INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
November 10-12, 2008
Santiago, Chile

OEA/Ser.L/II.2.34
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12 November 2008
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REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

In my capacity as *Rapporteur* of the General Committee, I have the honor to present to the distinguished delegates and heads of delegations to this Thirty-fourth Assembly of Delegates of CIM, the report on the activities carried out by the General Committee pursuant to article 33 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.

This report is divided into four sections: i) introduction; ii) proceedings and methodology; iii) analysis methodology; iv) discussion of drafts; and v) conclusion.

I. INTRODUCTION

Installation of the Committee and Election of the President

In its first plenary session held on November 10, 2008, the Assembly, pursuant to article 32 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, installed the General Committee and elected President Ms. Pamela Albornoz, Alternate Delegate of Chile to the OAS, who was nominated by the delegate of United States and was elected unanimously.

At that time, the General Committee was invited to submit the report of its activities during the third plenary session.

Assignment of topics

The Assembly assigned to the General Committee the study of a draft declaration and seven draft resolutions in addition to the topics listed in the draft calendar of activities and assignment of topics for the Thirty-fourth Assembly of Delegates (CIM/doc.3/08 rev. 2).

II. PROCEEDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Election of the Vice President and of the Rapporteur

In accordance with the provisions of article 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Delegates, the Assembly elected the Vice President and the Rapporteur of the General Committee.

The delegate of Uruguay nominated Ms. Lorena Camacho de la O, Alternate Delegate of Costa Rica, for Vice President who was unanimously elected.

The delegate of Jamaica nominated Victoria Moncayo Gallegos, Alternate Delegate of Ecuador, for Rapporteur of the General Committee who was elected unanimously.

Participants

Under the provisions of article 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the assembly of Delegates, the Committee welcomed the participation of all the delegations of member states that are members of the Commission. The following delegations were present:

Mexico	Brazil
Panama	Canada
Paraguay	Colombia
Suriname	Chile
Uruguay	Costa Rica
Venezuela	Ecuador
Antigua and Barbuda	United States
Argentina	Grenada
Bahamas	Haiti

Work Plan

The Assembly assigned the following topics to the General Committee:

1. Consideration of Reports:

   a. Report of the President and of the Executive Committee;
   b. National reports and reports from specialized organs of the inter-American system and of the United Nations; and

2. Priority topics:

   a. Prevention and eradication of violence:
      - Follow-up mechanism to the implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará;
      - Femicide-feminicide.

b. Summit of the Americas – Follow-up strategies and proposals for the next summit.

c. Third Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in Member States (REMIM-III).

3. Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and on Gender Equity and Equality:

   Follow-up of actions taken to mainstream gender in ministerial meetings; Meeting of Ministers of Labor.

4. Biennial Work Program. Programmatic guidelines.

5. Consideration of a draft Declaration and seven draft resolutions.

Methodology

In the first session of the General Committee, also held on November 10, 2008, the President thanked the delegates for having supported her nomination. Next, the president proposed this methodology to complete the work within the timeframe requested by the Assembly.

First, the President reminded the delegates that the main task of this Assembly was to work on the Draft Declaration of Santiago and to consider seven draft resolutions.

These drafts were previously analyzed by a Working Group open to all delegations, in support of the work being done by the Permanent Secretariat in preparation for the Assembly of Delegates. The Group met four times; on September 24, and on October 7, 21 and 30 at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C.

As the President explained, once consensus was reached, the draft resolutions together with the report of the rapporteur would be forwarded to the plenary session of the Assembly for consideration and adoption.

In accordance with the decision of the Assembly and with the provisions of article 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Delegates, the deadline for receiving draft resolutions was 12:00 noon on November 11, 2008.

With regard to the "priority topics" on the agenda, it was explained that these would not be considered by the General Committee since some of those topics had been included in the agenda for the Third Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in Member States (REMIM-III), that would be held the day after the adjournment of this Assembly.

Sessions

The General Committee held three sessions to consider the topics it was assigned to address in the calendar of activities and distribution of topics for this Assembly (CIM/doc.3/08 rev. 2). The first session was held in the afternoon of Monday, November 10, 2008; the second session was held on Tuesday morning, November 11; and the third session was held Tuesday afternoon, November 11, 2008.

III. ANALYSIS OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF SANTIAGO AND OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The following is a summary of the work done on the draft Declaration and on the draft resolutions assigned to the General Committee:

1. Draft Declaration of Santiago CIM/doc.15/08

The Committee considered this draft declaration during the first, second and third working sessions.

The draft declaration was submitted by Ms. Pamela Albornoz, Alternate Representative of Chile to the OAS, whose government wrote the original draft.

This draft declaration was approved to be presented to the plenary session of the Assembly with the modifications included in document CIM/doc.15/08 rev. 1, attached to this report.

2. Draft Resolution "Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence Against Women," "Convention of Belém do Pará" (CIM/doc.16/08)

The Committee considered this draft resolution during its first working session. The draft resolution was approved to be presented to the plenary session of the Assembly without modifications.

3. Draft resolution- Mainstreaming Gender in Hemispheric Policies and in the Summit of the Americas (CIM/doc.17/08)

The Committee considered the draft resolution "Mainstreaming Gender in Hemispheric Policies and in the Summit of the Americas" during its first working session.

The text was submitted for consideration by the delegations and it was approved during the first working session of this Committee to be presented to the plenary session of the Assembly with the amendments included in document CIM/doc.17/08 rev. 1, attached to this report.

4. Draft resolution Biennial Plan of the CIM (CIM/doc.18/08)

The draft resolution "Biennial Plan of the CIM" (CIM/doc.18/08) was submitted by the President for consideration by this Committee.

In that regard, taking into consideration the political and strategic importance of approving the Biennial Plan of the CIM, the Assembly of Delegates decided to address this draft resolution directly. Consequently, any discussions regarding the draft resolution in the General Committee were suspended and the topic was eliminated from the agenda originally assigned to this Committee.

5. Draft resolution "Reform of the Legal Instruments of the CIM" (CIM/doc.19/08)

With regard to this draft resolution, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Resolution CIM/RES. 247/07 (VII-E/07) "Reform of the Legal Instruments of the CIM," a request was made to the Department of Legal Services to amend the Rules of Procedure of the CIM to reflect the modifications approved in the Statute and to forward them to this Assembly of Delegates. Therefore, the modifications made by the OAS Department of Legal Services were forwarded to this Committee for consideration together with the text of this draft resolution.

During the Committee's second working session, the draft resolution was considered and approved without modifications for presentation to the plenary session of the Assembly.

The delegation of Costa Rica requested consideration as co-sponsor of this resolution.

6. Draft Resolution "HIV/AIDS Violence Based on Gender and Empowerment" (CIM/doc.20/08)

The draft resolution "HIV/AIDS Violence Based on Gender and Empowerment" was considered and approved for presentation to the plenary session of the Assembly with the modifications introduced by the delegations during the second session held by this Committee. The modifications adopted are included in document CIM/doc.20/08 rev. 1 attached to this report.

7. Draft Resolution Gender, Climate Change and Natural Disasters (CIM/doc.21/08)

During its second session, the General Committee began consideration of draft resolution "Gender, Climate Change and Natural Disasters." The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda requested that discussions on this draft resolution be postponed in order to wait for the outcome of an informal meeting that would be held by the countries of the Caribbean region with other delegations aimed at achieving consensus with regard to the language that needed revision in this draft resolution.

During the third working session of the Committee, the CARICOM countries, through the Principal Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, submitted the modifications agreed upon during the meeting held by those countries and in concert with the other delegations.

The draft resolution was considered during the third working session of the General Committee and was approved with the modifications included in document CIM/doc.21/08 rev. 1 attached to this report.

The Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda asked to sponsor this resolution.

8. Draft Resolution Gender and Migration (CIM/doc.22/08)

During its second session, the General Committee began consideration of the draft resolution Gender and Migration. The General Committee decided to postpone consideration of this draft resolution in order to wait for the informal negotiations and consultations that would be carried out by the delegations aimed at reaching consensus on the content of several paragraphs.

Discussion of the draft resolution continued during the third session of the General Committee and was approved for presentation to the plenary session of the Assembly with the modifications included in document CIM/doc.21/08 rev. 1 attached to this report.

In keeping with the decision adopted in this plenary session of the Assembly, let me inform you Madam President and delegates that, according to the decision, the General Committee did not read the reports assigned to it in the agenda since they are available on the CIM web page.

IV. CONCLUSION

Under the skillful guidance of the President, Ms. Pamela Albornoz, Alternate Representative of Chile to the OAS, and of the Vice President, Ms. Lorena Camacho de la O., delegate of Costa Rica, the General Committee unanimously approved one draft declaration and six draft resolutions which are listed below, beginning with the declaration:

- CIM/doc.15/08 — Declaration of Santiago "Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women with a View to Gender Mainstreaming in Public Policies"

Draft Resolutions:

- CIM/doc.16/08 — "Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence Against Women. 'Convention of Belém do Pará'"
- CIM/doc.17/08 — "Mainstreaming Gender in Hemispheric Policies and in the Summit of the Americas"
- CIM/doc.19/08 — "Reform of the Legal Instruments of the CIM"
- CIM/doc.20/08 — "HIV/AIDS Violence Based on Gender and Empowerment"
- CIM/doc.21/08 — "Gender, Climate Change and Natural Disasters"

- CIM/doc.22/08 "Gender and Migration"

In bringing the work of the General Committee to a close, the President expressed her gratitude to the delegations for their active participation and for their interest while considering the various topics.

On behalf of all the delegations I would like to express our gratitude to the President for her leadership in carrying out the negotiations of the draft resolutions that were assigned to the General Committee. We congratulate the delegates of the member States who participated in the committee's sessions for their efforts and for their tireless collaboration in the tasks assigned to the committee.

I would also like to extend our gratitude to the staff of the Technical Secretariat of CIM and to the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Women's Service (SERNAM) of the Republic of Chile for their invaluable support in helping us complete our work.

Finally, I would like to personally thank the members of this Assembly of Delegates for trusting me with the sensitive task of carrying out the responsibilities of the Rapporteurship of this Committee. Therefore, I submit this report for consideration by the Principal Delegates of the member States that are members of this Committee in the Thirty-fourth Assembly of Delegates of CIM.

Victoria Moncayo Gallegos
Rapporteur of the General Committee
Alternate Delegate of Ecuador to the CIM

LIST OF DRAFT DECLARATION AND OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

The Committee considered and approved the text of a draft Declaration.

- CIM/doc.15/08 rev. 1 Declaration of Santiago "Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women in Order to Mainstream Gender in Public Policies"

The Committee also considered and approved the texts of the following draft resolutions:

- CIM/doc.16/08 rev. 1. "Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence Against Women. 'Convention of Belém do Pará'"
- CIM/doc.17/08 rev. 1 "Gender Mainstreaming in Hemispheric Policies and in the Summit of the Americas"
- CIM/doc.19/08 rev. 1 "Reform of the Legal Instruments of the CIM"
- CIM/doc.20/08 rev. 1 "HIV/AIDS Violence Based on Gender and Empowerment"
- CIM/doc.21/08 rev. 1 "Gender, Climate Change and Natural Disasters"
- CIM/doc.22/08 rev. 1 "Gender and Migration"

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DRAFT DECLARATION OF SANTIAGO

"STRENGTHENING NATIONAL MACHINERIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN WITH A VIEW TO GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PUBLIC POLICIES"

(Presented by Chile)

(Adopted at the first meeting of the General Committee, held on November 10, 2008)

WE, THE PRINCIPAL AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM) OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in Santiago, Chile, on November 10, 11, and 12, 2008, on the occasion of the Thirty-fourth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM,

1. RECALLING that multilateral, regional, and subregional initiatives since the 1970s have recognized the importance of having national and local organizations with the effective capacity to formulate and coordinate policies and programs to promote women's full and active social, political, economic, and cultural participation, thus furthering their position in society, particularly in our Hemisphere;

2. BEARING IN MIND that the role and the importance of national machineries for the advancement of women as guiding bodies for gender issues have been recognized, *inter alia*, in the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, adopted by the OAS General Assembly in 2000; in the Plans of Action of the Second and the Third Summit of the Americas; and in the Quito Consensus, adopted in 2007 at the Tenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

3. CALL ATTENTION TO the fact that the inequality of opportunities and rights among men and women is one of the fundamental components of the high levels of social inequality affecting the region, detracting from the well-being of and hindering development and social cohesion in our countries - a situation which is aggravated by the current international economic circumstances.

4. EMPHASIZE that national machineries for the advancement of women have helped reduce such inequalities by improving the status of women through legal reforms, the design and implementation of specific programs, and the generation of knowledge and public policies with a gender focus;

5. RECOGNIZE that national machineries for the advancement of women play an essential part in mainstreaming gender in public policies by contributing to women's empowerment and the attainment of equal opportunity for men and women;

6. CONSIDER that factors remain that limit gender mainstreaming in public policies and legal reforms. This situation must be addressed specifically, since opportunities for women to participate in development are contingent on the existence of a wider array of public policies and legal provisions and on relationships established in civil society and the productive system;

7. TAKE NOTE of the existence of phenomena and problems affecting our societies that have a differentiated and particularly serious impact on women, such as discriminatory cultural patterns, gender-based violence, labor in the informal sector**,** high rates of unemployment, trafficking in persons, the migration phenomenon, and lack of access to justice and to power and decision-making, as well as natural disasters, access to health services, and quality education;

8. AWARE of the need to strengthen national machineries for the advancement of women, providing them with the necessary authority, rank, political support, resources, and capacity for sustainability to fulfill their goals effectively, promoting and consolidating gender mainstreaming in all areas of society and deepening the analysis of phenomena and problems affecting women, to optimize public policies and action by public and private sector players;

9. That obtaining significant and sustainable achievements in women's participation in development requires the active involvement of all branches of government and/or public organs or institutions, the private sector, civil society, and the media; and

10. REITERATE our commitment to fulfilling the Millennium Declaration goals and indicate that if the gender equity and equality objectives are to be achieved in the Americas, national machineries for the advancement of women must be strengthened so that they may spearhead and promote a governmental agenda with a gender perspective by increasing and broadening countries' efforts in this area,

ENCOURAGE all OAS member states to:

1. Foster the adoption of relevant measures that enable national machineries for the advancement of women to obtain the budgetary resources and achieve the institutional autonomy to carry out their work, granting them the authority to evaluate, direct, and administer gender-related public polices and, in accordance with the domestic law of each country, to monitor budgets from a gender equity perspective, as well as to participate in technical and political cooperation agreements at both the national and international levels.

2. Implement, in keeping with the commitments signed by the states, the provisions adopted in international, regional, and subregional forums and mechanisms for strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women, and recognize the importance of the gender aspect in formulating and implementing public policies.

3. Design strategies to strengthen the gender institutional framework as a whole, with a view to addressing gender inequalities as a public concern that must be resolved, and recording it by means of appropriate indicators that can help monitor progress and obstacles and, as appropriate, support and cooperate in the establishment of national machineries for the advancement of women, respecting the cultural diversity and the administrative, organizational, and political systems of the member states.

4. Promote alliances between strategic actors and sectors of government responsible for planning, financial management, social development, administration of justice, and government services, so that gender equity and equality may become a crosscutting principle of governmental action.

5. Give proper importance, in the ongoing study of the budget priorities of the Organization, to the activities of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) aimed at strengthening hemispheric policies for the promotion of women's rights and gender equity and equality.

URGE the national machineries for the advancement of women to:

6. Establish alliances with civil society organizations, in particular organizations involved in the promotion, protection, and defense of women's human rights, the media, and the private sector, to further the implementation of gender equity and equality, ensuring women's progress and access to decision-making positions in the social, political, economic, and cultural spheres.

7. Promote the gender focus in the development, analysis, and evaluation of indicators and statistics, in coordination with the appropriate national institutions.

8. Attach priority in their budgets to gender mainstreaming in policies, plans, and programs, encouraging women's full social, economic, political, and cultural participation.

REQUEST the CIM Executive Committee for the 2008-2010 biennium to:

9. Increase coordination with national machineries for the advancement of women and with their subregional organizations in order to promote cooperation and the exchange of information and replication of initiatives among countries, and increase coordination between these national and subregional entities and the institutions and entities of the inter-American system.

10. Promote, in accordance with the financial resources allocated to it, the execution of studies, the identification of good practices, and the fostering and implementation of policies with a gender perspective, in keeping with the inter-American agenda on such issues as climate change, natural disasters, the fight against crime, the migration phenomenon, the feminization of HIV/AIDS, political participation, gender-based violence, access to justice, and decent work, among others.

11. Instruct the OAS Secretary General to pursue efforts to strengthen the CIM within the inter-American system.

12. Disseminate, together with other OAS specialized organizations, good practices and successful experiences in measuring and assessing the differentiated impact of public policies and programs on men and women, identifying institutional mechanisms, databases, and indicators that have led to positive results in this area.

INVITE:

13. Other institutions and organizations of the inter-American system, the United Nations system, the permanent observers to the OAS, and international cooperation organizations to renew their commitment to gender equity and equality in the Hemisphere, supporting present initiatives to strengthen national machineries for the advancement of women and the gender institutional framework as a whole and promoting gender mainstreaming in the regional and subregional projects and programs they sponsor.

We thank the people and Government of Chile for their generous hospitality and for the arrangements they have made to make the Thirty-fourth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM a success.

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DRAFT RESOLUTION

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, "CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ"

(Presented by Brazil and Mexico and cosponsored by Chile)

(Adopted at the first meeting of the General Commission, held on November 10, 2008)

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

HAVING SEEN resolutions CIM/RES. 229 (XXXII-O/04) and CIM/RES. 237/06 (XXXIII-O/06),"Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" of the CIM Assembly of Delegates; and OAS General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 2162 (XXXVI-O/06) and AG/RES. 2371 (XXXVIII-O/08), "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'";

RECOGNIZING:

That the Convention of Belém do Pará is the only specific, binding international legal instrument on gender-based violence, recognizing women's human right to a life free from violence; and

That the Convention of Belém do Pará has become an important driving force enabling the States Parties thereto to undertake to implement policies, laws, and national and regional action programs to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women;

CONSIDERING:

That, in fulfillment of their commitments, the States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará adopted, on October 26, 2004, 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" (MESECVI);

That the OAS General Secretariat, through the CIM Permanent Secretariat, serves as the Secretariat to the organs of the MESECVI, with advice, where appropriate, from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR);

That, in July 2008, the MESECVI completed the evaluation stage of its first multilateral evaluation round with the adoption of the country reports and its first Hemispheric Report, which provide an important indicator of the status of implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará in Latin America and the Caribbean; and

That the MESECVI is currently at the stage of following up on the recommendations made to the States Parties by the CEVI in the Hemispheric Report, with a view to achieving better implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará;

WELCOMING WITH SATISFACTION:

The fact that, thus far, 29 States Parties have appointed experts and 28 have designated Competent National Authorities (CNAs);

That, during the evaluation stage of the first multilateral evaluation round launched in November 2005**,** 28 States Parties replied to the questionnaire prepared for the Competent National Authorities by the CEVI, which indicates the interest and broad participation in the Mechanism on the part of governments from the Mechanism**;**

That the contributions of financial and human resources made by the Governments of Mexico and Brazil have contributed to the operation of the MESECVI;

That, the Government of Argentina, as the host of the Third Meeting of the CEVI, held in Buenos Aires from July 18 to 20, 2007, and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as the host of the Second Conference of States Parties to the Mechanism, held in Caracas on July 9 and 10, 2008, have contributed to the operation of the MESECVI;

NOTING WITH CONCERN:

That, until this date, Mexico is the sole contributor to the specific funds that the MESECVI is financed; and

That in some cases there have been delays in designating and/or replacing experts and/or Competent National Authorities, or that resources have not been allocated to facilitate their participation in the meetings of the CEVI, all of which impedes the full operation of the Mechanism and its evaluation rounds,

RESOLVES:

1. To note with satisfaction the report of the Technical Secretariat (CIM/doc.9/08) on the activities of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) and to emphasize the importance of the MESECVI in the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women in our region.

2. To welcome with satisfaction the Hemispheric Report and the country reports arising from the first multilateral evaluation round of the MESECVI, requesting the Principal Delegates to arrange for broad dissemination in their countries of the main results and recommendations, promoting intersectoral forums for discussion and analysis among sectors and with civil society so as to contribute to the implementation of those recommendations.

3. To exhort the States Parties to the Convention to participate actively and within the established periods in the current stage for follow-up of the CEVI recommendations contained in the Hemispheric Report, as well as in the next multilateral evaluation round.

4. To urge the Principal Delegates to request their respective governments, if they have not yet done so, to designate a National Competent Authority to serve as liaison with the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism, as well as a principal and/or alternate expert.

5. To request States Parties to continue to support the participation of their expert in MESECVI-related activities.

6. To thank the Governments of Mexico and Brazil for their valuable contributions of both financial and human resources to the Mechanism, as well as the Government of Argentina and for hosting the Third Meeting of the CEVI; and the Government of Venezuela for hosting the Second Conference of States Parties.

7. To reiterate the invitation to all States Parties and non-State Parties to the Convention, permanent observers, international financial organizations, and public and private national and international entities to contribute to the MESECVI specific fund established within the OAS to finance the operation of the MESECVI.

8. To request the Secretary General to allocate, in accordance with available financial resources and with the agreement of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), the human, technical, and financial resources necessary to enable the CIM to continue to support the implementation of the MESECVI.

9. To reiterate its recognition of the CIM Permanent Secretariat for the support provided to the States Parties during the first multilateral evaluation round of the MESECVI.

10. To thank the Secretariat of the Mechanism for the technical assistance provided to the organs thereof and for its support for activities to promote the objectives of the Convention and to disseminate the results of the evaluation round, especially the workshops held in Montevideo, Uruguay; Mexico City, Mexico; and at OAS headquarters**.**

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DRAFT RESOLUTION

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN HEMISPHERIC POLICIES
AND IN THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

(Presented by Antigua and Barbuda and cosponsored by Chile)

(Approved at the first meeting of the General Commission,
held on November 10, 2008)

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

BEARING IN MIND that gender mainstreaming is the decisive strategy of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), adopted by OAS General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), for attaining the ultimate goal of achieving equality of rights and opportunities between women and men;

CONSIDERING:

The commitment made by the Organization of American States (OAS) in the aforementioned resolution to facilitate integration of a gender perspective into the work of all its organs, agencies, and entities by developing training programs and disseminating information on women's human rights and gender equity and equality;

The endorsement of the IAP expressed by the Heads of State and Government in the Declarations and Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas and the role they assigned to the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) as one of the principal forums for generating hemispheric policies on gender equity and equality and the promotion of women's human rights; and

The initiatives undertaken by the CIM to promote sectoral mainstreaming in the areas of labor, justice, education, science and technology, and peace and security; and in the follow-up to the pertinent mandates of the Summits of the Americas process; and

BEARING IN MIND:

That the Fifth Summit of the Americas will be held from April 17 to 19, 2009, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, with the theme "Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability";

That in order to achieve the objective of said Summit it is essential to ensure that the gender perspective is incorporated into its Declaration of Commitment; and

That, to that end, the delegations participating in this Assembly have prepared a consensus document containing recommendations for submission to the Third Meeting of Ministers or Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM III), to be held on November 13, 2008, in Santiago, Chile,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the President of the CIM to:

   a. Forward to the Chair of REMIM III the recommendations in the aforementioned document, so that they may be incorporated by the National Coordinators of the Summits and in the preparatory work of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG); and

   b. Follow up on this process, through the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, reporting its results to the 2008-2010 Executive Committee.

2. To again request the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to ensure the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) by:

   a. Continuing the work of the CIM as one of the principal forums for generating hemispheric policies on gender equity and equality and promoting women's human rights;

   b. Supporting the efforts of the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS in the follow-up and implementation of the Inter-American Program, including activities to continue promoting gender mainstreaming in the ministerial meetings on labor, justice, education, science and technology, and in the area of peace and security; and

   c. Promoting, in coordination with the Permanent Secretariat, instruments for planning, management, and follow-up of the activities of said meetings, with a view to achieving their effective implementation.

3. To recognize and support the efforts of member states to integrate a gender perspective in national policies, projects, programs, and strategies, particularly those directed at the advancement of women; and to urge them to revise legislation in force and/or enact new legislation consistent with national and international standards on gender equality and the protection and defense of the human rights of women, adolescents, and girls.

4. To report to the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM on the implementation of this resolution, the execution of which shall be subject to the availability of financial resources allocated to the CIM.

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DRAFT RESOLUTION

REFORM OF THE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

(Presented by Costa Rica and Mexico)

(Approved at the second session of the General Commission, held on November 11, 2008)

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

HAVING SEEN:

The consensus reached by the Thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the CIM to convene a Special Assembly to address the reform of the legal instruments of the CIM;

BEARING IN MIND:

Resolution CIM/RES. 247/07 (VII-E/07), "REFORM OF THE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM)," adopted by the Seventh Special Assembly of Delegates, which approves the amended Statute of the CIM and entrusts the Directorate of Legal Affairs with adjusting the CIM Regulations according to the amendments made to the Statute and presenting the text thereof to the Thirty-fourth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM;

CONSIDERING:

That the Directorate of Legal Affairs completed the work entrusted to it in February 2008 and the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM distributed it to the Principal Delegates on February 1, 2008;

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the amended version of the Regulations of the Inter-American Commission of Women, contained in document CIM/doc.7/08.

2. To instruct the Permanent Secretariat to publish and distribute the legal instruments in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Seventh Special Assembly of Delegates and by this Assembly.

3. To report to the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM on the implementation of this resolution, the execution of which shall be subject to the availability of financial resources of the CIM.

THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
November 10 to 12, 2008
Santiago, Chile

OEA/Ser.L/II.2.34
CIM/doc.20/08 rev. 1
11 November 2008
Original: English

DRAFT RESOLUTION

HIV, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AND EMPOWERMENT

(Presented by Paraguay and cosponsored by Chile)

(Approved at the Second Session of the General Commission, held on November 11, 2008)

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

NOTING the commitments arising from the Summits of the Americas, especially the Third Summit (Quebec, 2001), in which the Member States "Commit, at the highest level, to combat HIV/AIDS and its consequences, recognizing that this disease is a major threat to the security of our people; in particular seek to increase resources for prevention, education and access to care and treatment as well as research; adopt a multi-sectoral and gender sensitive approach to education, to prevention and to controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) by developing participatory programs especially with high risk populations…." and agree "to promote and protect the human rights of all persons living with HIV/AIDS, without gender or age discrimination…";

RECALLING that in 2005, the CIM undertook to work on gender and HIV/AIDS from a human rights perspective and that for this reason, the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation at the XXXIII Assembly of Delegates held in El Salvador in 2006, focused on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women and gender-related violence as an aspect of Multidimensional Security;

RECALLING ALSO that the Seventh Special Assembly of the CIM, held in Washington DC, in November 2007, adopted the Declaration of San Salvador, on Gender, Violence, and HIV/AIDS, which addresses the pandemic from a gender and human rights perspective, linking gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS, and recommending the OAS member states to help fight the spread of HIV by studying the impact of the pandemic on women;

CONSIDERING that in Latin America and the Caribbean, the HIV/AIDS pandemic is disproportionately affecting women, adolescents**,** and girls, in terms both of the increase in prevalence, especially young women, who comprise the largest percentage of new infections; and of the increased socio-economic burden in the cases of households headed by women, especially as concerns unremunerated care of the sick and other dependents;

NOTING WITH CONCERN:

That gender inequalities, poverty, lack of education, and all forms of violence against women, adolescents, and girls increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, commercial sexual exploitation and unprotected sex;

That access to treatment must be prioritized and expanded, in a progressive and sustainable manner, in order to avoid any difference or inequality of women, adolescents, and girls in access to the use of health resources for prevention, treatment, and support services for HIV/AIDS, opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases; and to ensure the provision of affordable, safe, effective, and high quality drugs;

EMPHASIZING that the empowerment of women, adolescents, and girls, the protection of their human rights and the promotion of economic opportunities for them are fundamental elements for reducing their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and violence; and

AFFIRMING that addressing the intersection between gender-based violence and becoming infected with HIV/AIDS is a key strategy to reduce the occurrence of both,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge National Machineries for the Advancement of Women to:

   a. Give priority to establishing strong partnerships with the ministries of health so as to promote gender mainstreaming in local and/or national HIV/AIDS plans and programs, taking into account the differential impact of HIV/AIDS on women and men, adolescents, girls and boys and ensuring that violence against women is addressed as an integral part of the national HIV/AIDS response;

   b. Promote, *inter alia*, multisectoral synergies for communication and association with civil society and private sector organizations working in this field;

   c. Redouble their efforts to address gender inequality and inequities, in particular by promoting programs aimed at achieving access to justice and the economic, social, and political empowerment of women, adolescents, and girls as a means to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic; and

   d. Conduct and/or continue promoting public awareness campaigns on the incidence of HIV/AIDS, emphasizing, inter alia, the differential impact of HIV/AIDS on adolescents, women, and girls; prevention; and living together with persons living with HIV/AIDS.

2. To encourage member states

a) to identify in their countries, and/or through bilateral or multisectoral partnerships, specific funding to incorporate the gender perspective into HIV/AIDS policies, programs and projects, thereby promoting multisectoral management models to address a policy through common definitions, shared information, and coordinated actions.

b) to adopt the necessary measures for compliance and follow-up of the actions adopted in the framework of the "Declaration of San Salvador: Gender, Violence and HIV".

3. To request the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM to:

a. Continue its important work highlighting the linkage between gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS, as well as its efforts to develop competencies, policies, programs, and projects, in addition to generating studies, research, and analysis to build capacity in the member states to address this connection.

b. Gather best practices which sensitize and educate society on gender-based violence and on the ways in which HIV/AIDS can be spread and its consequences; standardize these practices; and devise a common plan and materials that could be adapted to national contexts.

c. Follow up on and disseminate information on the pilot research project entitled "Men, Manifestations of Masculinity, Gender-based Violence, and HIV" and to replicate it in the member states with a view to developing program and policy recommendations for consideration by the member states.

4. To report to the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM on the implementation of this resolution, the execution of which shall be subject to the availability of financial resources allocated to the CIM.

THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
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DRAFT RESOLUTION

GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND NATURAL DISASTERS

(Presented by Antigua and Barbuda)

(Adopted at the third session of the General Committee, held on November 11, 2008)

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

HAVING SEEN:

OAS General Assembly declaration AG/DEC. 55 (XXXVI-O/06) and resolutions of the same Assembly: AG/RES. 1755 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1803 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1885 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1955 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2024 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2184 (XXXVI-O/06), and AG/RES. 2314 (XXXVII-O/07);

Resolution AG/RES. 2429 (XXXVIII-O/08) which recognizes the negative impact that climate change could have on the enjoyment of human rights;

The Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2006-2009 (PIDS), both adopted at the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on December 5, 2006; and

The pertinent provisions of the declarations, resolutions, and programs of action adopted by major United Nations conferences, in particular the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and its Plan of Implementation, with special emphasis on the points of consensus reached and commitments made in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

CONSIDERING:

That climate change is one of the main challenges of the 21st century that could have significant environmental, economic, and social impacts worldwide and potentially catastrophic repercussions and that it is therefore a phenomenon that increases the severity of many existing environmental challenges;

That the environment has been included as one of the leitmotifs of the upcoming Summit of the Americas (Trinidad and Tobago, April 2009);

That the impacts of climate change and natural disasters affect the community as a whole and heighten the vulnerability of those living in situations of poverty, many of whom are women;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the actions aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing the risk of natural disasters benefit society and the environment and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially poverty reduction**;**

That the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 reiterates "that human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development, that they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature, and that poverty alleviation is an integral part of sustainable development";

That if women live in an unhealthy and unsafe environment, it will adversely affect the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

That the conclusions of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change urge that urgent and effective mitigation and adaptation actions be taken; and

RESOLVES:

1. To request the OAS member states to create, incorporate, and promote gender-related strategies to address natural disasters and post-disaster actions that include, as necessary, the following actions, among others:

a. Consistent with national circumstances, promotion of the adoption of legislative, administrative, and any other type of measure to ensure compliance with relevant international commitments contained in conventions, resolutions, and plans of action in this area;

b. Incorporation of the subject of climate change and natural disaster risk reduction in a development policy; prioritizing the needs of women;

c. Promotion on the inter-American agenda, especially in the framework of the Inter-American Meetings of Ministers and High-Level Experts of Sustainable Development and the actions of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM), greater attention to gender considerations, climate change-related topics, and natural disaster risk reduction;

d. Promotion of programs that promote gender mainstreaming and the results of including gender equality in international organizations working in the areas of environment, sustainable development, and natural disaster risk reduction**,** including the composition and specialized training of their staff;

e. Promotion and creation of forums for the training of National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, including training as appropriate according to national legislation to support the authorities responsible for incorporating the gender perspective in national public policies on the environment, climate change, and natural disaster risk reduction**;** and

f. Active participation in the relevant international negotiations now underway in the framework of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, promoting adoption of the principles of gender equity and equality.

2. To urge National Machineries for the Advancement of Women to promote the inclusion of gender equality or the use of gender-based analysis in national public policies on the environment, climate change, and natural disaster risk reduction through, *inter alia*, the following actions:

a. Analysis of barriers to participation by women and**,** based on said analysis, to generate strategies to promote their participation in decisions on the environment, biodiversity protection, and protection and actions against hazards and environment degradation;

b. Promotion of multi-sectoral synergies, and improved collaboration and communication on gender equality with other ministries and government offices, and with civil society organizations and the private sector whose work relates to the environment and its protection;

c. Promotion of the inclusion in national budgets of allocations for initiatives in the environmental and natural disaster risk reduction sector that incorporate a gender perspective**;**

d. Development and strengthening of gender equality-sensitive information systems on environmental matters, the effects of climate change, and natural disaster risk reduction**,** that include data disaggregated by gender, age, and ethnicity, especially in national information systems and other georeference systems, whereby analysis of this information should aim at developing general baselines for work in this area;

e. Research on, for instance, the different effects of climate change and natural disasters on women, on the one hand, and men, on the other, and the capacity of each sex to handle them.

f. Promotion, as part of mitigation and adaptation strategies, of equitable conditions and opportunities for educating, informing, and training women on climate change and natural disaster risk reduction, taking into account, *inter alia*, the following aspects: (i) their knowledge, skills, and cultural values; (ii) the need to bridge the gap between men and women in access to and control and distribution of natural resources; and (iii) the relevance of

promoting increased productivity and greater adaptability to imminent or potential climate changes;

g. Incorporation of the gender perspective in formal and informal education on the environment, climate change, and natural disaster risk reduction; and

h. Initiation of public awareness campaigns on the gender dimension in the impact of climate change and natural disasters.

3. To request the CIM Executive Committee for the 2008-2010 biennium**:**

a. To support, promote, and follow up on the tasks undertaken by governments and National Machineries for the Advancement of Women in fulfillment of this resolution; and

b. To report to the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM on the implementation of this resolution, the execution of which shall be subject to the availability of financial resources allocated to the CIM.

THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
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DRAFT RESOLUTION

GENDER AND MIGRATION

(Presented by Mexico)

(Adopted at the third session of the General Commission, held on November 11, 2008)

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

HAVING SEEN OAS General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2326 (XXXVII-O/07), and AG/RES. 2356 (XXXVIII-O/08);

CONSIDERING:

The adoption, by resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05), of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, which requests the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), *inter alia*, to develop policies and programs designed to protect women, in particular women heads of household, and to combat violence against women; and

The Work Plan of the Special Committee on Migration Issues (CEAM) of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), adopted at the meeting of March 13, 2008;

RECOGNIZING:

That migration is a historical phenomenon intensified, *inter alia*, by globalization and inequitable economic relations existing in the global economy and should be examined from a comprehensive and multidimensional perspective, integrating a gender perspective;

The social, cultural, and economic importance of international migration, for OAS member states as countries of origin, transit, and destination of migrants; and

The importance of continuing the discussion and analysis, from a gender perspective, of international migration and migration flows in the Americas, as well as their causes and their impact on all OAS member states; and

AWARE:

That migration flows will very likely increase as a result of social, economic, political, and demographic factors, among others, thus intensifying the complex nature of international migration;

Of the contribution made by regional and subregional integration processes to the free movement of persons within their enlarged spaces, and to the human rights of migrants, regardless of their migration status;

That despite progress made, there is a need to enhance international cooperation on migration issues and to continue to create and improve appropriate mechanisms to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families are respected and protected on the basis of principles of shared responsibility and reciprocity;

Of the need to address the different dimensions of international migration from a human rights, gender, and development perspective; and

Of the importance of remittances from women migrants to the subsistence of households in countries of origin,

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the work done in the Special Committee on Migration Issues (CEAM) of the OAS Permanent Council and by the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) to follow up on implementation of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrant Workers, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families; and to welcome the inclusion and consideration of gender issues that have been discussed in both committees.

2. To urge the CEAM and the CAJP of the OAS, in the course of their activities, to continue to incorporate a gender perspective in their analysis of international migration, to further examine and study international female migration, especially in border areas, and to promote the exchange of information and best practices on the following topics: remittances, security, trafficking in and smuggling of persons, human rights, and labor, including the analysis of gaps and shortcomings in current approaches, with a view to maximizing the benefits of international migration and increasing international, regional, and subregional cooperation in this regard.

3. To urge the OAS member states to incorporate the gender perspective in their consideration of migration issues, taking into account the new roles of women and men, especially in the context of labor migration.

4. To encourage the OAS member states to continue to make efforts, with assistance from multilateral agencies, to support the development and generation of opportunities in countries of origin so that temporary, circular, or returning migration is based on free choice, and not on necessity.

5. To encourage the OAS member states to continue to exchange experiences and to provide information periodically to the CIM Permanent Secretariat on gender aspects in their national migration policies and programs.

6. To request national machineries for the advancement of women to contribute, within their sphere of competence and in conjunction with migration authorities in border areas, to the integration of a gender perspective on migration and to respect for, and protection of, the human rights of migrant women.

7. To request the OAS General Secretariat, in the context of all activities it carries out in the area of migration, to take the gender perspective into account, as well as the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrant women.

8. To express appreciation for the initial work carried out by the CIM Permanent Secretariat on the gender perspective in international migration, in particular, the preparation of a pilot study on the phenomenon of female migration in Costa Rica and Nicaragua; and to urge the CIM, within existing resources, to continue analyzing international migration from a gender perspective and disseminate the results of that study.

9. To request the CIM Executive Committee for the 2008-2010 biennium and the Permanent Secretariat to report to the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM on the implementation of this resolution, the execution of which shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the CIM and other resources.