculinity and the Process of Development." These presentations were followed by observations from the delegations. The closing remarks were delivered by Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS.

- Video on "*Women and Political Leadership. A Century of Struggle*. The CIM and the OAS Department of Public Information produced a 30-minute video in Spanish and English on women and political leadership in the Hemisphere, which will be distributed throughout the region

III. RELATIONS WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

A. THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

1. Within the OAS

Permanent Council. The Executive Secretary participated in meetings of the Permanent Council and the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) to report on the activities, projects, and financial condition of the CIM.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR): The CIM cooperated in the meeting "The Protection of Women's Rights in the Inter-American System: A Look at Access to Justice," organized by the IACHR.

Summits of the Americas Secretariat: The CIM maintained ongoing collaboration with the Secretariat to ensure that the gender issues were included in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

Office for Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts: In 2005, this office collaborated with CIM to carry out the "First Training Course on Gender, Conflict, and Peace-Building: Andean Region," which took place in Lima, Peru.

Office of Education, Science and Technology: The CIM and OEST work collaboratively in the development of SEPIA IV –Gender and Science and Technology.

Office of Public Information: In 2005, in addition to completing production of a video on women and leadership, the office disseminated information about CIM activities through press releases, radio programs, and the Internet.

The *Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control*, the *Office of Human Resource Services*, the *Division of Scholarships and Training for Human Development*, and the *Office for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts* of the *Department of Democratic and Political Affairs* have participated in Phase II of the CIDA/OAS project for integration of a gender perspectivein the OAS.

2. Other Inter-American Organizations

In order to promote the advancement of women at the regional and international levels, the CIM carries out cooperation activities with various entities of the inter-American system. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) are invited to participate in all regular meetings of the Executive Committee, so as to continue exchanging information, and exploring joint initiatives, as noted above.

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The CIM cooperates closely with the IDB, in particular as a member of the Council of the Program for the Support of Women's Leadership and Representation (PROLEAD).

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): The CIM works closely with PAHO on issues involving violence against women, including regional campaigns, and constantly exchanges information with the Gender, Ethnicity, and Health Unit. The CIM has joined the advisory team of the recently established Regional Observatory on Gender Violence and Health in the Americas (ORVS).

Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI). The IACI collaborates with the CIM in the trafficking project.

B. THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM): The CIM worked with PAHO and UNIFEM to launch the international campaign "16 days of activism against violence against women, November 25-December 10, 2005." Dr. Marijke Velzeboer Salcedo, Director of UNIFEM's Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, took part in the second regular meeting of the Executive Committee, where she reported on the campaign and the current work of UNIFEM.

World Bank: The CIM continues to maintain a close relationship and exchange information with the Legal Vice-presidency of the World Bank regarding the issues of gender and violence against women.

C. OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

International Organization for Migration (IOM): The IOM is the CIM's partner for the Phase II of the trafficking project.

D. CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The CIM Permanent Secretariat maintains close contact with a number of civil society organizations. During the past year, it worked with the following NGOs:

Global Summit of Women: The CIM continues collaborating with the the Global Summit of Women. In February, 2005, the Executive Secretary took part in the International Planning Committee meeting. She also attended the annual summit held in June in Mexico City. Lic. Patricia Espinosa, President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico and Principal Delegate to the CIM, chaired the event.

The Initiative for Inclusive Security (formerly *Inclusive Security: Women Waging Peace*): This organization works to ensure women's participation in peace building and conflict resolution through implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). The CIM has been working with this NGO since 2002 to support of the application of the UN resolution in the region and to strengthen the leadership and participation of the women of the Americas. In 2005 the CIM and Inclusive Security signed a memorandum of understanding to carry out the training courses on gender, conflict, and peace-building. The first course, focusing on the Andean region, was offered in October 2005 in Peru. A second course was held in September 2006 in Antigua, Guatemala.

National Hispana Leadership Institute: The CIM has an ongoing relationship with this organization. The Permanent Secretariat participates in the training program for the NHLI Fellows. As part of the current relations with the Institute, the CIM addressed scholarship recipients of the "Young Latinas Learning to Lead" program in July and members of the annual program in September. The Executive Secretary also takes part in the NHLI annual meeting and leadership training conference,.

Inter-American Dialogue: The CIM maintains a close relationship with the Director of Special Projects and Vice-President of the Inter-American Dialogue.

Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL): This Council, established in 1997, is a network comprised of current and former women heads of government. Its sister organization, the International Assembly of Women Ministers, is composed of the sitting women ministers of all portfolios and central bank governors, which today number approximately 600 women.

Furthermore, some members of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI are members of civil society organizations, such as CLADEM; Kuña Aty (Paraguay); Citizenship, Study, Research, and Action (Brazil); Crisis Center (Bahamas); DOMOS-CPI (Chile); Women's Collective and Health (Dominican Republic). This results in closer interaction and more exchange of information with civil society.

IV. FINANCIAL SITUATION

Since the 2004 Assembly of Delegates, the OAS has elected a new Secretary General. As such, there has been a restructuring of the organization and realignment of priorities. In this period, the financial situation has been tenuous; however there appears to be a slight easing of the budgetary situation.

The Permanent Secretariat will continue to provide, to the extent of its technical and financial possibilities, the support for the Principal Delegates to promote activities in the Member States. In addition, it will substantially increase efforts to secure funding from outside sources and encourage the allocation of additional voluntary funds to implement mandates given to the CIM, especially in the priority areas.

ANNEX I: CIM Meetings March 2005-Nov. 2006

March 14-16, 2005	Meeting of the OIM and the CIM / OAS for the Caribbean Region on Trafficking in Persons Washington, D.C.
April 21-22, 2005	First Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee Washington, D.C.
August 22-24, 2005	First Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará Washington, D.C.
November 3-7, 2005	First Training Course on Gender, Conflict, and Peace-building: Andean Region Lima, Peru
December 8-9, 2005	Second Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee Washington, D.C.
May 15-16, 2006	Third Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee Washington, D.C.
July 24-25, 2006	First Multilateral Evaluation Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará Washington, D.C.
September 17-22, 2006	Second Training Course on Gender, Conflict and Peace-Building: Central American Region Antigua, Guatemala
November 13-15, 2006	XXXIII Assembly of Delegates of the CIM El Salvador