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

(Item 3 a) on the agenda)

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INTRODUCTION

The 2006-2008 biennium was an intense one which was marked by significant and ground-breaking achievements. One of its many highlights was the observance of the 80th Anniversary of the Inter-American Commission of Women. CIM celebrated this important anniversary with an innovative initiative in which it honoured the thirty (30) women leaders of the political and technical levels of the inter-American system. The intention behind this initiative was to promote women's leadership at the OAS and to encourage the organization in its efforts at attaining gender parity within the inter-American system. Another innovative and exciting initiative to commemorate the 80th Anniversary was the first ever photography contest for young girls of the Hemisphere entitled: *"When I Grow Up…"* which illustrates CIM's commitment to engaging young girls as an integral part of its activities for the promotion and empowerment of women.

In this reporting period, there was also the consideration of the Legal Instruments of the CIM which was undertaken at a Special Assembly hosted for this purpose. The adoption of these revised juridical instruments promises to transform the work of the CIM and provide awareness of the areas in which there was still progress to be made.

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

During this biennium the CIM realized much progress in its timely issue in the area of women's human rights, namely, the subject of HIV/AIDS and its impact on women in the Hemisphere. The Declaration of San Salvador on *Gender, Violence and HIV* was approved at the Seventh Special Assembly of CIM Delegates held in Washington, DC from November 5-7, 2007. This framework provided the CIM with its specific lens on HIV with its crucial intersection with Gender-based Violence. To that end, CIM received funding for two (2) important capacity building projects in this area: one for Central America scheduled to commence in early 2009 and one for CARICOM – a component of which is an online course, to be completed for certification by December 2008. Both projects will provide capacity-building for health personnel working in gender-based Violence and HIV, as well as pilot experiences to create integrated policies and programs to address both issues.

The CIM also continued working on implementation of the *Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality* (IAP). One of its major successes was a presentation made by the CIM President, Dr. Jacqui Quinn Leandro at the XV IACML in The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, where the Strategic Guidelines of the XV IACML for Advancing Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination within a Decent Work Framework were presented at this Ministerial which provided the optimal platform for proposing further embedding of gender into Labor Ministerials with a view to hosting a joint Ministerial in the near future. Based on the recommendations of the XV IACML, a project drafted under the OAS/CIDA Cooperation Plan 2008-2011 Work- Plan to support implementation of the Strategic Guidelines will be developed by

the CIM. The OAS Department of Social Development and Employment and the Inter-American network for Labor Administration (RIAL) will work alongside the CIM on this initiative.

The Summit mandates constitute the basis for the development of initiatives to empower women, especially poor women, and to adopt key strategies to achieve effective results in poverty reduction and prosperity for women. The Fifth Summit of the Americas is to be held in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on April 17-19, 2009 under the theme: *Securing our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability*. In the Summits of the Americas process, CIM has always underscored the importance of maintaining a gender perspective. In this fifth Summit, CIM priority was to have the gender perspective amply reflected as a transversal element in the Draft Declaration of Port of Spain, the sole outcome document of this Summit. Consequently, at the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) Meeting of October 14-16, 2008 held in Antigua and Barbuda, the CIM President presented on the work of the CIM in the Summits process. She also informed of the upcoming REMIM III, to consider the Draft Declaration of Port of Spain with a view to making specific recommendations to feed into the Fifth Summit. Dr Quinn-Leandro urged delegations to thoroughly cross-cut gender in a results-oriented way throughout the outcome document of this summit as its commitment to the empowerment and prosperity of all women of the Americas.

As part of its new thrust, the CIM has also developed important studies in the topics of Gender and Migration; and Gender and Climate Change, with a focus on Natural Disasters, to examine the impact of gender differentials on this regard. The growing feminization of migration is addressed from the perspective of its positive impact, while the specificity of women's experiences in climate change and natural disasters is highlighted for the inclusion of women in disaster prevention, preparation and recovery efforts.

Finally, it must be underscored that while the work of the CIM continues to be remarkable, it still remains hamstrung by the serious dearth of resources for the fulfillment of the growing mandates on gender equity and equality. This must be given the priority and political will it requires for CIM to continue to advance the hemispheric gender agenda.

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

I. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

1. THIRTY THIRD ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

The XXXIII Assembly of Delegates, held on November 11-13, 2006, in San Salvador, El Salvador, elected the Executive Committee for the 2006-2008 biennium as follows: President, Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro (Antigua and Barbuda); Vice President, Marta Lucia Vázquez Zawadzky (Colombia); Members, the delegates of: Brazil, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru y Uruguay. The following mandates were received from the Assembly and were executed during this reporting period.

CIM/RES. 237 (XXXIII-O/06)	Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, Convention of *Belém do Pará*
CIM/RES. 238 (XXXIII-O/06)	Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents and Children
CIM/RES. 239 (XXXIII-O/06)	Gender Mainstreaming in Hemispheric Policies and in the Summit of the Americas
CIM/RES. 240 (XXXIII-O/06)	CIM Work Program of the 2006-2008 Biennium: Program Guidelines
CIM/RES. 241 (XXXIII-O/06)	Venue and Date of the Thirty-Fourth Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women
CIM/RES. 242 (XXXIII-O/06)	Meetings of the Executive Committee for the Period 2006-2008
CIM/RES. 243 (XXXIII-O/06)	Special Recognition of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States
CIM/RES. 244 (XXXIII-O/06)	Vote of Thanks to the People and Government of El Salvador

2. SEVENTH SPECIAL ASSEMBLY OF CIM DELEGATES

The holding of the Seventh Special Assembly of the CIM was decided at the 33rd Assembly of CIM Delegates held in El Salvador on November 13-15 2006, with a view to furthering negotiations on outstanding CIM resolutions and the Declaration of San Salvador and the Legal Instruments of the CIM. Consensus had not been achieved on these documents at the last Regular Assembly. In preparation for this Special Assembly, the Secretariat convened working group meetings for February 6, 2007 and March 5, 2007, respectively, to complete the process. Since CIM's Legal Instruments could not be concluded at the working group level due to the absence of instructions from capitals for participating missions, it was agreed that the matter would be pursued at the level of the CIM Executive Committee in April 2007. The Seventh Special Assembly of CIM Delegates was held in Washington, DC on November 5-7, 2007.

This Special Assembly adopted:

CIM/DEC. 4 (VII-E/07)	Declaration of San Salvador: Gender, Violence and HIV
CIM/RES. 245 (VII-E/07)	"Strengthening the Participation and Political Representation of Women in the Americas."
CIM/RES. 246 (VII-E/07)	"Funding of Travel and Per Diem Expenses of the Members of the Executive Committee of the CIM
CIM/RES. 247 (VII-E/07)	Reform of the Legal Instruments of the Inter-American Commission of Women: Inter-American Commission of Women Statute"

The Summary of Minutes of the Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women has been published as CIM/doc.12/07 rev. 1.

3. THIRTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Medellín, Colombia, June 1-3, 2008)

On April 9, 2008, the Executive Secretariat of the CIM presented, at the meeting of the General Committee, the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women to the General Assembly, classified as CP/doc.4286/08. It was approved without amendments.

At that same meeting, the CIM principal specialist for MESECVI presented the Annual Report of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women, (MESECVI). The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made observations to this report which was subsequently amended and published as CP/doc.4288/08 rev. 1.

On April 23, 2008, the Executive Secretary of the CIM presented the following documents to the General Committee: Report of the Secretary General on Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2323 (XXXVII-O/07), "Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women" CP/doc.4296/08; and the Report of the Secretary General on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality," CP/doc.4288/08. These were approved without discussion.

4. THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Panamá, Republic of Panamá, June 3-5, 2007)

The CIM Permanent Secretariat has prepared and presented the following reports, for presentation at the OAS General Assembly to be held in Panama in June:

a. Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women to the General Assembly of the OAS at its thirty-seventh regular session (CP/doc.4172/07 rev. 1), presented by Executive Secretary to the Permanent Council on March 15, it was adopted without modifications.

b. Report on the Implementation of the Follow up Mechanism to the Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, Convention of *Belém do Pará* (MESECVI), in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2162 (XXXVI-O/06) (CP/doc.4198/07).

c. Fifth Biennial Report on 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*,'"AG/RES. 2331 (XXXV-O/05) (CP/doc.4205/07).

d. Report of the General Secretary on the Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05) (CP/doc.4122/06).

MEETINGS OF THE 2006-2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

DATE	SESSION	PLACE
April 19-20, 2006	First Regular Session	Washington, D.C.
November 6-7, 2008	Second Regular Session	Washington, D.C.
May 7-8, 2008	Third Regular Session	Washington, D.C.

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

CIM activities during the reporting period were aimed at implementing its 2006-2008 Biennial Work Plan, adopted by the XXXIII Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, as well as the mandates received from the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas.

The priorities were: Women's Human Rights and the Elimination of Violence against Women; Implementation of the Inter-American program on Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

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

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

In December 2006, the preliminary reports were received from the CEVI Experts and were reviewed by the Secretariat. Those requiring further modifications were sent once more to the requisite experts for modifications to be effected in accordance with the criteria adopted at a prior meeting by CEVI. On January 18, 2007 the Technical Secretariat held a meeting with the office of the Secretary General to present among other relevant documents pertaining to the MESECVI, the financial and human resource requirements of the MESECVI in order to garner his support for such. The Secretariat underscored that the two other convention follow-up mechanisms, the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (MEM-CICAD) and the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) were funded and staffed by the OAS. He was also sent a proposal for holding a seminar for CARICOM CNA's and its Experts on the operations of the MESECVI. In January 2007, only 13 preliminary reports had been received. After various strong reminders, the Technical Secretariat received 19 of the 26 Preliminary Reports. So as not to continue delaying the agreed upon work schedule agreed, on February 2, 2007 the Technical Secretariat began the process of sending material to the Competent National Authorities (CNAs) of the respective countries. March 2, 2007 was the deadline for receiving clarifications from the States Party. By April 2007, 26 preliminary reports were completed and comments from some of the CNAs had begun to be received. The Secretariat began to work on the design and publication of an informative pamphlet to publicize the objective and work of MESECVI.

The Secretariat provided support to the Experts in completing the review of the National Reports and also cooperated with the relevant Competent National Authorities (CNA's) in preparation for the Third Meeting of CEVI. This meeting took place in Argentina from July 18-20, 2007 and at the Inaugural Session the Technical Secretariat read welcome remarks on behalf of the CIM President, Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro. After this, remarks were delivered accordingly: Argentine Foreign Ministry's Special Representative for Women's Affairs, Ambassador Magdalena Faillace; Argentina's Ambassador to Mexico, Maria Cristina de la Garza who also represented the Presidency of the Conference of States Parties; OAS Secretary General, Jose Miguel Insulza and Argentine

Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Culture, Hon. Jorge Tiana. The Plenary sessions approved the country reports. It also approved the draft Hemispheric Report, subject to the appended appropriate corrections being made by the Technical Secretariat and resubmission of the document for review by Experts prior to further distribution. This was carried out by the Technical Secretariat, along with the amendments proposed by the working groups. Country Reports were then resent to CNA's for observation prior to being presented to the Conference of States Parties. On April 16, 2007, a preparatory meeting was convened at which 23 delegations participated. Following this preparatory meeting, the Technical Secretariat distributed the preliminary Agenda and draft Rules of Procedure of the Conference to the OAS Missions for comment. None was received.

In September 2007, the Technical Secretariat wrote to the Director of External Relations informing of 3 MESECVI projects requiring funds for execution. Among them being the construction of a special webpage for the mechanism to host a civil society interactive forum on issues of gender-based violence; as well as to provide training and seminars.

On October 3, 2007, The CIM President corresponded with Principal Delegates to States party to the Convention of Belem do Para (Note No. 10-061/07) to urge their governments to contribute to.

The Special Fund of the MESECVI due to the dire financial condition of the mechanism. The CIM President also called for delegates to encourage their governments to promote within the framework of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), the establishment of a permanent budget from the OAS Regular Fund as per the other follow-up mechanisms.

In July 2007, the English and Spanish copies of an informational brochure on the work and objectives of MESECVI were printed with a view to translating and publishing said brochure in French and Portuguese.

The MESECVI Secretariat continued to implement the decisions arising from the Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the MESECVI, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from July 18 to 20, 2007. The results of the meeting are provided in the final minutes, which can be found on the CIM website, under MESECVI: http://www.oas.org/cim/Spanish/MESECVI-indice.htm. The Technical Secretariat concluded the preliminary draft hemispheric report and sent it to the Experts for final review. The Experts effected the changes suggested by the corresponding working groups in their country reports. On October 18, 2007 the country reports were sent to the Competent National Authorities for comments. Thirteen authorities forwarded their comments. A consultant was contracted to prepare the indicators to follow-up on the experts' recommendations to the governments and this allowed for work to commence on the indicators. In January 2008, after consultations with the Coordinator and the Secretariat, the final text of the indicators was received to be sent to the Experts for their comments.

During the second regular meeting of the Executive Committee, Ambassador Nelson Pineda, Alternate Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OAS, reported on the preparations for the Conference of States Parties. He explained that due to national matters, the Conference would have to be postponed. On February 27, 2008, Ambassador Nelson Pineda, Alternate Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OAS, sent a note to the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism confirming the offer to host the Conference of States Parties, and

scheduling it for April 10 and 11, 2008. However, due to scheduling conflicts, it was agreed between the Technical Secretariat and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to postpone the event until July 2008. On April 16, 2008, the preparatory meeting for the Conference of States Parties was held, with participation of 23 delegations. At this meeting, the preliminary draft Agenda and Rules of Procedure were discussed. Some comments and proposals were received, which were incorporated into the documents to be adopted in the Conference. The Secretariat distributed the preliminary draft Rules of Procedure of the Conference to all the Permanent Missions, with a view to arriving at the Conference with a consolidated document.

On December 28, 2007 the Secretariat informed the principal delegates to the CIM, the permanent missions, and the experts that Flor de Lis Vázquez had concluded her assignment at the MESECVI.

Also in December 2007, the Secretariat made a presentation to the CAUCUS of Caribbean ambassadors to inform them of the progress being made with the Mechanism, the appointment of experts and National Competent Authorities, and the comments made by the CAN's of their countries and to reiterate the need to strengthen the participation of all countries of this sub-region.

As of the date of this report, the MESECVI has 29 experts and 28 Competent National Authorities (CNAs). With regard to the First Multilateral Evaluation Round launched in November 2005, the evaluation questionnaire prepared by CEVI, was forwarded to the CNAs of twenty-eight States Parties. The CNA's answered the respective questionnaire which facilitated the Experts in preparing 28 preliminary country reports. Fourteen (14) CNA's sent in comments to these preliminary reports.

In July 2008, within the framework of the First Round of evaluation, the MESECVI completed the stage of State Party evaluation with the adoption of the country reports and the Hemispheric Report by the Conferences of States Parties. Both documents contained recommendations to the states for better implementation of the Convention. The Conference also adopted the Decisions, Conclusions, and Agreements of the Second Conference of States Parties to MESECVI.

The Fourth Meeting of Experts was held in Washington, D.C. on August 13 to 15, 2008. It began with the official launch of the Hemispheric Report and the holding of a **Seminar on Strategies for Monitoring Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) to the Governments.** Taking part in the meeting were eminent specialists of international organizations, civil society, and academia, who presented to the CEVI their suggestions for developing strategies to monitor the implementation of the recommendations made to the governments in the Hemispheric Report. In view of the event's success, the presentations have been made available on the CIM webpage, in the MESECVI section. The Committee approved the indicators for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

In late August 2008, the Secretariat forwarded to the permanent missions to the OAS and the CNAs the document containing the indicators for monitoring implementation of the CEVI's recommendations, which is to be returned by the States Parties with the information requested by November 30, 2008.

The MESECVI Secretariat continued to do research on feminicide/femicide and also worked on the draft declaration on Femicide. At the Fourth Meeting of Experts was held in Washington, D.C. on August 13 to 15, 2008, the Committee considered and then approved the Declaration on Femicide.

At present, this First Round is at the stage of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the CEVI to the states; and the estimated completion date is mid-2009.

The complete report on the MESECVI's activities can be found in CIM/doc.9/08

2. Femicide/Feminicide

On March 29, 2007 the Permanent Secretariat received a visit from the attorneys Andrea Medina Rosas and Andrea de la Barrera, of CLADEM/Mexico. They presented a recently produced CLADEM paper on: *Monitoring Femicide/Feminicide in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama*. Dr. Medina delivered electronic copies of the document to the Permanent Secretariat, for distribution to CIM Delegates. It was agreed that she would present on the subject at the Executive Committee in April 2007.

3. Trafficking in Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in the Americas

CIM continues working with the Public Security Department to ensure that the gender perspective is included in projects and activities to combat Trafficking in Persons, especially Women, Adolescents and Children. The CIM Anti-Trafficking Focal Point met with Mr. Fernando Garcia, Anti-Trafficking Coordinator on March 20, 2007, to further explore collaboration between CIM and this Unit on maintaining a gender perspective in the ongoing work of the Unit, now that Trafficking in Persons was no longer under the remit of the CIM. Possibilities were discussed for collaboration on future projects.

In October 2007, CIM again met with the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, who reported the results of a workshop for legal experts in Spanish-speaking countries that took place on August 21-22, 2007, in Colombia. There was a sharing of best practices within the legal framework aimed at combating trafficking in persons from the standpoint of prevention, protection and reporting of traffickers. A gender perspective, it was highlighted, is essential to these efforts, and special attention was paid to the legal provisions on prevention, protection and prosecution. A proposal was made to assign 1% of the general budget for prevention and the protection of victims. Further to a meeting in Vienna on October 2-4, 2007, organized by the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a regional workshop was held to develop model laws. The results of this meeting were included in the documentation for the meeting of Central American legislators held October 3-4, 2007, in Guatemala to review laws against trafficking in persons in Central America. Participants prepared a model sub-regional legal framework to deal with trafficking in persons. Although the document is not binding, its aim is to raise awareness of human rights among legislators, focusing on the inclusion of a gender perspective when bills include protection and prevention components. The gender perspective was limited to references in three panels. However, the Alternate Delegate of El Salvador in the group dealing with protecting victims spoke about the need to include a gender perspective in this model legal framework.

In February 27-29, 2008, the Unit on Anti-Trafficking in Persons hosted a sensitization and capacity-building seminar for CARICOM law enforcers and public functionaries, including parliamentarians entitled: *"2008 Caribbean Anti-Trafficking in Persons Awareness Raising"*. CIM, through its Trafficking Focal Point, was invited to make a presentation on: *Engendering Sex Trafficking*. The presentation stressed the importance of including the gender perspective to anti-trafficking efforts as well as CIM's extensive work in anti-trafficking efforts in women and children. It also addressed the demand and supply networks which are predominately male and concluded with recommendations which underscored the empowerment of women and girls at the social, political, economic and fiscal levels of society.

CIM's Anti-Trafficking Focal Point has continued to receive progress reports from the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. The Unit held consular training in eleven (11) countries of Latin American and the Caribbean between January-March 2008. In March 2008, the Unit informed that it had developed a toolkit on guidelines for the identification of victims and potential victims of TIP. This toolkit is to be utilized as part of the curricula of diplomatic and consular schools. CIM had not been consulted for technical input on the development of this toolkit, which has resulted in the absence of the gender perspective being an integral part of this important instrument.

4. Multi-centric Project on Drugs, Women and Violence in Latin America

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) invited the CIM, the Department of Public Security, and other OAS bodies to form a working group to participate in a meeting held on February 14, 2008 at OAS headquarters. The meeting discussed the focus to be given to an initiative to extend the project: *Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas - A Multi-centric Pilot Study* carried out by CICAD, so as to include research on the issue in all 34 member States. The CIM had collaborated with CICAD on this pilot study which was carried out in 2007. This is a project CICAD proposes to carry out jointly with the Canadian Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH-Canada). The CIM is to provide technical support to the project. The working group held additional meetings. CICAD was informed of the topics and variables that should be included in the project proposal, the first version of which will be presented to the CICAD governments for consideration at the next meeting of that Commission. At present, the Spanish version of the results of the multi-centric project is available, while the English is still being translated for later distribution from CICAD.

5. Gender aspects of HIV/AIDS

One of the priorities established for the 2006-2008 biennium by the 33rd Assembly of Delegates is addressing the gender aspects of HIV/AIDS. *The Declaration of San Salvador: Gender, Violence and HIV*, adopted by the Seventh Special Assembly of CIM Delegates in November 2007, examines the HIV pandemic from a gender and human rights perspective, considers the close link between violence against women and HIV, and mentions the social implications of the pandemic, making recommendations to the OAS member states to combat its effects on women.

A working paper entitled: *The Economic Impact of HIV/AIDS and Gender-Related Differentials Considerations for the Caribbean* was prepared and reviewed. On March 27, 2007, the Executive Secretariat met with the Director of the HIV Office of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), to explore the possibility of developing a strategic alliance on the subject.

a. *Projects on HIV and Violence against women*

In view of the need for an in-depth analysis of the intersection between gender violence and HIV, two projects, one for Central America and one for the Caribbean were prepared in 2007 to address the integration of policies and programs on preventing, addressing, and treating both scourges. The objectives of these initiatives is to contribute to national and regional efforts to reduce the prevalence of both HIV and violence against women (VAW) in the sub-region, as well as the negative consequences on the health and human development of women, their families and their communities. They aim to develop comprehensive strategies for integrating interventions on HIV and VAW, and to develop pilot programmes for implementing the strategy. They both involve the implementation of a model of integrated services which can be scaled up and replicated in other countries in the sub-region and the establishment of sub-regional networks to support the exchange of information. Institutional partners include PAHO, UNIFEM, and NGOs.

Strengthening Capabilities to Integrate Services for HIV and Violence Against Women in the Caribbean – A Pilot Project will develop pilot experiences in the Commonwealth of Dominica and Barbados. It is funded by the Governments of China, Korea and France. Activities to date include the development of a study on knowledge; attitudes and practices (KAP) of service providers in HIV and VAW in Barbados; a preliminary study on Masculinities, gender-based violence and HIV in The Bahamas; and the implementation of an online capacity-building training course on *Empowerment, Violence and HIV* for 34 service providers from ten different countries in the Caribbean. The University of West Indies HIV/AIDS Response Programme (UWIHARP) of the Cave Hill Campus is currently carrying out a needs assessment study for both pilot countries.

Integration of Policies and Programs on HIV and Violence Against Women from a Human Rights Perspective in Central America is to be carried out over 2008-2009 in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama, with funding from the Spanish International Corporation Agency. Activities on this project started in September 2008 as soon funds became available. To date, work has begun with the country coordinators in Guatemala and Honduras on the mapping of actors, situational analysis of HIV and VAW and on establishing the baseline information. The design of the resource center on HIV and VAW for Central America, preparation of directories and installation of the listserv are also underway.

b. *Men and Masculinities CARICOM Study*

In February 2008, Dr. Ian Bethell Bennett was contracted to produce research on the topic: *Men, Masculinities, Gender-based Violence and HIV* to incorporate the perspective of men into CIM's work on HIV and gender-based Violence. The CIM Secretariat decided to address this topic in response to CARICOM's major challenges of male underachievement, men at risk and male marginalization. The pilot study on the Anglophone Caribbean focuses on men and young men in the Bahamas and the Commonwealth of Dominica.

As part of this initiative on March 24, 2008, CIM's Executive Secretary, its Masculinities Consultant and HIV Specialists met with the Coordinator of the Gender, Ethnicity and Heath Unit of PAHO, Marijke Velzeboer and PAHO Advisor Lilia Lara to

discuss collaboration on the two projects already developed by the CIM on HIV and Violence Against Women. PAHO's objective was to provide gender mainstreaming and training throughout its programmes in the Caribbean in collaboration with the CIM since it had identified many gaps and overlaps in the work in the sub-region. The CIM Executive Secretary highlighted the work being done in Masculinities, Violence and HIV and the PAHO Coordinator was very interested in collaboration on the Masculinities research and informed of two training sessions on Health and HIV for PAHO Focal Points and Heads of Gender Machineries in the Caribbean and Central America. As a result of this meeting, the CIM Consultant on Masculinities was invited to participate as a facilitator in a workshop held in Barbados on July 14-18, 2008, which involved examination of an unpublished PAHO 2008 Manual on Gender Mainstreaming in Health. Using some of his findings on masculinity he addressed gender blindnesses in the health system, especially with regard to men, and ways to transform the health system along gender lines.

Later, as part of his research, the Consultant travelled to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on June 27, 2008 for the Inaugural Meeting of the PANCAP Working Group to *Establish a Caribbean Working Group on Masculinities, Gender Equality and Social Policy* organized by UNIFEM – Barbados and partners, including the University of the West Indies. At that meeting, it was agreed that Dr. Bethell Bennett would serve as Interim Chair of the Working Group. The Consultant also travelled to the Bahamas in June 2008 to do fieldwork and met with a range of service providers in health and gender. The outcome of this CIM research on men and masculinities will be the formulation of projects and policy recommendations for member states of CARICOM. The research project will then be replicated in other member states of CARICOM. Another phase of this project will be to conduct a study of masculinities in Central America. Since research is still ongoing, the findings will be presented to first Executive Committee Meeting of 2009.

A complete report on the HIV projects can be found in CIM/doc.12/08 rev. 1.

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

1. Follow-Up on SEPIA I – Labor and Gender

The Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas includes a commitment by heads of state and elected governments of the Americas to eliminate gender discrimination in the labor sector and develop equitable employment opportunities for men and women, with special attention paid to gender needs. The Summit mandates are the basis for developing initiatives to provide women, especially those living in poverty, with decent and productive jobs and to adopt key strategies that will achieve effective results in reducing poverty.

In collaboration with the OAS Department on Social Development and Employment, CIM developed a regional project to be implemented with the support of the Canadian Government. This proposed project would promote gender-mainstreaming in labor policies and programs, within the context of the **Plan of Action of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (CIMT)** and the SEPIA I initiative, in compliance with the mandates of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

CIM's Labor Specialist worked with the Social Development and Employment Department of the General Secretariat of the OAS on a strategic guidelines proposal to include gender perspective in employment policies and programs within the region.

At the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) held from September 11 to 13, 2007 in Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro, as President of CIM and Minister of Labor and Empowerment of Antigua and Barbuda, took this special opportunity to present the document titled: *Strategic Guidelines for Advancing Gender Equality and Nondiscrimination within the Framework of Decent Work*. Her presentation was very well received by the delegates and gave rise to a number of comments, many in support of her position. Dr. Quinn-Leandro reviewed gender gaps in employment in the Americas, the sexual division of labor, gender discrimination in the labor market, the specificity of women's employment and their induction into the labor force, and the effects of the productive and reproductive role of women. Lastly, the President of CIM called for a joint meeting of Ministers for Women's Affairs and Ministers of Labor in order to deal with the subject at the highest government level. The Ministers adopted the proposal as part of their Work Plan.

Following up on this XV IACML and the CIM President's presentation on the proposal for *Strategic Guidelines of the XV IACML for Advancing Gender equality within a Decent Work Framework* for the gender mainstreaming, concrete components of a project on gender were established. These include: To elaborate a study on the institutionalization of gender in the Ministries of Labor, where the different types of offices, units and/or commissions that deal with gender issues within the Ministries will be analyzed; to continue with the identification of programs on gender implemented by the Ministries of Labor, in order to include them in the RIAL Portfolio of Programs; to carry out a Hemispheric workshop on this subject in the framework of the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL); and to explore the execution of high-level dialogues between authorities in women's mechanisms and Ministries of Labor on a sub-regional level. These components have been developed by the RIAL Technical Secretariat in collaboration with the CIM and the ILO.

On December 03-04, 2007, the IACML Planning Meeting was held in Washington, DC. The objectives of the meeting were: to determine the IACML Calendar of Activities for 2008-2009 and to define the functioning of the RIAL. The CIM attended this meeting. One of the activities to take place will be a workshop on gender mainstreaming to be held in Guyana in 2009.

Project proposal

A major proposal on gender and labor to be funded by Canada has been developed within the framework of the OAS/CIDA Cooperation 2008-2011 Work Plan. Titled *Strengthening of women's rights and promotion of gender equality Phase I- Advancement of gender equality within a decent work framework, t*his proposal is intended to support implementation of the "Strategic Guidelines for Advancing Gender Equality within a Decent work Framework", adopted by the Ministers of Labor at the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (Trinidad and Tobago, 2007). The OAS Department of Social Development and Employment and the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL) will work alongside the CIM to develop the Strategic Guidelines. Execution of this project is scheduled to begin as soon as funding becomes available

2. Follow-up on SEPIA IV - Gender, Science and Technology

Fifth Regular Session of the Inter-American Commission on Science and Technology (COMCYT): CIM's Executive Secretary and staffers took part in the special session on the gender perspective in science and technology held during the Fifth Regular Session of the Inter-American Commission on Science and Technology (COMCYT) at headquarters on September 20-21, 2007. CIM's Executive Secretary made a presentation on the: *Gender Perspective in Science and Technology*. Participants included: Dr. Glenda P. Simms of Simms Consulting in Jamaica, who spoke about including women in science and technology and examining the effect of violence against women and how it is perpetuated through the use of technology and reproductive technologies; and Dr. Shirley Malcolm of the Gender Advisory Board of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), who addressed the need to include as well, in work done on these issues, men who suffer discrimination by reason of their race, culture or ethnicity. Dr. Malcolm recommended mechanisms at the national level to evaluate science and technology differentials from the standpoint of race, class and culture.

The CIM attended the planning meeting *Leadership and Gender Training for Women Researchers in AIDS and Environmental Health Sciences*, organized by the Pan American Health Organization, the National Institutes of Health and FLACSO, which was held September 3-5 in Washington, DC. The purpose of this meeting was to analyze the "Virtual Training and Mentoring Program for Iberic-American Researchers in Health Sciences," developed the UNESCO Regional Chair on Women, Science and Technology in partnership with the FOGARTY International Center, NIH, and adapt it to two specific communities: researchers and professionals who work on gender and HIV/AIDS and researchers and professionals who work on gender and Environmental Health. A *Leadership and Gender Training* conference for women scientists working on HIV throughout the Region was proposed. This idea has been taken up by the organizers of the meeting, who informed that funds could be requested from the NIH to finance an initiative of this nature. As a follow up, CIM officials met with Tamara Lewis Johnson, Women's Health Program manager of the Office of Special Populations and Research training of the NIH, to discuss possible collaboration. The CIM expressed its interest in assisting with the planning of a Hemispheric Gender and Leadership Training meeting for women scientists.

In July 2008, The CIM Executive Secretary met with Mr. Clovis Baptista, CITEL Director, also Director of Science and Technology, to discuss the 2008 COMCYT Ministerial of October 27-28, 2008 and possible input of a gender perspective into this meeting. CITEL was working with the national machineries and councils on Science and Technology in developing strategies to be presented at this meeting. In 2004, COMCYT had adopted CIM's recommendations for incorporating gender into science and technology as part of its hemispheric initiatives. However, these have yet to be implemented. CITEL also spoke of collaboration on a project which the Department of Science and Technology is undertaking with a French company focused on research and development to provide an annual scholarship to a woman scientist of the Americas.

3. Gender Mainstreaming within the OAS

In keeping with the mandate of the IAP to integrate a gender perspective in the execution of programs and activities by all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, the CIM developed a proposal within the framework of the OAS/CIDA Cooperation 2008-2011 Work Plan, to continue the work on gender mainstreaming already carried out at the OAS. Titled *Incorporation of Gender Analysis and Gender Equity and Equality as Cross-cutting Topics and Objectives in all OAS programs*, the project builds on a previous initiative sponsored by the government of Canada to provide training to OAS staff on gender analysis and gender equity and equality so that they can be integrated as crosscutting topics and objectives in all OAS programs. This project will focus on providing training and developing indicators for specific programs and issues not previously addressed, as well as virtual courses on gender mainstreaming that can be given on a regular basis to staff and outside participants, and an on-line information System including a virtual library, forums and interactive gender tools for consultation by OAS staff. Execution of this project is scheduled to begin as soon as funding becomes available.

4. Gender, Natural Disasters and Climate Change

The First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) was held on September 24, 2007, at the Headquarters of the Organization, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary General. At this meeting were the highest level officials of the Inter-American System, as well as the Executive Secretary of the CIM; the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH,) the Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF). In addition, other participants of the Committee meeting included high officials from sub-regional intergovernmental organizations: the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) of Jamaica, the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM); the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR); International Financial Institutions; and various international development agencies partners of the OAS. The objective of the meeting was to enhance the cooperation among the key institutional actors of the Inter-American System, the UN System, and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations, so that coordinated policies and programs are formulated and jointly implemented.

a. *Study on Gender and Natural Disasters*

The CIM prepared a document titled: *Gender Mainstreaming in Natural Disaster Mitigation and Response in Latin America and the Caribbean*. This study examines women's particular vulnerabilities in the face of natural disasters; natural disaster mitigation and response and emphasizes the role played by women as active and ingenious participants in responding to disasters. Within the framework of the OAS, it also outlines the efforts of the various political bodies of the Organization on this topic. The study identifies the gaps that persist and challenges confronting the Hemisphere in this area. Ultimately, it sets forth some guidelines for inclusion in a hemispheric strategy on the topic. These include: The necessity of basing the short- and long-term emergency response on gender-specific knowledge, observations, and data gathered by mixed-sex teams during field assessments; the importance of ensuring that girls and women have equal access to relief and reconstruction resources; the relevance of preparing short- and long-term interventions to promote gender equality and

increase disaster-recovery capacity in the case of disasters that include, among others, the participation of groups of women who work on development projects; recognizing the practical necessities and strategic interests of women in the moment of crisis; giving attention to the most urgent needs of the population; and the stressing of norms and principles to ensure that policies about disaster mitigation and response are grounded in specific knowledge about girls and women, boys and men in particular contexts.

b. *Study on Gender and Global Warming*

Under the topic of climate change, a study has been conducted on the gender aspects of global warming. This preliminary research explores the relationship between climate change and gender, with a view to making recommendations on the best means and methods to mainstream gender into public policies on climate change. The effects of climate change are described generally and then more specifically within the context of one of the populations most negatively affected by this phenomenon: women. The role of women in adaptation and mitigation is analyzed, as are their contributions to risk management and search mitigation. Finally, an appeal is made for equity in the development of public policies designed to counter the adverse effects of climate change, including suggestions as to some of the factors that should be taken into account during this task.

5. Gender and Migration

CIM's Executive Secretariat took part in the Special Meeting of the Permanent Council on *Migratory Populations and Migration Flows in the Americas*, held on May 2, 2007 pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2248 (XXXVI-0/06) to "consider, analyze and discuss human migration flows, their impact on the member states and their connection with the human rights of migratory workers and their families." Participants included the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, the Permanent Representative of Belize, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Regional Office for North America and the Caribbean, the directors of the Social Development and Employment Department, the Secretariat of the Summits of the Americas, the Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission to Combat Terrorism, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Permanent Representative of Brazil, as Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Matters, presented the report on the results of the *Special Meeting on Implementation of the Inter-American Program to Protect the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migratory Workers and their Families.*

a. <u>Inter-American Program on the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and their Families</u>

The Inter-American Program on Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and their Families, approved at the XXXV General Assembly (AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05) assigns certain jobs to the CIM. This program is specifically designed to address the special needs of vulnerable groups of migrants, including women, indigenous persons, Afro-descendents and the handicapped. The program asks CIM to i) conduct research on the migration of women and its effects on the family structure, the employment market and migration controls, among others; and ii) develop programs and policies to protect migrant women and their families. In line with this mandate, the subject was included in the CIM's Work Plan for the 2006-2008 biennium.

On March 7, 2008 the CIM gave a presentation at the annual meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council on the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants. It reported on activities carried out and those under way at the CIM, in pursuit of the mandates issued in that program. It also included some recommendations in case the program should be modified, such as the need to prioritize issues, defining indicators for assessing progress, and mainstreaming the gender perspective as a cross-cutting theme.

i. *Case Studies: Female Migration in El Salvador and Nicaragua*

The CIM Secretariat drafted a document presenting two case studies on the phenomenon of female migration in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The study examines the positive impacts of female migration on their families and also explores the positive effects of monetary and social remittances on the families of migrant women from these two emigrating countries. Both countries have high out-of-country migration due to high unemployment and weak economies, so the approach in both cases stresses the characteristics of women's migration highlighting the positive aspects of that migration on the families in the communities of origin as well as on the women themselves. It also focuses on the problems that women encounter when migrating with or without legal documentation, and highlights the difference between monetary and social remittances, as well as the areas these remittances affect. CIM has completed the final review of two studies done in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

ii. *Digital Library on Migration and Gender*

At the time of this report, the CIM is in the process of developing a virtual library of best practices in the areas of gender and migration. The CIM will also make available on its Web page a digital library on the topics of migration and gender. The library contains information on the following, *inter alia*: inter-American and international legal instruments on migration, major international organizations involved in migration and gender issues, international databases and digital libraries; related conferences, symposia, and seminars; recent publications and articles; and a list of NGOs working in the area.

iii. *Course on Gender and Migration*

The CIM Migration Specialist has had successful meetings with the OAS Department of International Law for the purpose of organizing in conjunction with this Department a special course on Gender and Migration as part of the specialized courses held by the Permanent Council. This course is to be held in 2009.

b. Special Committee on Migratory Matters

On October 24, 2007, a regular meeting the Permanent Council established the Special Committee on Migratory Matters chaired by the Permanent Representative of Uruguay, Ambassador María del Luján Flores. On May 7, 2007, CIM's Executive Secretary and staff members took part in a meeting with the Chair to discuss the need to make migration a transversal theme of the OAS agenda. Following this, on December 10, 2007, the Executive Secretary of the CIM met again with the Chair to discuss how to include the gender perspective in the deliberations of that working group.

On January 22, 2008, during a regular meeting of the Special Committee on Migration, the CIM Executive Secretary presented a document on migration and the gender aspects that should be considered in the committee's future work. The report included: giving migration priority status on international agendas; links between migration, poverty, social and economic development; differences in the migration of women; the importance of remittances, the effects – positive and negative – of women's migration and the need, when devising and implementing public policies, to consider not only the effect on men but on women, so as to fully meet the needs of both. CIM's recommendations were incorporated into the Special Committee work plan on the topic and the program was approved at the meeting of March 13, 2008.

On March 7, 13, and 21, 2008, the CIM attended the meetings of the Special Committee on Migration Issues of the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the OAS Permanent Council as an observer.

On April 17, 2008 the Special Committee on Migration convened the Special Forum on Migration Issues, attended by the permanent representatives to the OAS and by high-level officials of the countries. The forum consisted of panel discussions, for which permanent representatives of the missions served as moderators. The First Panel was on Migration Trends in the Americas; the Second Panel: Migration and Human Rights and the Third Panel: Migration: Economic, Health, Labor, Social, and Cultural Aspects.

c. Other Activities

On January 17, 2008, CIM's Migration Specialist met with Bertha Fernández, of the IOM, to explore possibilities for increased cooperation among the two organizations. The CIM informally presented the proposal on the migration observatory in Costa Rica and its potential for expansion to other Central American countries such as Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. The CIM also prepared a project proposal for circulation among the national offices of the IOM and their counterparts to identify potential donors.

On February 6, 2008, CIM's Migration Specialist met with the Director of the OAS Department of International Law, Mr. Dante Negro. It was agreed that the central theme of the annual course of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS Permanent Council for 2009 would be migration and women.

On February 20, 2008, the CIM participated in a planning meeting for the special meeting on migrant workers and their families, organized by the Department of International Law of the Secretariat General, to report to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on progress by each area on this matter.

On February 21, 2008, the Executive Secretary met with the OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs to discuss the mandates of the Inter-American Program on the Human Rights of Migrants and Their Families, and for an exchange of views on achieving participation by, and coordination with, the various areas of the General Secretariat.

6. Public Budgets with a Gender Perspective

In September 2007, CIM's Executive Secretary and officials of the OAS Office in Nicaragua made a presentation to the Central American Council of Ministers for Women's Affairs (COMCA) on the project named Municipal Finances with Gender Equity coordinated by CIM in that country for the past two years. In light of the success of the project to date, the Ministers requested a sub-regional technical meeting to analyse the possibility of extending it to the rest of the region. This meeting took place on October 23, 2007 in Managua, Nicaragua, and was attended by representatives of the national mechanisms of Costa Rica, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic, as well as the head of the OAS Office in Nicaragua, project staff, and one CIM official. The experts reviewed the project and exchanged information on the experience gained in other countries of the sub-region. A work plan was agreed on and a first draft of a possible sub-regional program on gender perspective in public finances was drawn up.

In November 2007, at the second session of CIM's Executive Committee, the head of the OAS Office and the coordinator of the project in Nicaragua made a presentation that was received with great interest by the delegations. Subsequently, on January 23-24, 2008, there was an exploratory visit to Costa Rica to present the experience of the Costa Rican National Women's Institute (INAMU) to officials of the cantons. The INAMU Minister proposed joint efforts. As a result of meetings held with the Council of Ministers for Women's Affairs of Central America (COMMCA), a line of action was defined and an initial draft was prepared to extend the Project: *Participation and Gender Equity in Public Municipal Finances in Nicaragua* to a sub-regional level. This project was a joint development of the CIM and the OAS Nicaragua Office.

In view of the success achieved, from April 16 to 18, 2008 a Costa Rican delegation visited Nicaragua to observe the methodology for implementing the project. The Executive Secretary participated in this visit and met with the OAS Office in Nicaragua staff and other representatives of the government of Nicaragua who are involved in the project.

7. Women, Peace and Security

a. *Initiative for Inclusive Security's Ninth Annual Policy Forum*

On January 22, 2008**,** with CIM co-sponsorship, the Initiative for Inclusive Security held its Ninth Annual Policy Forum in Washington, D.C.**,** which focused on women in the security sector. The CIM Executive Secretary, staff and special guests attended the event, which included as participants senior women leaders from Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, Liberia, and the Middle East who play key roles at the highest levels of decision-making in the security sector. The CIM participated in the Colombia roundtable led by María Isabel Nieto Jaramillo, Deputy Minister of Interior in the Ministry of Justice and Interior; with María Emma Wills Obregón, Head of the Department of Gender and Women of the Historical Memory Commission. CIM provided input to the recommendations drafted by the Colombian delegation for elevating the participation of women in the security sector in their country.

b. *Meeting with the Haitian Delegation*

On January 23, 2008, on invitation by the OAS Assistant Secretary General, the delegation of Haitian women leaders participating in the Initiative for Inclusive Security colloquium, met with OAS Ambassadors and OAS Directors of Hemispheric Security and officials to discuss possible collaboration in efforts to build peace in Haiti. The women briefed those in attendance on their work, the status of the security situation in Haiti and also presented their recommendations for increasing women's involvement in efforts to enhance security and stability. The Haitian Delegates were Senator Evelyne Cheron, member of the National Senate of Haiti, Commissar Marie Louise Gauthier, head of police in charge of gender at the National Police of Haiti (PNH), Ms. Marie Yolene Gilles, Deputy Director of the National Coalition for Human Rights, an NGO, and Dr. Gessy Cameau Coicou, former Chief of Internal Affairs and former Director of the Forensic Division at PNH. OAS Ambassadors and Officials had the opportunity to inform the delegation of their work and its relevance and applicability for Haiti.

c. *Publication of the Curriculum for the Workshop on Gender, Conflict, and Peace-Building*

During the period covered by this report, CIM met with representatives of *The Initiative for Inclusive Security* to finalize the project. It was decided to publish the course materials, make them available to all interested parties, and facilitate replication of that project. A consultant was hired to review and edit the presentations and the teaching materials. The curriculum on Gender, Conflict and Peace building resulting from the training workshops held in Peru in 2005 and Guatemala in 2006 was published. The purpose of the curriculum is to facilitate replication of the workshop in Spanish-speaking countries. The curriculum was formally presented on May 8, 2008, during the III Executive Committee Meeting. It includes a Manual for Participants; a Trainer's Manual and an extensive list of resources. It has been published on the CIM web page and distributed in DVD format. The CIM expects to work with the newly created OAS Peace Fund and the Peace Mission to Colombia to explore the possibility of replicating the training course in the future.

d. *The Political Participation of Women*

In the IAP adopted in resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), the governments of the Hemisphere committed to developing decisive strategies for integrating a gender perspective in all spheres of public life as a means of attaining the final goal of promoting and protecting women's human rights and gender equity and equality and achieving equal rights and opportunities for women and men. Likewise, other international fora, such as the Summits of the Americas, the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico, and the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Bolivia, have reiterated the mandate to promote gender equity and equality in all areas.

The presence and retention of a greater number of women in local government positions, the inclusion of their rights in public policies, and access to resources are fundamental for achieving equality between men and women. Women account for just 17.4 percent of the world's parliamentarians. In our Hemisphere, the percentage of women

parliamentarians varies enormously from one country to another, but the hemispheric average is 19.4 percent.

According to studies carried out by INSTRAW, the differences in the extent of women's participation from one country to another in the region are explained by such factors as different quota requirements and ambiguous measures that do not clearly specify the instruments needed to achieve greater participation by women, as well as the nonbinding nature of laws currently in force or the lack of follow-up mechanisms to ensure that they are appropriately enforced.

With the support of the Spanish Government and in order to help overcome those challenges, the CIM intends in November 2008 to embark on a pilot project in the Andean region on quota laws. That initiative aims to analyze the shortcomings in those laws in the countries in which they are in effect and to foster them in countries that still lack such laws. Furthermore, hopefully the participating countries that have such laws will share their experiences with regard to their scope, contents, weaknesses, outcomes, and enforcement in practice. The idea is that this exchange of experiences will provide the grist for a Manual on Best Practices in this field which will include a detailed description of the mechanisms that have proven to be effective in ensuring more effective participation by women in politics.

e. *Vital Voices Guatemala and the Economic Development Mentorship Program for Central American Women Leaders*

From June 23-28, 2008, the CIM joined Vital Voices Global Partnership in Guatemala for the launch of the VV Guatemala Chapter and Central American Network. The chapter seeks to address issues faced by Guatemalan women and girls and was launched officially during a series of meetings in Guatemala City and Antigua, in which chapter founders discussed the importance of their work and the potential impact of their programs and projects in Guatemala. The event included a visit to women artisans in Atitlan, who work with a microenterprise incubator to improve their products and expand their international market. Guests at the launching included: Dr. Carol Lancaster, Director of the Michael and Virginia Mortara Center for International Studies, Georgetown University; María Eugenia Brizuela; Regional Vice-President for Corporate Sustainability for Latin America, HSBC Bank; Karla González, Minister of Communications and Public Works of Costa Rica, and member of the Aspen Institute; Eddie Magnus, correspondent of 'USA Today', Carmen Irene Alas, 'Estrategia y Negocios' magazine and member of the Aspen Institute network, and Arturo Condo, Director of the INCAE Business School in Costa Rica ; among others.

As its first activity the Guatemala VV Chapter launched an Economic Development Mentorship Program for young Central American Women Leaders. The CIM, as a partner in this initiative, mentored two indigenous Guatemalan women, Rutila Ajanel and Leticia Teleguario at the OAS, from Sept 15 to 26, 2008.

Leticia Teleguario, a Kaqchikel Maya, works with USAID, supporting different development programs throughout the country and is in the process of obtaining an M.A. in Business Administration at Preston University. Rutila Ajanel, a K'iche' Maya, worked until recently with the National Peace Fund, where she was in charge of the Council for Women.

Youth and Indigenous People. She is currently a third year student of Political Science at Rafael Landivar University. Both young women coordinate a network of mostly Mayan women and youth that seeks to promote social and comprehensive development of their communities as a mechanism to prevent young people from migrating

Their very successful mentorship at the OAS included an interview with the OAS Secretary General, who expressed his support for their projects, as well as meetings with Directors and officials from approximately 20 OAS Departments that deal with the issues concerning political and community participation, women and youth, migrants, human rights, identity and rights of indigenous people, sustainable development and economic development.

C. SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS

The Fifth Summit of the Americas is scheduled for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on April 17-19, 2009 under the theme: *Securing our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability*. In preparation for such, the CIM Secretariat, through its Summit Point of Contact and the Executive Secretary, has held meetings with the OAS Summits of the Americas Office from July to October 2008 to ensure a strong gender focus in this Summit process and that gender is a cross-cutting element of it. The objective of these meetings was to find strategies for building upon the modest successes which the CIM had already realized in steadily deepening the commitment to a gender perspective in past Summits of the Americas. As part of this objective, the CIM President, Dr the Hon Jacqui Quinn-Leandro issued correspondence to the Principal Delegate of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago advising that Minister of Gender, Culture and Community Development, Hon. Marlene McDonald become a part of the Inter-Ministerial Advisory Body of the Fifth Summit. The CIM President also corresponded with all CIM Principal Delegates as well as their respective National Summit Coordinators, to encourage strong collaboration with each other, for the incorporation of a gender perspective into the outcome document of the Fifth Summit. The Draft Declaration of Port of Spain had been considered at the OAS Permanent Council on July 24, 2008.

The Summit of the Americas Office (SAS) proposed collaboration with the CIM Secretariat for the holding of a virtual gender forum for civil society working in the field of gender and development, for NGO's to have input into the Draft Declaration of Port of Spain. This virtual forum will be held following the Third REMIM Meeting convoked for November 13, 2008 in Santiago, Chile to consider the Draft Declaration of Port of Spain as well as progress made in follow-up to the IAP. The recommendations from REMIM III will be presented to the Fifth SIRG Preparatory Meeting in December 2008 and the results of the virtual gender forum for civil society proposed for January 2009 will be sent to the next SIRG meeting, post December 2008.

On September 04, 2008, the CIM Executive Secretariat wrote to Ambassador Luis A. Rodriguez, National Coordinator for the Secretariat for the V Summit of the Americas in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, to request inclusion of CIM President, Dr. Jacqui Quinn Leandro at an upcoming meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG). Cognizant that REMIM III scheduled for November 13, 2008 in Chile would be considering as a main part of its agenda, the Draft Declaration of Port of Spain, the CIM President had expressed a strong interest in the SIRG

Preparatory Meetings and making a presentation - unprecedented for a CIM President - on the importance of continuing to embed a gender perspective into this fifth Summit process and having that amply reflected as a transversal element in the Draft Declaration of Port of Spain. At the SIRG Meeting of October 14-16, 2008 held in Antigua and Barbuda, the CIM President outlined the positive evolution of the engagement, since 1994, between the CIM Secretariat as the technical advisor to the SIRG on gender and the Summits of the Americas, highlighting in particular, the achievements of the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec 2001) where its Plan of Action had given greater visibility to the work of the CIM and also endorsed the IAP which had been adopted by REMIM 1 in 2000. The CIM President also informed of the upcoming REMIM III, which would be considering the Draft Declaration of Port of Spain with a view to making specific recommendations to feed into the Fifth Summit. She then concluded by urging delegations in a results-oriented way to thoroughly cross-cut gender throughout the outcome document of this summit as its commitment to the empowerment and prosperity of all women of the Americas.

D. SPECIAL EVENTS, MISSIONS AND DISSEMINATION

1. 80th Anniversary of the CIM

February 18th, 2008, was the Day of the Women of the Americas and the Eightieth Anniversary of the creation of the Inter-American Commission of Women. The activities held to commemorate this event are reported upon separately in the addendum to this report CIM/doc.4/08 add. 1.

2. Visit of CIM President to OAS Headquarters

President of CIM, Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro made a working visit to OAS headquarters on February 20-23, 2007. During that visit, she made a presentation to the Permanent Council and highlighted the need for adequate human and financial resources to meet CIM's objectives; and also referred to the importance of establishing alliances both within and outside the OAS to work more effectively. The CIM President also had meetings with the Secretary General, Jose Miguel Insulza, and the Assistant Secretary General, Albert Ramdin, in which, among other matters, she discussed the priorities and needs of CIM and requested their support. The CIM President also met with Alfonso Quiñónez, Executive Secretary for Integral Development; Francisco Pilotti, Director of the Department of Social Development and Employment; and Elizabeth Spehar, Director of the Department for Cooperation and Electoral Observation; to exchange ideas and explore the possibility of joint projects. The President also had a meeting with the President of the National Center for Women Policy Studies, Leslie Wolfe and suggested a project on HIV for Caribbean parliamentarians. Additionally, she met with Mercedes Juárez, Director of the Unit on Gender and Ethnicity, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), who suggested an alliance between CIM and PAHO to promote the vaccination against cervical cancer. To this end, the CIM President was invited to make a presentation at the celebration of International Women's Day at PAHO on March 8, 2007. Since the President was unable to return to Washington, DC for that event, with the assistance of the OAS Public Information Office, a video presentation was filmed and shown to the participants on that day. Also with the assistance of the OAS Public Information Office, the President participated in a radio interview, which was broadcast to the CARICOM countries.

- **CIM/PAHO Celebration of International Women's Day:**

The CIM President and Executive Secretary were invited to participate in the special event organized by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): *All Children Count: Cervical Cancer is Preventable* held on March 8, 2007. Since the President was unable to attend, she videotaped her presentation for the participants. The Executive Secretary participated in the event as a presenter.

- **Meeting with the OAS Secretary General**:

The CIM President met with the OAS Secretary General on Friday, June 22, 2007 to discuss, among other things, matters involving the CIM and its effective functioning. In following up to this meeting, The CIM President sent correspondence to the OAS Secretary General, dated June 28, 2007. The CIM President strongly reiterated her appeal for the OAS Secretary General to give serious consideration to the provision of adequate human, technical and financial resources to strengthen the CIM Secretariat's capacity for carrying out its growing mandates - in particular, those recognized as priorities by the member states – and reiterated the concern that CIM projects and programmes be given consideration among the priorities presented to external donors for funding.

- **Death of Colombian Human Rights Activist, Judith Vergana**:

The CIM President extended condolences from the *Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM)* to the Colombian Government and People, including the family of human rights activist, Judith Vergara Correa, President of the Community Action Board of the El Pesebre neighbourhood in the northern city of Medellin. Ms Vergara had been brutally slain on Monday, April 23, 2007. The CIM President expressed horror at the heinous crime which resulted in the death of Ms Vergara, a mother of four.

- **Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA):**

The FIPA Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, in one of its recent projects included a supplement in FIPA's quarterly newsletter, ParlAmericas, (Vol. II, Issue 3, July-September 2007) looking at some of the advances in women's issues throughout our hemisphere, as seen through the eyes of women parliamentarians. The CIM President, who had also participated in a previous FIPA Group of Women Parliamentarians Forum in Barbados; was invited to submit an article from the Caribbean region, culled from her experience as a women in politics in the sub-region.

- **Second Annual GlobalPOWER 2007:**

The CIM President was invited to participate in the 2nd Annual GlobalPOWER Conference for female Members of Parliament and State Legislators in Washington, DC on May 06, 2007. The purpose of this week-long Conference was to launch new strategies to support women's human rights and to combat international trafficking in women and girls. CIM presented its work on the promotion of women's human rights including its pioneering efforts to address the trafficking of women and girls from, through and to the member states of the hemisphere.

- **Global Summit of Women 2008:**

CIM President, Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro, participated in the 18th Global Summit of Women 2008, in Hanoi, Vietnam from June 5-7, 2008. The Summit, officially opened by Vietnamese Prime Minister, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung and Summit President Irene Natividad, hosted over 900 women leaders from 70 countries and provided a global forum for exchanges of effective strategies forged by powerful women in government, business and NGO's. At the Summit, Dr. Quinn-Leandro chaired the first Ministerial Roundtable which focused on Public Private Partnerships for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls. The CIM President also fully endorsed a new initiative called the: *Global Consortium of Women Leaders to End Cervical Cancer,* one of the main themes of this year's Summit and presented a statement on behalf of the women of the Americas, in which she underscored CIM's commitment to the fight against cervical cancer. The CIM President noted that our hemisphere has one of the highest rates of death from cervical cancer, a preventable disease which affects women in the world and concluded by calling for increased and improved public/private partnerships for the distribution of cost-effective measures; especially in HPV vaccines; to eradicate this scourge and dramatically reduce female mortality and vulnerability.

- **Meeting of Experts on Access to Justice**

This event, held on March 7-8, 2007, was sponsored by the Academy of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of American University, the Department for Promotion of Good Governance of the Secretariat of Political Affairs of the OAS, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). Participating in the event were the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Director of the Inter-American Institute on Human Rights (IIDH), in addition to officials from the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA), the Getulio Vargas Foundation of Brazil, the *Razón Pública Bogotá* of Colombia, the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo of Mexico, the Due Process of Law Foundation, Washington DC, and the Director of the OAS Office in Nicaragua, Pedro Vuskovic, who presented the Project on Rural Judicial Facilitators in Nicaragua. The purpose of the meeting was to identify concrete problems and specific solutions in access to justice, and to recommend measures to help surmount obstacles in this area. This forum also proposed recommendations to serve as a basis for public policies on access to justice and was very useful for drawing up lines of action in this area.

- **Caribeana - The Caribbean's Hidden Gender Agenda**

On March 31, 2007 the CIM provided technical support in the area of HIV/AIDS, Trafficking in Women and Children; and Gender-based Violence to VOA's Mr. Von Martin, host of a weekly public radio show in Washington, DC entitled: CARIBEANA. In interviews with CIM Principal Delegates of CARICOM, focus was placed on the challenges and successes in attaining gender equality and equity in various member states: Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia. The CIM president led out the discussion on the topic.

- **Presentation to the Professional Development Center of Howard County, Maryland**

The OAS Department of External Relations invited the CIM to make a presentation to 71 Spanish teachers at the Professional Development Center of Howard County, Maryland on March 23, 2007.

- **Presentation of the OAS Interns Program**

In April 2007, the Department of Human Resources, as part of its internship program, invited the CIM to make a presentation to interns for them to learn about the work of the CIM.

- **Forum on Policies of *The Initiative for Inclusive Security*:**

As in previous years, the CIM co-sponsored the Forum on Policies of *The Initiative for Inclusive Security*, held in Washington, D.C. on January 16, 2007, under the motto *Women in Government: Ensuring the Future*. The Forum explored the challenges, obstacles, and impact of women in leadership positions in governments. The CIM Executive Secretary attended the event, in addition to special guests from CIM. CIM also participated in a round table with Colombian female political leaders, in which they discussed recommendations developed by them to ensure inclusion of women in peace-building in the country.

- **Poverty and Gender: Unexpected Results in Chile and Costa Rica:**

CIM was invited to participate in the event entitled *Poverty and Gender: Unexpected Results in Chile and Costa Rica* organized by the World Bank and held on January 31, 2007 in Washington, D.C. The studies carried out in Chile and Costa Rica showed the critical importance of incorporating reduction of poverty and gender equality in policies, and of increased participation of women in the labor market and economic growth.

- **Colloquium on Diversity at the World Summit on Women**.

On March 9, 2007 the CIM Executive Secretary participated in the Colloquium on Diversity at the World Summit on Women.

- **Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University**:

The CIM Executive Secretary was invited by the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, to lecture at the Center for Public Leadership. While there, she also met with a group of students of the Kennedy School to discuss Inter-American issues.

- **Unit of Gangs, Department of Public Security**:

On March 15, 2007 the CIM met with the Unit of Gangs, Department of Public Security. Prior to this meeting the CIM had attended a seminar on March 07, 2007 on ***'Youth, Violence and Gangs in the Caribbean'***, with a presentation by Professor Julie Meeks-Gardner, Director of the Caribbean Child Development Centre of The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. Said

presentation alluded to a gender dimension in gang culture, in the perpetration of sexual violence on young girls by gang leaders and their emissaries. With reference to this gender perspective, CIM subsequently met with Mr. Julio Rosenblatt Katz, Chief of the Unit on Gangs to discuss possibilities for further collaboration.

- **Logical Framework System for Project Formulation**:

On March 21-23, 2007, CIM participated in the workshop on the Logical Framework System for Project Formulation, organized by the Department for Planning, Control, and Evaluation. This System is a tool for managing project cycles, from conceptualization and design to implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and an aid for greater precision in successful project proposals.

- **Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)**:

On April 03, 2008, CIM Executive Secretary and a CIM Staffer held meeting via conference call with meeting with Rachel Harris of WEDO, an international organization which focuses on Sustainable Development, the Environment and Gender to ensure women's equality in global policy. In its work in developing countries, it focuses on Gender and Climate Change and bringing about national policies on such. WEDO and CIM agreed to explore collaboration on a Seminar in 2009 for the sub-regions of CARICOM and Central America on Women and Natural Disasters and the integration of a gender perspective into national, regional policies, projects and programs.

- **OAS Seminar on Public Security in Latin America:**

On May 3, 2007, CIM participated in the OAS Seminar titled "Public Security in the Americas," which was also attended by Dr. Lucía Dammert, of FLACSO, in Chile. There has been a rise in violence and crime in Chile, especially in domestic violence, school violence, drugs and gangs, resulting in widespread fear among the public. Crime is by nature a many- sided phenomenon prevalent among the young, particularly in urban areas. Dr. Dammert proposed making public security a widely debated issue in Latin America, with discussion of its sub-regional differences and the need to address the serious shortage of statistical data on illegal activities.

- **Forty-First Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission:**

The Executive Secretariat took part in this session held May 2-4, 2007, at OAS headquarters, in which the preliminary studies of the Multicentric Pilot Study on "Drugs, Women and Violence in the Americas" were presented. They include interviews with 889 women from 12 countries to establish the connections between women, violence, and drug abuse.

- **Meeting with the Sustainable Development Department of the OAS:**

On May 8, 2007, a CIM official met with Mr. Cletus Springer, Head of the Caribbean Division, to discuss how to include gender perspective in the work of that department, inasmuch as it is a subject of special interest to the countries of CARICOM. Mr. Springer asked for support in the form of certain tools, such as gender indicators, that will help develop projects at the technical level. With respect to natural disasters, he mentioned a project of considerable importance now being

carried out in the OECS countries by the OAS and the World Bank. Titled Policy and Legislation after Disaster Situations, this project deals with the equitable distribution of resources.

- **Inter-Departmental Meetings on Youth: 2007-2008**

On August 13, 2007, the Executive Secretariat and CIM's Youth Focal Point attended the second interdepartmental meeting Chaired by the OAS Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, to include youth affairs among the transversal themes of the OAS. Regarding the CIM contribution in this area, the Executive Secretariat pointed out that it is carrying out programs on HIV, women, the young, and trafficking in persons. On October 11, 2007 the Assistant Secretary General called a third interdepartmental meeting in which he presented a draft report from the Youth Symposium held September 19-20, 2007. He pointed out the great success of the Symposium and praised the implementation of the recommendations and the preparation of a plan of action for the OAS General Secretariat to mainstream youth throughout the OAS. To that end, Ambassador Ramdin proposed establishing a limited committee to implement those priorities and obtain funding. The CIM spoke about young people at risk and the need to preserve a gender perspective in the work on youth. It reiterated its stance on securing consideration of the issue of the young and HIV/AIDS as part of the growing feminization of the disease. Since health and the young are a priority in terms of achieving results, the Assistant Secretary General asked CIM to work with PAHO on this particular approach.

CIM Executive Secretary and the Youth Focal Point attended the Third Inter-Departmental Meeting on September 08, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up of the OAS Youth Initiatives of 2007 and the Declaration of Medellin on Youth, and its mandates which will determine the work of the OAS in mainstreaming youth. At this meeting SEDI was tasked with functioning as a temporary secretariat for designing and operationalizing an OAS Youth Programme. CIM suggested that its IAP could be used a template for this mainstreaming. CIM updated on its current youth initiatives: the successful completion of the CIM/AMA Photography Contest for young women in the Americas; as well as CIM's research on Men and Masculinities as it relates to gender-based violence and HIV with a focus on young men and young men at risk in CARICOM. The meeting concluded with proposals for developing an OAS youth policy based on the Medellin Declaration and for the commissioning of a hemispheric study on youth as a diagnostic tool.

Following up on this, at the Fourth meeting, on October 23, 2008, CIM was represented by its Youth Focal Point who reiterated its commitment to this new initiative. The Assistant Secretary General offered some recommendations to CIM for work in this area: the empowerment of young women amid the challenges of crime, violence and trafficking in humans; and the enabling of young women to attain political office. The OAS has appointed a new Youth Focal Point, Juliana Bedoya, of the Department of Education and Culture, who will work on the policy framework. A draft concept paper on Mainstreaming Youth in the OAS has been produced for distribution. This is part of developing an Inter-American Strategy on Youth for hemispheric policies and programmes on this. One of the OAS' goals will be to establish a youth network of the Americas with all the focal points of each member state, as well as key youth network organizations, which will constitute our platform for dialogue on youth issues. The YABT will assist in this regard. The OAS' role with regard to member states will be: Capacity-building, Fostering Dialogue among Youth; Technical Assistance and the Building of Partnerships among sister organizations.

- **OAS Youth Symposium and Special Meeting of the Permanent Council on Youth in the Americas**

The Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda, as Chair of the Permanent Council, invited the CIM's Permanent Secretariat to participate in the activities program it had coordinated for this historic event under the theme: *Empowering the Future Leaders of the Americas* which took place on September 19-20, 2007. The CIM's Executive Secretary and one staff member attended this meeting and to commemorate the event, the CIM President, Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro, wrote a lengthy congratulatory letter to the Chair in which she also praised the timeliness of this important meeting and expressed CIM's support for it. On September 19, 2007, prior to the special meeting of the Permanent Council, four interactive panels had been set up to discuss: ways to involve young people in the areas of citizen responsibility and participation in democratic government; employment, entrepreneurial spirit and innovation for the young; opportunities and programs for the development of the young; the lack of services for young people at risk; and education and information technology. CIM's Youth Focal Point served as facilitator for the panel that dealt with the lack of services for the young and for young people at risk and reported on CIM's initiatives with respect to young people in the Americas. The presentation also dealt with CIM's work in gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS and its effects on the young, especially young girls.

- **Meeting of Experts on Indicators to Measure Violence against Women**

Pursuant to a 2007 decision by the UN General Assembly to "intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women." a meeting was held on October 8-10, 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting, attended by CIM's MESECVI Specialist, had been called by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and other agencies of the UN. Key participants were: members of the Statistics Division of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, representatives of PAHO, officials from statistics agencies of various countries, and the academic sector. The focus was on devising quantifiable indicators in the area of gender-based violence and, to a lesser extent, process or program indicators.

- **Proposed Project on Women in New Enterprises (WINE)**

In August and September 2007 a CIM official met with SEDI Specialist Richard Campbell to exchange ideas about a project proposal on Women in New Enterprises (WINE) for CARICOM. The project addresses entrepreneurial training and services for young entrepreneurs in all the OECS countries. CIM will be involved in providing technical support with regard to the gender issues, addressing working women and, in particular, young female entrepreneurs. CIM, SEDI and YABT will work together on the project and once it has been approved by the Project Evaluation Committee (CEP), the first phase will begin with the hiring of a Consultant to effect the needs-assessment of OECS women entrepreneurs.

- **Meeting with PAHO on Youth and HIV/AIDS**

In follow-up to Third Inter-Departmental Meeting on Youth, in which CIM had been tasked with working in collaboration with PAHO on HIV and youth, especially with young women. On November 09, 2007, the Executive Secretary and CIM Youth Focal Point attended a meeting at PAHO Headquarters to discuss the possibilities of collaboration. CIM met with Dr. Mathilde

Maddaleno, Regional Coordinator of the Child and Adolescent Health Unit and Specialist Dr. Ewa Nunez. The Executive Secretary briefed them on our work in HIV and GBV, including the recently signed Declaration on GBV and HIV and the proposed projects for the Caribbean and Central America. She noted the importance of the youth component to any work which CIM is doing in GBV and HIV. Therefore, we would like PAHO's collaboration on our HIV projects, which involve youth. Specialist Nunez wanted to know whether we had planned any work in the critical group of young boys and we informed on one of our proposed areas in the topic of Masculinities and Sexual Culture. Dr. Maddaleno promised to keep CIM informed on PAHO's empowerment project on youth.

- **Roundtable on Women's Empowerment – Countries Closing the Gender Gap**

Two CIM staffers attended this session on November 08, 2007, which examined the work of the World Economic Forum at assess the current size of the gender gap globally in 115 economies that cover over 90% of the world's population. The countries examined in the report include all current and candidate EU countries, 20 from LAC, 20 from SSA and 10 from the Arab world. The Report measures the size of the gender gap in four critical areas of inequality between men and women using mainly publicly available 'hard data' indicators drawn from international organizations and some qualitative information from the Forum's own Executive Opinion Survey. The areas measured included: Economic Participation and Opportunity (outcomes on salaries, participation levels and access to high-skilled employment); Educational Attainment (outcomes on access to basic and higher level education; Political Empowerment (outcomes on representation in decision-making structures) and Health and Survival (outcomes on life Expectancy and sex ratio).

- **US Congressional Briefing on Gender-based Violence and HIV**

On January 24, 2008, a CIM Specialist attended the Congressional Hearing entitled: *Gender-based Violence and HIV - Programs that Work*. The Hearing addressed the twin scourges of Violence against Women and HIV because of the recent debates in the US Congressional Caucus, which have moved the debate from exploring Domestic Violence to looking at the topic of HIV/AIDS within the context of Violence against Women. Congress cited the need for effective interventions based on the intersection between Gender-based violence and HIV, since Violence against Women is a primary driver of the spread of HIV. To this end, two legislative vehicles were to address this: namely the expansion of the PEPFAR Fund and the International Violence against Women Bill. Congress is making some final adjustments to these bills. It was demonstrated how both Violence Against Women and HIV were threatening to overwhelm security in the developing world, so there was need to examine the linkage between Violence against Women and HIV – especially since studies have proven that violence against women leads to increased Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's).

- **US Congressional Session on Women in Politics**

On March 05, 2008, a CIM Specialist attended the US Congressional Session hosted by CHRC and the Inter-Parliamentary Union on *'Women in Politics, the Year in Review: Global Trends and Perspectives'*. The debate centered on many of the obstacles to women's running for office and the fact that the model of governance was predominantly masculine. While women were breaking the political glass ceiling, it was observed that in the military, sports and religion that these areas still remained distrusting of females at the level of leadership. Some of the salient points raised were: the

need for a critical mass of women to lead alongside men, since women tend to bring their particular issues and priorities to the table with them.

- **Activities of the MESECVI Technical Secretariat: 2008**

The National Women's Institute of Uruguay, Interagency Commission for Gender Issues in the International Arena, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with support from the *Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo* [Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation] (AECID) and the CIM, organized the international seminar: *International Agreements as Instruments for Eradicating Violence against Women - The Convention of "Belém do Pará*, held on Thursday, September 11, 2008 in the auditorium of the University of the Republic. The event's most important objective was to present the report of Uruguay approved by the CEVI. Three of the panelists invited to participate were the Coordinator of the CEVI, the Expert of Uruguay, and the MESECVI Technical Secretariat.

The *International Forum to Prevent, Treat, and Punish Violence against Women* was held in Mexico City on October 3, 2008. It was sponsored by the National Women's Institute, the Study Center for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equity of the Chamber of Deputies, UNDP, UNIFEM, and the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs. The meeting's objective was to promote and disseminate international agreements on the issue, as well as to disseminate the recommendations that the Government of Mexico had received from the Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the MESECVI. The following were invited to participate as panelists: the Technical Secretary of the Mechanism, Mexico's National Authority to the MESECVI, one of the CEVI experts, and an ECLAC representative.

The CIM was invited to participate in *OAS Briefing to the Inter-American Defense College* held on August 28 and 29, 2008, to report on activities carried out on the topic: *Gender and Conflict Resolution*. Following the presentation, three break-out sessions were held to enable participants, in smaller groups, to interact with the CIM officials participating in the event.

The CIM was invited to participate in the *First International Meeting on Institution-Building and the Transmission of Best Practices among the Defenders of the People of Ibero-America*, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on September 9 and 10, 2008. The meeting afforded a good opportunity to strengthen ties with the Network of Defenders of Women, which make up the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen and with which, since its inception, the CIM has collaborated through its advisory activities and support.

- **Meeting with PAHO on Gender and Leadership Training**

In August 2008, CIM Executive Secretary met with officials of FLACSO, PAHO, UNESCO, University of Miami and the Flaherty Center. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a pilot project being carried out in Latin America to address a range of issues: gender and leadership training for women scientists and raising awareness of women in scientific research; gender politics in science, boosting the numbers of women in science and advancing the careers of women in scientific endeavour/research. CIM was being invited on board to partner on this project as it is replicated in other sub-regions.

- **Vital Voices of America – "Women as a Bridge to a More Prosperous Future"**

The CIM Executive Secretary attended this Conference held in Argentina from October 05-08, 2008, which brought together key women leaders in politics and business. This Conference marked the 10th Anniversary of the first Vital Voices meeting in Uruguay. Panels included: Women Promoting Health and Safeguarding Human Rights: Combating Violence Against Women; Women in Political Leadership: Fostering Good Governance and Transparency; Women Leading the Path to Sustainability and Public/Private Partnerships, Leveling the Playing Field for Women's Social and Economic Progress and Latin American and Caribbean Women Artisans Export Development Program. The CIM Executive Secretary presented on CIM's work in the intersection of VAW and HIV and was also invited to given an overview on Trafficking in the Western Hemisphere.

- **Meeting with Global Health Partners**

The CIM Executive Secretary attended a series of meetings in New York held on June 17-19, 2008 with an NGO Global Health Partners (GHP). This NGO currently provides training for medical personnel in small towns and villages in Nicaragua. It is teaming up with QIAGEN, INC which is developing its low-cost HPV test in Nicaragua; for sensitization on prevention of cervical cancer through the HPV vaccine. In 2009, QIAGEN, INC wants to host a major event in Chile on HPV Prevention. GHP was inviting CIM to partner with it once the project is more developed and for now CIM introduced GHP to its PAHO contacts.

- **CIM/Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)**

PADF met with the CIM Executive Secretary in June 2008 to discuss collaboration with it on an initiative to honour Ecuadorian Manuela Sanz, hailed by some as Co-liberator of the Americas, alongside Simon Bolivar. PADF's proposal is for the erection of a bust in the Hall of the Americas of Manuela Sanz, which would be the first female to be inducted into the Americas Hall of Heroes.

III. RELATIONS WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

A. THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

1. Within the OAS

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

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR): The CIM regularly exchanges information with the Special *Rapporteurship* on Women of the IACHR and is permanently in touch with it to conceptualize, program and implement its programs, projects and technical cooperation activities.

Department of Public Security. CIM works with this office to ensure inclusion of a gender perspective in the area of trafficking in persons, especially women, adolescents, young girls and boys.

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

Office of Social Development and Employment: The CIM and the OSDE work collaboratively on follow up to SEPIA I- Gender and Labor, and the mandates of the IV Summit of the Americas.

Office of Public Information: this Office disseminated information about CIM activities through press releases, radio programs, and the Internet.

The *Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control*, and CIM began to exchange information on violence against women, drugs and HIV, so as to support the projects carried out by each unit in these areas.

Museum of the Americas: CIM and the Museum are in touch and support each other in developing gender integration in the Museum's programs. They will undertake joint activities this year in connection with the celebration of the 80th anniversary of CIM.

2. Other Inter-American Organizations

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

Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN). The IIN and other organizations cooperate with CIM to prepare the special meeting on HIV.

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

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): The CIM works closely with PAHO on issues involving violence against women, including regional campaigns, and on the gender aspects of HIV/AIDS. As in previous years, CIM worked with PAHO and UNIFEM to launch the international campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, November 25-December 10th, 2007." PAHO is also an institutional partner in carrying out projects on HIV in the Caribbean and Central America in 2008 and 2009.

B. THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM): as in previous years, CIM worked with PAHO and UNIFEM to launch the international campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender

Violence, November 25-December 10th, 2007." UNIFEM is likewise an institutional partner in carrying out projects on HIV in the Caribbean and Central America in 2008 and 2009.

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

International Organization for Migration. Relations with the IOM have intensified because of the new technical cooperation activities carried out by CIM in the area of migration.

UNAIDS. This is one of the institutional partners in carrying out HIV projects in the Caribbean and Central America in 2008 and 2009.

C. CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

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

- *The Initiative for Inclusive Security*: Since 2002 CIM maintains close ties with this program of the Hunt Fund Alternatives to promote women's participation in peace building and conflict and support the implementation in the hemispheric of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). Joint activities have included training workshops on Gender, conflict and peace building in two subregions of Latin America and publication of the relevant training manual to facilitate its replication in Spanish-speaking countries. CIM also co-sponsors and participates in the annual colloquium held every year under the Inclusive Security Initiative.

- *National Hispana Leadership Institute:* The CIM has an ongoing relationship with this organization. The Permanent Secretariat participates all years in the training program for the NHLI Fellows.

- Additionally, some members of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI are members of civil society organizations, such as CLADEM this results in closer interaction and more exchange of information with civil society.

IV. FINANCIAL SITUATION

In this period, the financial situation has been tenuous and will continue to be a source of concern in light of the global financial meltdown which is bound to have an effect on the budgetary situation of the OAS for 2010.

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

ANNEX I: CIM Meetings December 2006 - November 2008

April 16, 2007	Second Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Washington, D.C.
April 19-20, 2007	First Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee Washington, D.C.
July 18-20, 2007	Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Buenos Aires, Argentina
November 5-7, 2007	VII Special Assembly of Delegates of the CIM Washington, D.C.
November 6-7, 2007	Second Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee Washington, D.C.
May 7-8, 2008	Third Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee Washington, D.C.
July 9-10, 2008	Second Conference of States Parties of the MESECVI Caracas, Venezuela
August 13-15, 2008	Fourth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Washington, D.C.
November 10-12, 2008	Thirty fourth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM Santiago, Chile
November 13, 2008	Third Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM-III) Santiago, Chile