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FINAL REPORT ON THE SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS OR OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE MEMBER STATES

Strategies to pursue

(Item 2 on the Agenda - Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION 5

II. PARTICIPANTS 5

III. PROCEEDINGS 5

A. INAUGURAL SESSION 5
B. PLENARY SESSIONS 6
1. First Session *6*
2 Second Session *8*
3. Third Session *9*
4. Fourth Session *10*
5. Fifth Session *10*
C. CLOSING SESSION 11

APPENDIX I REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE 13

APPENDIX II RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED 17

I. INTRODUCTION

The Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States, convened by the OAS General Assembly and organized by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), was held in Washington, D.C. on April 21- 23, 2004.

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) transmitted the convocation to the governments of the member states in fulfillment of resolution AG/RES. 1941 (XXXIII-O/03) Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality. The CIM was the event coordinator.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 100 people attended the meeting. Heads of delegation included Ministers of Women's Affairs, a Minister of Social Transformation, Ambassadors, and Principal Delegates to the CIM, among others. Representatives of observer countries, regional and international agencies, and nongovernmental organizations also participated, as well as advisors emeritus of the CIM and officials from the OAS and the Permanent Missions to the OAS. The list of participants is published in document CIM/REMIM-II/doc.26 corr1. (See Appendix V)

III. PROCEEDINGS

During the meeting, one inaugural session, five plenary sessions, and one closing session were held. Below are details on those sessions.

A. Inaugural Session

The Inaugural Session began at 2:30 p.m., on April 21, 2004. The Chair of the Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS, Ambassador Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, addressed the participants, followed by Ms. Florence Ievers, Vice-President of CIM, in representation of the President, and by Ambassador Luigi Einaudi, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States. Two invited Speakers, Mr. Paulo Paiva, Vice-President of Planning and Administration of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Ms. Karen Mason, Sector Director for Gender and Development, the World Bank, presented regional and global perspectives on the empowerment of women.

The remarks delivered are published in documents CIM/REMIM-II/doc.29/00, CIM/REMIM-II/doc.19/00, CIM/REMIM-II/doc.30/00 CIM/REMIM-II/doc.31/00, and CIM/REMIM-II/doc.29/00, respectively.

B. Plenary Sessions

1. First Session

The first plenary session began at 3:45 p.m., on April 21, 2004, in the Hall of the Americas. In the absence of the President of the CIM, the Vice President, Ms. Florence Ievers, Principal Delegate of Canada, chaired this session, pursuant to Article 26 of the Regulations of the CIM and Article 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.

a. Election of the Officers of the Meeting

The Plenary proceeded to elect the Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting. As proposed by Dominican Republic, the Hon. Jean Augustine, Minister of State for Multiculturalism and Status of Women of Canada was elected Chair; as proposed by Peru, the Hon. Esmeralda Britton González, Minister of the Status of Women and Executive President of the National Institute for Women of Costa Rica, was elected Vice Chair; and as proposed by Honduras, the Hon. Hamilton Lashley, Minister of Social Transformation of Barbados was elected Rapporteur. All were elected by acclamation.

Following this, the elections of the Chair and Rapporteur of the General Commission took place. The Hon. Patricia Espinosa, President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico and Amb. Juliana di Tullio, Special Representative for Women's Issues in International Spheres at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, respectively, were elected to these positions.

b. Adoption of the Draft Agenda and Work Schedule

The meeting approved the following agenda, published in document CIM/REMIM-II/doc.2/00 rev. 1:

1. *Reports of the member states on implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (PIA) Guidelines for future reports*

2. *Women, free trade, and economic empowerment:*

   - *Impact of free trade agreements on women's economic empowerment;*
   - *Gender mainstreaming and Women's Participation in free trade processes.*

3. *Consideration of the results of the special summit held in Mexico. Gender equity and equality at the Fourth Summit of the Americas. Proposals for gender mainstreaming in the Declaration and Plan of Action*

4. *Commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Convention of Belém do Pará*

5. *Conclusions and recommendations*

The draft schedule of activities, published in document CIM/REMIM-II/doc.8/00 corr.1.rev1, was also approved without changes.

c. Work Method

The work was carried out in two groups, the Plenary Session and the General Committee. The Plenary Session, made up of the Heads of Delegation, discussed the items on the approved Agenda.

The General Committee, open to all delegations, analyzed the draft resolutions and the declaration and presented them for approval to the Plenary Session on Friday. The resolutions and declaration were prepared by the Executive Committee of the CIM, negotiated during the course of several sessions by a Working Group open to all the Member States and subsequently sent to all the delegations for their review.

d. Order of Precedence

Pursuant to Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Delegates, the following order of precedence was established by lot:

1. Colombia
2. Costa Rica
3. Dominica
4. Ecuador
5. El Salvador
6. United States
7. Grenada
8. Guatemala
9. Guyana
10. Haiti
11. Honduras
12. Jamaica
13. Mexico
14. Nicaragua
15. Panama
16. Paraguay
17. Peru
18. Dominican Republic
19. St. Kitts and Nevis
20. Saint Lucia
21. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
22. Suriname
23. Trinidad and Tobago
24. Uruguay
25. Venezuela
26. Antigua and Barbuda
27. Argentina
28. Bahamas
29. Barbados
30. Belice
31. Bolivia
32. Brazil
33. Canada
34. Chile

Once the procedure and working method of the meeting were established, the newly elected Chair, the Hon. Jean Augustine, called the meeting to order to discuss item 3 on the agenda: *Consideration of the results of the Special Summit held in Mexico, Gender equity and equality at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, and Proposals for gender mainstreaming in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of Americas*. The floor was given to Irene Klinger, Executive Secretary of the OAS Secretariat for the Summit Process, who made an extensive and detailed

presentation on the summit process in general, the results of the Special Summit held in Mexico in January 2004, which addressed specifically the problem of poverty, and next steps for the preparation of the Fourth Summit. She also referred to the situation of women in the region and the evolution of the gender issue within the Summit process as well as the collaboration between her unit and the CIM for the preparation and follow up of the different Summits.

There was an intense exchange of ideas on proposals for the Fourth Summit of the Americas. There was consensus on the need to highlight the issues of violence and women's political and economic empowerment, as well as to address poverty and the feminization of poverty. The importance of targeting the education of the girl child to break the cycle of poverty was pointed out. Some of the problems that were pointed out as indicators of obstacles for women included the relative difficulty of reaching equal inclusion in politics, inequality in women's wages, as well the lack of women in high places within the private sector.

Finally, it was emphasized that gender must be integrated as a cross-cutting issue in **all** areas of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the IV Summit. The role of national mechanisms in following up on the commitments of the Summit was also mentioned, as well as the urgent need to strengthen them and the CIM as an agent of change, and the need for adequate financing to address gender issues.

The President thanked the delegations and speakers for their contributions and comments and adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

2 Second Session

The Chair opened the Second Plenary Session. Item 2 on the Agenda, *Women, Free Trade, and Economic Empowerment* was considered. Ms. Barbara Kotschwar, coordinator of the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE) of the OAS Trade Unit and Ms. Isabel Coche, also of the Trade Unit, made a presentation on the role of women in trade liberalization as producers, workers and consumers, and emphasized the need to evaluate the different impact of trade on men and women. They made recommendations on how to integrate gender language and considerations into trade issues and projects, pointing out that collaboration between Women's Ministries and Trade Ministries was very important, as well as between NGOs, national institutions and international organizations. They announced that SICE is opening a web page on best practices and asked the Ministers to forward information on best practices in the area of gender and trade that could be published on the internet.

In the discussion that followed, the Ministers agreed that trade policies are fundamentally about improving people's lives, and that the impact of trade on women had to be studied and taken into account so that any negative effects could be minimized. Mention was made of the *maquilas* and the fact that this kind of work, which tends to be repetitive and low wage, does not generally offer opportunities for real progress. Additionally, since these industries are always seeking lower labor costs, they provide short term solutions to women's employment. Some countries referred to the initiatives that they have implemented to help women compete in new markets.

The President then gave the floor to Ms. Marceline White, Director of the Program on Global Trade for the Women's Edge Coalition, who presented the work that her organization is carrying out with other NGOs in several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, to evaluate the impact of trade on poor women especially in relation to agriculture. Ms. White emphasized the need for countries to carry out Trade Impact Reviews before signing trade agreements, so that compensatory measures can be taken to prevent negative impacts and mentioned some of the results of the research, pointing out that governments should be responsible for gathering and analyzing information for this kind of study. She also mentioned her group's interest in passing legislation within the United States that would foster a better understanding of the relationship between the effects of free trade and gender by doing trade impact studies.

The Delegations thanked Ms. White for her presentation and a rich discussion on the issue of trade ensued. In particular, some of the delegates shared commentary the highlighted the need to examine what groups are affected by free trade, especially with regards to women, whether they be indigenous women, rural women, or women working in the *maquila* sector. There was consensus by the Ministers that gender language and a gender perspective must be included in trade agreements. They also agreed that every effort must be made at national level to develop a working relationship between trade ministries and national mechanisms and that the participation of civil society in this process is fundamental. Finally, some countries brought up the desire they had to work within their regional groups in order to deal with gender issues regionally as well as nationally and multilaterally.

The session was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

3. Third Session

The Chair opened the third plenary session. The floor was offered to Ms. Teresa Genta Fons, Senior Counsel of the Legal Vice-Presidency of the World Bank, who reported on the results of the workshop held the day before, entitled "Engendering Legal and Judicial Systems," organized by the World Bank and the CIM, in which some of the Ministers participated. She spoke about the issues discussed at the workshop, drawing particular attention to the differences between rich and poor countries and the feminization of poverty. The workshop also addressed the funding that the World Bank makes available for gender-related work, and to this end, Ms. Fons mentioned the work carried out in several countries of the Hemisphere with these funds. She also emphasized the need for developing strategies to approach and influence organizations like the World Bank, and for women to be involved in the economic and financial dialogue.

The delegations thanked Ms Genta Fons for having the opportunity to participate in the workshop and expressed that this kind of event was very useful in terms of providing information for strengthening the rule of law, social justice and democratic governance. The Executive Secretary commented that Parliamentarians, particularly those legislators at state level, needed to be included in all these dialogues and emphasized the necessity that they highlight gender concerns so that these issues remain on the agenda.

The President continued with Item 4 on the agenda, *Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Convention of Belém do Pará*. She noted that the CIM has been assigned the function of following up on the Convention and that the last Assembly of Delegates gave the mandate to initiate the process of consultation with the governments, organizations, and civil society to establish the most adequate manner to adopt a follow-up mechanism. In July, experts will meet in Mexico to make recommendations to the governments in reference to this topic.

She also remarked that for the first time, the topics of violence against women and trafficking will be considered at the Meeting of Ministers of Justice, or of Ministers or Attorney Generals of the Americas (REMJA V) which would take place the following week at OAS headquarters, and added that this was an opportunity for this Ministerial to present recommendations, not only on the subject of violence, but in other important topics that affect women such as access to justice, and persisting legal discrimination.

She then gave the floor to the CIM Executive Secretary, who presented a report on the activities carried out by CIM in relation to the Convention, with emphasis on the process to determine the most appropriate way of following up on the Convention.

A discussion followed in which the Delegations described the challenges they faced in creating more awareness about the problem of violence, especially among police and justice officials. Some delegations described programs to foster awareness among the general population as well as the judiciary about gender violence, as well as initiatives to improve statistics and reporting of violence against women. Finally, one point that was repeated was the integral nature of the NGOs in the battle to curb violence against women.

The President continued to the next agenda item, *Reports of the Member States on Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (PIA)*, focusing on best practices in the areas of Labor, Justice and Education. Because of the limited time available, the countries presented one example of a best practice in one of these areas. The complete country reports can be found on the CIM website.

The session was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

4. Fourth Session

The Chair called the fourth plenary session to order and gave the floor to the Delegations to continue presenting their country reports.

The session was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

5. Fifth Session

The Chair opened the session. The Rapporteur of the General Commission took the floor to present her report together with five draft resolutions and a Declaration for consideration. The five resolutions were: "Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas" (CIM/REMIM-

II/Res. 4/04), “Women, Trade and Economic Empowerment” (CIM/REMIM-II/Res.5/04)), “Violence Against Women: Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence Against Women, the Convention of '*Belém do Pará´*'” (CIM/REMIM-II/Res. 6/04),“Recommendations on 'Gender and Justice; to be Presented to the V Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorney Generals of the Americas (REMJA V)” (CIM/REMIM-II/Res. 7/04) and “Strengthening of the CIM”: (CIM/REMIM-II/Res. 8/04), each of which contains proposals for action.

The draft resolutions and the Declaration were approved *en bloc*, as recommended by the General Commission. They are published in document CIM/REMIM-II/doc.27/00 corr.1.

C. Closing Session

The closing session was presided over by the Vice-Chair, the Hon. Esmeralda Britton González. The Delegations welcomed a representative of the Ministry of Women and Children of Ghana, who complimented the member countries on their gender activities and talked about some of the measures that Ghana has taken to promote gender equity and equality. Following this presentation, REMIM II was closed by the Vice-Chair.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Hamilton Lashley
Rapporteur
Minister of Social Transformation
of Barbados

APPENDIX I

REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

A. INTRODUCTION

In my capacity as Rapporteur of the General Committee, I have the honor to present to the Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM-II) the report on the deliberations of the General Committee of this meeting.

This report summarizes basic information, background, and decisions taken.

During the first plenary session of REMIM-II, held on April 21, 2004, Mrs. Patricia Espinosa, President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico, was elected Chair of the General Committee. The Committee, which was open to the participation of all member states, was then installed. The following delegations were present:

Argentina	Haiti
Barbados	Honduras
Brazil	Jamaica
Canada	Mexico
Chile	Panama
Costa Rica	Paraguay
Dominican Republic	Peru
Ecuador	United States
El Salvador	Uruguay
Guatemala	Venezuela

B. WORK PLAN

The General Committee took up the following topics, in the order in which they are presented below:

1. Review of the resolutions and the Declaration of REMIM-II

The Chair announced that the draft resolutions prepared by the Working Group, open to all delegations, that supported the CIM in its preparations for REMIM II would be reviewed. She reiterated that, as stated by the Chair during the Plenary Session, these mandates would be approved *en bloc*.

C. INSTALLATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the first working session, Mrs. Marcia Adorno Ramos, Alternate Delegate of Brazil to the CIM, was elected Vice Chair. As decided in the plenary, the Special Representative for Women's Issues in the International Sphere of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Mrs. Juliana Di Tulio, was designated as Rapporteur. She was represented by the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the OAS, Mr. Sebastián Molteni. Moreover, since the President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico had to return to her country, Mrs. Marcelina Cruz, Alternate Delegate of Mexico to the CIM, presided over the Meeting.

The Committee was therefore composed as follows:

Chair of the General Committee: Mrs. Patricia Espinosa (Mexico)
Vice Chair of the General Committee: Mrs. Marcia Adorno Ramos (Brazil)
Rapporteur of the General Committee: Ms. Juliana di Tulio (Argentina)

D. SESSIONS

The Permanent Secretariat prepared documents CIM/REMIM-II.doc.13/04 and CIM/REMIM-II.doc.13/04 add.1, which contained the draft Declaration of REMIM-II and five draft resolutions.

Participants also received copies of the proposed amendments presented by the delegations of Colombia and Uruguay. The Committee held two working sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, in which it considered those drafts.

a. Review of the Declaration

Document CIM-REMIM-II/DEC. 1/04, "Declaration of the Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States," was submitted for consideration and adopted.

b. Consideration of draft resolutions

The five draft resolutions were submitted for consideration and adopted as amended:

1. "Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 4/04), which was adopted with one amendment.

2. "Women, Trade, and Economic Empowerment" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 5/04), which, after an exchange of views, was adopted with amendments to the first preambular paragraph and to both operative paragraphs.

3. "Violence against Women: Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women, 'Convention of *Belém do Pará'*" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 6/04).

4. "Recommendations on 'Gender and Justice' to be Presented to the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-V)" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 7/04).

5. "Strengthening of the CIM" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 8/04).

The Rapporteur noted that the mandates arising from that meeting, where applicable, would be presented to the OAS General Assembly for consideration. The Rapporteur took the liberty of suggesting to the plenary that the resolutions be adopted *en bloc*.

In conclusion, the Rapporteur wishes to thank the Technical Secretariat for its assistance in this endeavor and to express special appreciation to the Chair and Vice Chair of the General Committee for their excellent leadership.

Juliana di Tulio
Principal Delegate of Argentina

APPENDIX II - RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

CIM-REMIM II-DEC.1/04 "Declaration of the II Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States"

CIM/REMIM-II/Res. 4/04 "Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas"

CIM/REMIM-II/Res. 5/04 "Women, Trade and Economic Empowerment"

CIM/REMIM-II/Res.6/04 "Violence Against Women: Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence Against Women, the Convention of '*Belém do Pará* "

CIM/REMIM-II/Res. 7/04 "Recommendations on Gender and Justice to be Presented to the V Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorney Generals of the Americas (REMJA V)"

CIM/REMIM-II/Res. 8/04 "Strengthening of the CIM"

CIM-REMIM II-DEC.1/04

DECLARATION OF THE II MEETING OF MINISTERS OR OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE MEMBER STATES

1. ***We, the Ministers or Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States***, express our deepest satisfaction for the convening of this second Meeting of Ministers, as it represents the firm commitment of the OAS, and its member states, to institutionalizing such gatherings for the development of hemispheric policy on gender. This meeting testifies to the progress made in the integration of a gender perspective in all hemispheric activities, as well as the cooperative effort to achieve true gender equity and equality.

2. We underscore the importance of promoting gender equity and equality at the national and hemispheric levels, in accordance with the mandates of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, adopted by the General Assembly of the OAS and endorsed by the Summit of the Americas held in Quebec City, Canada, in 2001. We undertake to deepen intra-governmental cooperation, promote measures for greater interagency cooperation, strengthen relations with civil society, support the expansion of women's participation on an equal footing with men in all spheres of society in promoting gender equity and equality at all levels.

3. We reaffirm the commitments made by our governments in the Summits of the Americas, to the objectives of equality of rights and opportunities between women and men, which are also identified as priorities in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and in all international and regional efforts aimed at the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of society.

4. Guided by the outcomes established in the Special Summit of the Americas (Nuevo Leon, 2004) as essential for the well-being of all our peoples, we reiterate these objectives of economic growth with equity in order combat poverty and its feminization, the promotion of social development and democratic governance as imperatives for bringing about the attainment of a true egalitarian and participatory society.

5. We believe that, although there has been an increased focus in the Summits of the Americas on gender equity and equality as central and important for all member states, it has yet to be fully integrated as a cross cutting theme into all areas addressed in these forums. We view with concern the fact that women continue to be mentioned in general terms or included with disadvantaged or vulnerable populations rather than indicating their contribution to society and integrating a gender perspective into such topics as human rights, including the right to sexual and reproductive health, property, trade and investment, among others.[1]

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1 The United States reserves its position and emphasizes that there is no agreed consensus language on this point.

6. We acknowledge that progress has been made at the hemispheric level in establishing and strengthening national mechanisms for the advancement of women, although they still need to be accorded greater importance and stability in some countries. To that end, we Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women and Others in decision-making positions undertake to elevate national mechanisms to a ministerial level or equivalent authority in each and every member state.

7. We believe it is necessary to enhance efforts to combat, prevent, punish, and eradicate gender-based violence and to provide continuous and systematic follow-up through the implementation of the objectives of the *Convention of Belém do Pará*, as well as to measure incidences of violence through statistics that allow the determination of its gravity and permit that sufficient funds be assigned to this end.

8. We recall that the achievement of sustainable development is based on concerted efforts in the economic, political, social and environmental spheres. We underscore that the importance of unremunerated labor of women, including housework, contributes to development since it creates value-added, produces wealth, generates resources and social well being and suggest the development of indicators to make this work visible.

9. We emphasize the commitments made at special meetings and conferences to enhance and assure peace and security in the Americas. We emphasize the importance of facilitating women's participation in all efforts towards conflict prevention, peace-building and promotion, and security initiatives, as well as the necessity of including a gender perspective2 in all programs and activities of all inter-American entities that relate to hemispheric security. Furthermore, we stress the urgency of intra-governmental coordination and cooperation with civil society in order to combat corruption and organized crime in all its dimensions, particularly inasmuch as it fuels violence against women and trafficking of persons.

10. We remain concerned at the potential impact of trade liberalization on women, in that in some sectors women may bear a disproportionate share of the costs associated therewith, such as job losses and inferior work conditions. And, we urge that these differences be taken into account in negotiations themselves and the formulation of policies and programs in order to ensure that trade liberalization truly contributes to shared prosperity for all.

11. We strongly emphasize that there is a critical need to fully integrate a gender perspective into the development and sustainability of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in supporting the financing of female-owned or operated businesses in order to achieve a more equitable and just social environment. We undertake to promote the establishment, where they do not already exist, of public financing mechanisms for women living in poverty, especially women heads of household.

12. We congratulate the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women for

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2 For the Delegation of Brazil it is important to combine a gender perspective with the issues of race and ethnicity, in conformity with other International Agreements in the area of Human Rights.

its sustained and tireless effort to fulfill the mandates assigned to it, with a true commitment to the promotion of women's human rights and gender equity and equality throughout its 76 year history.

13. Finally, we recognize the efforts of the Executive Secretary of the CIM in the organization of this Second Meeting of Ministers or Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM II). We request the Executive Secretary of the CIM, in preparation and follow-up to this and subsequent Meetings of Ministers or Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States, to work with Ministers, Principal Delegates of the CIM, other entities of the OAS and regional organizations to ensure appropriate follow-up to the Ministerial meetings, including follow-up to the implementation of decisions emanating from the Ministerial meetings, and to address the selection of topics to be discussed at future Ministerial meetings.

CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 4/04

INTEGRATING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS

THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OR OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE MEMBER STATES,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Summits of the Americas have progressively acknowledged the need to strengthen the role of women in all aspects of political, social and economic life, with its most manifest expression being that of the Quebec 2001 Plan of Action which solidified the Member States' commitment to the promotion of women's human rights and gender equality as, "central to the reduction of poverty, the promotion of economic and social prosperity, people-centered sustainable development, consolidation of democracy and conflict resolution and the development of equal partnerships between women and men…;"

CONSIDERING that the 2004 Declaration of Nuevo León, resulting from the Special Summit held to address the current economic, social and political challenges in the region, not only reiterated its dedication to gender equality and all previous Summit mandates on the aforementioned issue, but also acknowledged, as essential to social development, the challenge and importance of undertaking, "coordinated and integrated economic and social policies…for success in combating inequality of opportunity and marginalization…";

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that both the Second and Third Summit of the Americas refer specifically to the need to strengthen national machineries and other government bodies responsible for the advancement of gender equality and for the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and provide them with the necessary human and financial resources so that gender is integrated into all policies and programs;

RECOGNIZING that the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), as the Hemisphere's primary policy-making body on women's human rights and gender equality, has publicly highlighted gender disparities across social, economic, and political realms;

RECALLING the resolutions approved by the First Meeting of Ministers: CIM/MINIS/RES.1 (I-O/00), 'Approval and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality' and CIM/MINIS/RES.3 (I-O/00), 'Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas', that both ask of the General Secretariat that it integrate a gender perspective, "…into all work, projects, and programs of the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS…";

CONSIDERING the political and strategic relevance of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, adopted by the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the OAS, AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), and endorsed by the Heads of State at the Third Summit of the Americas;

CONSIDERING ALSO that said Program holds amongst its fundamental purposes the need of the OAS, "to systematically integrate a gender perspective in all organs, organizations, and entities of the inter-American system" and that all policies, programs, or strategies to be created or reviewed reflect an integral commitment and adherence to women's human rights and gender equality across all levels of public and private life;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the proposed recommendations in the three follow-up reports, SEPIA I (labor), SEPIA II (justice), and SEPIA III (education), developed by the CIM and government-appointed gender experts to implement the Inter-American Program, as well as the need to fully integrate a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue in the agendas and outcomes of all Inter-American Ministerial-level meetings and in the thematic Committees related to the Summit process mandates;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES.1880 (XXXII-O/02) and AG/RES.1908 (XXXII-O/02) which call for a multidimensional focus on hemispheric security and the consequent 2003 Mexico City Declaration on Security in the Americas that, "reaffirms the importance of enhancing the participation of women in all efforts to promote peace and security…and to integrate a gender perspective in all policies, programs, and activities of all inter-American organs, agencies, entities, conferences, and processes that deal with hemispheric security";

RECALLING ALSO the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development (2002-2005) approved by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and adopted through Resolution AG/RES. 1855 (XXXII-O/02), which identifies ‘women’s empowerment, their full and equal participation to the development of our societies and their equal opportunities to exercise leadership’ as ‘central to integral development and the elimination of the broad range of inequalities’ and calls upon all programs, projects, and activities to integrate gender as a cross-cutting theme;

REAFFIRMING the importance of fostering collaborative partnerships with civil society organizations [AG/RES. 1852 (XXXII-O/02)] that can further contribute to “the activities of the OAS and the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system” through cooperative actions that continue to advance gender equality both within the Summit process and at national levels;

BUILDING UPON the great advances made in the Quebec City Plan of Action, which, while it recognized the need to continue to focus attention on women as one of a number of vulnerable groups, also recognized gender equality as a pressing social and economic issue central to the achievement of all other development goals;

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the preparatory meetings for the 2005 Argentina Summit, as well as all Inter-American Ministerial meetings to be held beforehand, take into account the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and its follow- up reports, in order to include a gender perspective into the agendas, working papers, strategies, themes, and outcomes, and to recognize gender as an integral component to all proposed policies, programs, and initiatives.

2. To urge the Governments to provide greater financial support for institutions and mechanisms to promote a gender perspective and contribute to the full and equal participation of women and men in their respective countries, by providing them with the necessary human and financial resources so that gender is integrated into all policies, programs, and projects as a means of reducing poverty and social inequalities whilst advancing democracy and sustainable development.

3. To urge the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) to continue promoting the mandate to mainstream gender within all ministerial meetings and to ensure that all processes and documents leading up to the Fourth Summit of the Americas in Argentina 2005 recognize the central role that gender equity and equality plays in the achievement of all other development goals.

4. To encourage the Member States to facilitate voluntary contributions to support the development of projects and programs that further strengthen gender equity and equality and reflect the Organization’s commitment to gender mainstreaming at all levels.

5. To continue to support and encourage civil society participation and collaboration in all OAS activities preceding the 2005 Argentina Summit of the Americas, for the development of effective, practical, and coordinated solutions to the challenges of gender equity and equality and gender mainstreaming.

6. To elevate this resolution to the General Assembly of the OAS and request that the OAS General Secretariat and the CIM distribute it widely to all the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system so that it will be taken into account within all preparatory meetings of the IV Summit of the Americas and in the drafting and implementation of its Declaration and Plan of Action.

CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 5/04

WOMEN, TRADE, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OR OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE MEMBER STATES,

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity [AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00)] of the Organization of American States (OAS) includes among its fundamental objectives that of "promoting the full and equal participation of women in all aspects of economic, social, political, and cultural development," in addition to promoting "full and equal access by women to work and productive resources";

HAVING SEEN resolution CIM/REMIM-I/RES. 3/00, "Integration of a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas," adopted by the First Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States, and OAS General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1741 (XXX-O/00);

RECALLING the initiative, proposed at the First Summit of the Americas, held in Miami in 1994, to establish a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) to promote economic integration and free trade, thus "raising standards of living, improving the working conditions of people in the Americas and better protecting the environment";

CONSIDERING that the Heads of State and Government at the Second Summit of the Americas, in Santiago, Chile, in 1998, undertook to "strengthen and establish, where they do not exist, national mechanisms and governmental organs, as well as the respective regional and sub-regional networks in charge of promoting legal equality and equality of opportunities between women and men, focused on gender equity, and provide them with adequate and timely financial resources to enable these entities to promote, coordinate, and carry out the commitments undertaken by the States at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit on Social Development, the Summit of the Americas, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the recent "Santiago Consensus" of the Seventh Regional Conference on Beijing Follow-up (ECLAC/UN)";

BEARING IN MIND the mandates emanating from the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City in 2001, where the Heads of State and Government expressed their support for efforts to address the challenges associated with globalization, so as to protect the most vulnerable, and reaffirmed the importance of bringing the benefits of globalization fully and equitably to all regions and social sectors in our countries;

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3 The Government of Venezuela disagrees with this proposal because of its position with respect to the FTAA.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that at the Special Summit of the Americas (Nuevo León, 2004) the Heads of State and Government reiterated "that the empowerment of women, their full and equal participation in the development of our societies, and their equal opportunities to exercise leadership are fundamental for the reduction of poverty, the promotion of economic and social prosperity, and for people-centered sustainable development" and also reaffirmed their commitment to continue promoting gender equality and equity and the mandates of the Summits of the Americas on this matter;

EMPHASIZING the important contribution of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and of the Ministers or Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women and for the promotion of gender equity and equality to national and regional development, especially through the promotion of gender mainstreaming in policies and programs in all sectors, including education, justice, labor, health, and the environment, in order to further promote gender equity and equality and improve the living conditions of women;

CONSIDERING ALSO that trade generally has a different impact on women than on men, because of existing disparities, different social and economic roles, and occupational segregation and discrimination in all sectors in which these factors have the potential to increase or decrease gender inequities and inequalities;

EMPHASIZING that the Trade Ministers, in their Miami Ministerial Declaration, in 2003, recognized the major role that trade can play in the promotion of economic development and the reduction of poverty, as well as the potential of the Hemispheric Cooperation Program (HCP) of the FTAA to strengthen the capacities of countries "to participate in the negotiations, implement their trade commitments, and address the challenges and maximize the benefits of hemispheric integration, including productive capacity and competitiveness in the region;" [4]

CONSIDERING recent initiatives in the promotion of cooperation activities regarding gender equity and equality reflected in labor cooperation and capacity-building provisions within the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), MERCOSUR, the trade agreements between Canada and Chile and Canada and Costa Rica, and the United States–Central America Free Trade Agreement; and

TAKING NOTE of the valuable contributions of civil society organizations to our understanding of the gender impact of trade liberalization; [5]

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage governments to gather and analyze sex-disaggregated data on all sectors of the economy in order to better understand and address the gender impact of trade liberalization.

2. To promote ongoing collaboration by the CIM with the OAS Trade Unit, the ministries and/or offices responsible for the advancement of women and/or gender equity and equality, and the

4 Idem
5 Idem

ministries of trade in developing methods and studies for assessing the potential impact of trade policies, taking into account the roles of men and women in the different sectors of the economy, including unpaid work, especially work in the home.

3. To urge governments to undertake analysis and responsive programs that take account of the different impact of macroeconomic policies on men and women and that can contribute to positive impacts from such policies, and help to mitigate the potential negative impact on particular populations, including, among others, women, who may be affected disproportionately because of their socioeconomic role.[6]

4. To encourage member states to include gender impact considerations in developing their national policies and positions related to the negotiations of bilateral and regional trade agreements, as well as including gender equity and equality as a priority within national and regional trade capacity-building strategies.

5. To promote the development of project profiles within the Hemispheric Cooperation Program (HCP) of the Free Trade Area of the Americas process that take into account the potential gender impact of trade liberalization. [7]

6. To urge governments to encourage the diversification of employment opportunities available to women and to develop and strengthen policies and programs that will help women to take advantage of international trade as a means of helping to combat poverty and encourage equitable and sustainable development in the Hemisphere.

7. To request the CIM to continue its work on trade, in collaboration with the OAS Trade Unit, civil society, and other entities, in the lead up to the Fourth Summit of the Americas and to future trade agreements.

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6 Idem.
7 Idem.

CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 6/04

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION TO PREVENT, PUNISH, AND ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, "CONVENTION OF *BELÉM DO PARÁ*"

THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OR OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR WOMEN'S POLICIES IN THE MEMBER STATES,

REAFFIRMING that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the OAS, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its optional protocol, the Declaration of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and that its elimination is integral to efforts toward eliminating violence against women;

BEARING IN MIND that the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, adopted in 1994, declared that violence against women is a violation of their human rights and that its elimination is essential for their individual and social development and their full and equal participation in all walks of life;

NOTING that to date 31 member states have ratified the Convention of *Belém do Pará*, thereby demonstrating their absolute rejection of and concern over any act of violence against women, and reflecting their commitment to achieve the objectives of the Convention and to fulfill the obligations contracted by them;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Resolution CIM/REMIM I/Res.2/00, adopted at the First Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for Women's Policies in the Member States (REMIM I), held in Washington, D.C. in April 2000, encouraged all member states to continue taking steps to eradicate violence in all its forms, in the public and private arena, in accordance with the objectives established in the CIM Strategic Plan of Action, in the Plans of Action of the First and Second Summits of the Americas, and in the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Rights and Gender Equity and Equality;

CONSIDERING that the project initiated by the CIM in 2000 on "Violence in the Americas: A Regional Analysis Including a Review of the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women" recognizes that even though there have been changes in institutions, attitudes, and programs, "…in most countries they have not been reflected in a concrete reduction of the violence against women."

RECALLING that in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of *Belém do Pará*'," the Inter-American Commission of Women

presented to the XXIX, XXXI, and XXXIII OAS General Assemblies biennial reports on progress achieved through initiatives and programs carried out in member countries to combat violence against women;

EMPHASIZING that with resolutions AG/RES.1626 (XXIX-O/99) and AG/RES.1768 (XXXI-O/01), adopted by the OAS General Assembly upon receipt of the presentation of the CIM's First and Second Biennial Reports on violence, the Assembly expressed its continued support for the work accomplished by the Commission and the member states in promoting the Convention and pursuing its objectives;

FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution CIM/RES. 224 (XXXI-O/02), "Follow-up of the Convention of *Belém do Pará*," adopted by the XXXI CIM Assembly of Delegates, urges all member states to ratify that Convention, recommends specific measures to prevent and address all forms of violence against women and the allocation of the necessary resources to punish and eradicate gender based violence, and requests a group of experts from the member states party and not party to the Convention as well as representatives of civil society, to make recommendations on the most appropriate way to follow up on the Convention, based on the document prepared by the CIM, so that the OAS Secretary General can convene a meeting of States Parties to the Convention, inviting as well the Inter- American Commission on Human Rights and those Member States that are not States Parties to the Convention, in order to adopt a decision on the most appropriate way to follow up on the Convention;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Resolution AG/RES.1942 (XXXIII-O/03) adopted by the XXXIII OAS General Assembly regarding presentation of the Third Biennial Report stresses the need to adopt the most appropriate and effective way to follow up on the Convention of *Belém do Pará* and requested the General Secretariat to provide the necessary support for the meeting of experts that will consider the document prepared by the CIM, pursuant to Resolution CIM/Res.224 (XXXI-O/02);

BEARING IN MIND that the Government of Mexico has offered to host the meeting of experts, which will take place July 20-21, 2004, in order to analyze the document prepared by CIM as well as other contributions, with a view to making recommendations on the most appropriate way to follow up on the Convention of *Belém do Pará*.

CONSIDERING ALSO that the Declarations and Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas have shown a keen interest in the issue, and especially in the implementation and follow-up of the Convention;

EMPHASIZING that the existence of a mechanism for monitoring and analyzing the manner in which these advances are being implemented, and for facilitating cooperation among states parties and with member states of the OAS will contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention;

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Inter-American Commission of Women for the work it has accomplished over more than seven decades dedicated to strengthening the rights of women, achieving gender equity and equality, and in particular its efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

2. To encourage member states that have not yet done so to ratify regional human rights instruments, and in particular the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of *Belém do Pará*," as a demonstration of their commitment to, respect for and promotion and advancement of the protection of women's human rights.

3. To express the importance of participation by the States Parties, in addition to those states that are not parties to the Convention, in the meeting of experts that will analyze the most appropriate way to create a follow up mechanism to the Convention of *Belém do Pará*, which will take place in Mexico City July 20-21, 2004, and to endorse the request of the OAS General Assembly that the General Secretariat provide the support required for that meeting.

4. To urge member states to continue supporting the efforts of the Inter-American Commission of Women in the process of creating and implementing a mechanism for follow up on implementation of the Convention, and to continue working collaboratively to prevent, punish, and eradicate all forms of violence against women, in both the public and private spheres.

5. To encourage the States Parties to the Convention to set the XXXII CIM Assembly of Delegates as the deadline to adopt a decision on the recommendations of the meeting of experts on the adoption of a follow-up mechanism for the Convention of *Belém do Pará*, which will be presented to the Conference of States Parties, pursuant to Resolution CIM/RES. 224 (XXXI-O/02).

6. To recommend that member states take concrete steps to ensure the effective enforcement of national legislation, consistent with the regional and international conventions that have been ratified to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, in particular the Convention of *Belém do Pará*, and that they take joint, coordinated action to foster a culture of respect for human rights for everyone.

7. To encourage member states to allocate more human and financial resources to national and regional budgets to assist victims of violence, and to prevent, punish, and eradicate all forms of violence against women.

8. To urge the Secretary General of the OAS to allocate more human and financial resources so that CIM can continue its efforts to ensure full implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence Against Women, “Convention of *Belém do Pará*,” and its efforts to promote the elimination of violence against women.

CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 7/04

Recommendations on 'Gender and Justice' to be presented to the V Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA V)

THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OR OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE MEMBER STATES,

TAKING ACCOUNT of the work carried out by the CIM through SEPIA II- Gender and Justice, which was presented to the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Justice, in follow-up to the mandates of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP),

RESOLVES:

1. To submit to the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA V), which will take place at OAS headquarters from April 28 to 30, 2004, the recommendations contained in the annex to this resolution:

Annex

Recommendations on 'Gender and Justice' to be presented to the V Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA V)

The Ministers or Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States, gathered April 21-23, 2004, for their second meeting, reiterate our conviction that the *Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP)*, adopted by all Member States at the XXX General Assembly of the OAS and endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at the Third Summit of the Americas, is the fundamental mandate to promote gender equity and equality and to integrate a gender perspective in all organs, agencies, and entities of the Inter-American system, as well as at all levels of policy and governmental and Inter-American programs and, consequently, in the administration of justice in all Member States;

Bearing in mind the recommendations made to the Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas in the CIM document 'Towards Justice with Gender', as a result of the meeting of experts on gender and justice, SEPIA II (2002), encouraging them to take into account, during their fourth meeting (REMJA IV, 2002), the importance of effectively integrating a gender perspective in the policies, programs, and activities of the Ministries of Justice;

Considering that at the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec, 2001) emphasis was given to the need for national governments and their internal subdivisions to develop, review and implement laws, procedures, codes and regulations that guarantee compatibility with international legal obligations established in agreements such as the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Sanction and Eradicate Violence Against the Woman (Convention of *Belém do Pará*) and the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;

Concerned that, economic, social, cultural, and legal inequalities continue to pose significant obstacles and barriers to achieving judicial equality between and among women and men before the law.

Affirming the need to continue all possible efforts to maintain a close dialogue between the authorities responsible for policies for women and those responsible for the administration of justice, and to integrate a gender perspective in programs and policies related to the judicial systems of the Member States in order to obtain and bring forth true development, gender equity and equality, and justice in all sectors addressed by this meeting;

Recognizing also that in the V Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA V, 2004) an important opportunity again arises to reiterate some of the recommendations of SEPIA II and consequently, to implement measures designed to eliminate the obstacles which delay or prevent real access to justice for women in the region and to promote closer inter-sectorial work on issues such as trafficking in persons, especially women, children, and

adolescents, and violence against women, which were highlighted by the Heads of State in the last Summit of the Americas and in the Special Summit, held in Mexico;

***The II Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States agrees and recommends to REMJA V*:**

1. To encourage the incorporation of a gender perspective into the work and policies of Ministries of Justice and Offices of Attorneys General, so that women's experiences and needs as victims, offenders, users, operators,
2. or administrators of the judicial system may be considered in all policies and programs related to the legal sector.

3. To promote, in all justice systems of the Member States, the compilation and systematic dissemination of data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnic origin and race, or any other relevant category.

4. To take all appropriate legal measures to prevent, address and reduce the problem of violence against women, including domestic violence, and to promote closer relationships between all governmental entities and civil society organizations that aid and participate in the fight against all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

5. To cooperate fully in the fight against the international trafficking of women and girls, in keeping with pertinent domestic legislation, and to encourage the creation of programs that provide assistance to victims.

6. To promote cooperation among states in matters of paternity, equality before the law, child support, custody, and international adoption, ensuring due respect for the human rights of women, girls, and boys.

7. To promote that those Member States that have not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), its Optional Protocol, or the Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence Against Women (Convention of *Belém do Pará*), reaffirm their commitment towards gender equality in all spheres and to intensify concerted efforts to prevent, punish, and eradicate discrimination and violence against women.

8. To institutionalize gender training, evaluation, and monitoring programs for officials within the Ministries of Justice, Offices of Attorneys General and, in particular, for other areas of the Justice sector.

9. To promote the integration of a gender perspective within institutions, documents, and/or sections pertinent to the justice sector such as: Law School curricula, procedural penal systems, and the Inter-American Agreement of International Private Law (Bustamante Code).

10. To urge the Ministers of Justice and Ministers or Attorneys General to work in close collaboration with the Ministers or Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of

Women in the Member States, in order to effectively integrate a gender perspective in the judicial sector.

11. To extend and strengthen cooperation among institutes for national and regional legal research such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR), the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA), and the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD), which identify, analyze, and review legislation and access to justice, to guarantee, through proposals, programs, or reforms, equal rights and equitable access to justice for women.

12. To promote equality among men and women by eliminating negative stereotypes in the media, and to promote the use of the media to disseminate information and basic knowledge on the human rights of women and on the laws and legal mechanisms and institutions that protect women's and children's rights.

13. To urge the follow-up of the recommendations already presented to REMJA IV, that specifically deal with the issues of: Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Combating Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism, Information Exchange Network for the Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters, enhancement of the administration of justice, cyber crime, and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA).

14. To obtain technical assistance to implement the recommendations and lines of action detailed herein, through financial authorities (including the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank), multilateral funding agencies, and private and public donors.

CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 8/04

STRENGTHENING OF THE CIM

THE SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS OR OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE MEMBER STATES,

RECALLING that the Summits of the Americas process begun in 1992 has recognized the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) as the most important hemispheric forum for promoting women's human rights and gender equity and equality and has given new mandates to this organ, encouraging it to continue its progress in promotion of those rights, especially in the area of violence, in order to fulfill the objectives of the Convention of *Belém do Pará*;

FURTHER RECALLING that in 1994 the CIM Assembly of Delegates adopted the Strategic Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women, which concentrates on ten areas of priority interest, concerning the advancement of women in the political, legal, social, and economic spheres to improve their standard of living;

CONSIDERING resolution AG/RES.1625 (XXIX-O/99), which convened the First Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States and approved the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, subsequently adopted by the OAS General Assembly, as well as resolution AG/RES1732 (XXX-O/00), which instructed the CIM to serve "as the organ for follow-up, coordination, and evaluation of the Inter-American Program and the actions taken to implement it;"

RECOGNIZING that the Inter-American Program directs the General Secretariat to strengthen the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM by allocating it the necessary human and financial resources, and to help it obtain funds from private sources;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the first meeting of Ministers adopted resolution CIM/MINIS/RES.3 (I-O/00), "Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas," which calls for "the holding of ministerial meetings on women every four years, with the support of the CIM Assembly of Delegates, in order to contribute to the preparation and follow-up of the plans of action that might be adopted at the Summits of the Americas, bearing in mind the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality;"

NOTING that the twenty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) adopted the "Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women," giving rise to important hemisphere-wide initiatives for dissemination and continued implementation of this vital legal instrument;

CONSIDERING that resolution CIM/RES. 224 (XXXI-O/02), "Follow-up of the Convention of *Belém do Pará*" urges the member states to ratify this Convention and entrusts the CIM, to begin the process of consultation with Member States party and not party to the Convention and with other organs, agencies, and entities, to make recommendations on the most appropriate way to follow up on its implementation;

CONSIDERING ALSO that resolution CIM/RES. 225 (XXI-O/02), "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children" resolves "To establish a focal point in the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM to assist the efforts, information sharing, and activities of the member states…;"

OBSERVING that resolutions AG/RES.1451 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES.1586 (XXVIII-O/98), and AG/RES.1732 (XXVII-O/00), instruct the General Secretariat to make every possible effort to allocate technical, human and financial resources to the CIM so it will be better equipped to perform its essential activities.

EMPHASIZING that in the Plan of Action adopted at the Third Summit of the Americas the Heads of State and Government pledged to support an adequate level of resources to the CIM to fulfill its role as the primary hemispheric forum to generate policies for promoting women's human rights, and especially, gender equity and equality, and to strengthen the CIM's role as technical advisor for the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on all aspects of gender equity and equality, and recognize its importance in the follow-up of the pertinent Summit recommendations; and

OBSERVING WITH CONCERN the notable increase in the mandates given to the CIM, emanating from the Summits of the Americas, the Strategic Plan of Action, the Convention of *Belém do Pará* and its follow-up, the Inter-American Program, and the projects on violence and trafficking in persons, which is not consistent with the dramatically diminished human and financial resources granted to it during the past eight years;

RESOLVES

1. To urge the General Secretariat to provide the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM with sufficient human and financial resources to strengthen its capacity to comply with its mandates, as a specialized organization of the OAS dedicated to the promotion and protection of women's human rights;

2. To urge the Secretary General to include CIM projects and programs among the priorities that are presented to external donors for funding.

3. To invite the Member States, the Permanent Observers to the OAS and individuals and public and private, national or international organizations that wish to do so, to make voluntary contributions to support the development and implementation of CIM projects and programs.

4. To transmit this resolution to the Thirty-fourth Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly for consideration and follow-up.

5. To request the Permanent Council, through the Budgetary and Administrative Affairs Commission (CAAP), to invite the CIM Executive Secretary to present a report on the CIM's financial situation to the Program and Budget preparatory meetings.