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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM) TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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CIM No. 02-036/10

February 19, 2010

Excellency,

Pursuant to Article 91.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States, I am pleased to send Your Excellency the “Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)” for the period from February 2009 to February 2010, to be presented to the fortieth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Carmen Moreno Toscano  
Executive Secretary  
Inter-American Commission of Women

His Excellency  
Ambassador Jose Enrique Castillo Barrantes  
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica  
to the Organization of American States  
Chair of the Permanent Council  
Washington, D.C.



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**INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN**

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM)  
TO THE FORTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

## INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION .....	v
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	vii
I. ORIGIN, LEGAL BASIS, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECTIVES .....	1
II. ACTIVITIES OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE CIM.....	4
III. FULFILLMENT OF THE MANDATES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS AT ITS THIRTY NINTH SESSION.....	7
IV. FULFILLMENT OF THE AGREEMENTS ADOPTED DURING THE REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE CIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008-2010.....	7
A. FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CIM (March 30 to 31, 2009).....	7
B. SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE CIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (October 5 to 6, 2009).....	10
V. INTER-AMERICAN YEAR OF WOMEN.....	12
VI. ACTIVITIES OF THE CIM EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT: IMPLEMENTATION OF CIM MANDATES .....	14
A. DEMOCRACY 14	
1. Capacity-Building: CIM-FLACSO Project .....	14
2. Capacity Development for Leadership and Incidence in Public Policy from a Gender Equality Perspective .....	14
3. Integration of Gender into the OAS Electoral Observation Missions .....	14
4. Strategies for the Effective Application of Quota Laws in the Andean Region .....	14
5. Democracy and gender perspective in local government finance .....	15
6. Other projects.....	15

B.	HUMAN RIGHTS .....	16
1.	Violence against women .....	16
2.	Violence against Women and HIV/AIDS: Development of an Integrated Model of Care.....	17
a)	Integration of policies and programmes on HIV and violence against women from a gender and human rights perspective in Central America .....	17
b)	Strengthening Capabilities to Integrate Services for HIV and violence against women in the Caribbean: A Pilot project .....	18
C.	SECURITY .....	18
1.	Integration of Gender in the Response to Trafficking of Women .....	18
D.	DEVELOPMENT .....	19
1.	Gender Equality in the Context of “Decent Work” .....	19
2.	Gender and Science and Technology .....	20
3.	Gender and Migration.....	20
E.	GENDER MAINSTREAMING AT THE OAS .....	21
1.	Inter-American Program on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) .....	21
2.	Gender Mainstreaming in Project Evaluation .....	22
3.	Other Activities .....	22
F.	RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS .....	23

## INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions contained in Articles 91.f and 126 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) hereby presents its annual report to the Permanent Council for subsequent submission to the fortieth regular session of the General Assembly, with the observations and recommendations that it may deem appropriate.

This report presents a summary of the activities carried out by the CIM between March 2009 and February 2010. In fulfillment of its existing mandates, in particular that of the Inter-American *Program on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality* (IAP), the CIM carried out intensive work over this period to promote the theme of the elimination of gender violence as an issue of human rights and multidimensional security. It continued in its efforts to promote the leadership and political participation of women as an indispensable component of democratic governance, and the inclusion and implementation of the gender perspective as a precondition for sustainable and inclusive human development.

The CIM Executive Secretariat, in its role as Technical Secretariat of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI), concluded the first round of the Multilateral Evaluation, the final round of which will take place this year with the submission to the Conference of the Parties of the report on follow-up to the recommendations made in the country reports and the hemispheric report.

The CIM participated actively in the preparations for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Trinidad and Tobago from April 17 to 19, 2009, the theme of which was: “*Securing our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability*”. The Summit incorporated the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Women’s Affairs (REMIM III), thereby ensuring that the theme of gender was included under the section on Human Prosperity.

The CIM is continuing its work to fulfill the mandates entrusted to it, to strengthen its effectiveness by adapting to the current needs of women and ensuring that respect for human rights and gender equality become a reality throughout the Hemisphere.

Wanda K. Jones  
President  
Inter-American Commission of Women

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the activities carried out by the CIM, in fulfillment of its mandate for the period March 2009 to February 2010. Over this period, the CIM implemented its Biennial Work program 2008-2010, as approved by the Executive Committee of the Organization at its Second Regular Session.

This period marks the beginning of a process of consolidation of the CIM, with the updating of the image of the Commission, the redesign of its web page and actions undertaken to enhance the role of the CIM as a hemispheric political forum for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In fulfillment of the mandate given to the General Secretariat by the General Assembly of the OAS for the Strengthening of the CIM AG/RES. 2441 (XXXXIX-O/09), the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary have, over this period, extended significant political support to the CIM through their participation in various events organized by the Commission. The Executive Secretariat of CIM has also been included in the Secretary's Cabinet as well as in the Commission on Projects, thus guaranteeing the adequate integration of the gender component in all of the projects of the organization. The CIM has also received support in its search for resources to fund new and existing projects.

The CIM continued to receive support in the form of human and financial resources. Replacements were found for positions made vacant within the Executive Secretariat, and the post made vacant upon the retirement of a staff member was filled by a specialist in gender affairs. A member of staff from the department of finance was transferred to the CIM to assist in management and administration. The Commission was also included in the areas of the organization that receive support through internships, with six three-month internships over the period under consideration.

The mandate to strengthen the CIM was pursued through greater internal coordination with all areas of the Organization's work and by participation in its activities to ensure, as appropriate, the integration of the gender component. This has included the launching of a Gender Program to build capacity of staff members. The program will consist of 10 workshops and will conclude in June 2010. All of the organization's Secretariats have collaborated with the CIM in the coordination of its work program.

The process of consolidation has yielded the following preliminary results: i) the CIM has received additional funding to implement a number of projects, as well as to maintain projects already underway; ii) its web page has been redesigned in line with the new corporate identity launched by the OAS, and will allow for easier browsing and greater access to more useful information; iii) new contacts have been made to involve more stakeholders, especially from civil society, in the work of the Commission.

During the period under review, the CIM received and carried out five specific mandates from the General Assembly and 34 specific inter-sectional mandates from its Executive Committee. Of these, thirty are deemed to have been completed, two of the General Assembly mandates are considered permanent, as they are ongoing throughout the period, six have been partially completed and one has yet to be implemented. The report provides details concerning the mandates and actions undertaken to implement them.

The report also provides detailed accounts of the activities of officers of the CIM over the period. It lists the activities of the Commission's Presidents, Mrs. Laura Albornoz from November 2008 to October 2009 and Mrs. Wanda Jones, from October 2009 to the present, as well as the work of the Executive Secretariat of the Commission, pursuant to the mandates of the General Assembly as well as the Committee of Delegates.

In the implementation of these mandates, the Commission's activities are listed under the areas that have been identified as 'pillars' of the Organization of American States: i) Democracy and Governance ii) Human Rights iii) Multi-dimensional Security and iv) Integral Development.

A special section is devoted to preparations for the Inter-American Year of Women to be held in 2010, for which the CIM has served as the Technical Secretariat.

The report contains a section on follow-up on the implementation of the *Inter-American Program on the Promotion of the Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Gender Equality* (IAP), with special reference to crosscutting gender issues within the policies, programs, and projects of the Organization.

Lastly, the report outlines the recommendations and observations that the CIM seeks to bring to the attention of the General Assembly, as well as three annexes: i) information on quantifiable results; ii) financial situation of the CIM; iii) complete texts of the mandates of the CIM in the period under review.



## **I. ORIGIN, LEGAL BASIS, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECTIVES**

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) was established at the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928) to prepare "juridical information and data of any other kind which may be deemed advisable to enable the Seventh International Conference of American States to take up the consideration of the civil and political equality of women in the continent."

The Ninth International Conference of American States (Bogotá, 1948) approved the first Statute of the Commission, which consolidated its structure and authorized the Secretary General of the OAS to establish the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM.

In 1953, the Commission signed an agreement with the OAS Permanent Council under which the CIM was recognized as a specialized permanent Inter-American organization and technical autonomy in the pursuit of its objectives.

The Tenth Inter-American Conference (Caracas, 1954) amended the CIM's Statute and confirmed it as a specialized permanent organization. It also expanded its powers and authorized it to amend its own Statute in the future.

Subsequently, in 1978, in accordance with Article 134 of the OAS Charter and the Standards for the Implementation and Coordination of the Provisions of the Charter Relating to the Inter-American Specialized Organizations, a new agreement between the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Organization of American States was signed.

The purpose of the Commission is to promote and protect the rights of women, and to support Member States in their efforts to ensure full access to civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, so that women and men may participate on an equal footing in all spheres of society, enjoy fully and equally the benefits of development, and share responsibility for the future.

The CIM fulfills its objectives through the following organs: the Assembly of Delegates; the Executive Committee, composed of the president, vice president, and five member countries, all elected by the Assembly; the delegates appointed by governments; and the Permanent Secretariat, which performs the Commission's administrative, technical, and executive functions. The Assembly of Delegates is the supreme authority of the CIM, and its resolutions, together with those of the OAS General Assembly establishes the guidelines for CIM's work.

The CIM Statute authorizes governments with a permanent observer accredited to the OAS to have permanent observer status with the Inter-American Commission of Women as well.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN**

**MARCH 2009 - FEBRUARY 2010**

The last General Assembly of the OAS adopted resolution AG/RES. 2454 (XXXIX-O/09) “Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality.” In this resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed its support for the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) as the main hemispheric policy forum for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In addition, the General Assembly affirmed its commitment to the implementation of the *Inter-American Program on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality* (IAP), including activities to promote the inclusion of a gender perspective in ministerial-level meetings (labour, justice, education, social development, science and technology and sustainable development), as well as in matters related to such issues as leadership, migration, conflict and peace-building and natural disasters, among others. Finally, the General Assembly affirmed its support for following up on the mandates emerging from the Summits of the Americas; in particular, the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

With a view to responding to these new and emerging issues; as well as complying with its existing mandates; in 2009 CIM began a process of transition and strengthening with the aim of revitalizing its role as a policy forum for gender issues. The main objective is to increase the relevance and visibility of CIM, as well as its coordination with other key stakeholders; particularly from civil society; and its capacity to promote a gender equality agenda both within the OAS and as part of hemispheric policy. A central component of this process has been the preparation and circulation of project proposals in the CIM’s five key areas of work, on the basis of its Biennial Work Plan 2008-2010: i) Democracy (governance and women’s political participation); ii) Human Rights (violence against women and the implementation of the Belem do Para Convention); iii) Security (gender mainstreaming and women’s participation in an integrated security agenda); and iv) Development (women’s economic empowerment).

As a result of these efforts, the CIM Executive Secretariat has obtained additional funds for the implementation of several new projects, as well as for the continuation of existing projects. These activities will be central to the implementation of the PIA and other key mandates on gender equality.

A second central component of the transition and strengthening process has been the re-design of the CIM Webpage, including the MESECVI Webpage. In addition to incorporating the new corporate image guidelines of the OAS, this new Webpage will facilitate navigation and access to the most relevant information. The new Webpage will also launch a new image for CIM, which incorporates elements of modernity and innovation with the recognition of the OAS as an organization. Similarly, the CIM Executive Secretariat is working with the Department of Strategic Communication and Image to increase the visibility of CIM, and of gender issues, on the main page of the OAS (<http://www.oas.org/cim>).

In addition to the re-design of the CIM Webpage, the CIM Executive Secretariat is preparing new communication initiatives in order to involve more stakeholders, particularly from civil society, in its work. Along these lines, a Facebook page has been established for CIM, and short messages have been prepared for circulation through Twitter and a quarterly newsletter.

## **II. ACTIVITIES OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE CIM**

Over this period, the post of president of the CIM was occupied by Minister Laura Albornoz (from November 2008 to October 2009) and Dr. Wanda Jones, from October 2009 to the present. Mrs. Janet Carrillo was the vice-president from November 2008 to May 2009, Dr. Wanda Jones from June 2009 to October 2009 and Hon. Loretta Butler-Turner from February 2010 to the present.

In March 2009 the President of the CIM was invited by United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon to be the co-chair of the event organized as part of the 53rd Session of the Legal and Social Condition of Women.

The President participated in the “International Conference on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction”, held in Beijing, China, from April 21 to 23. The conference reviewed the progress made and the challenges to gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction, and also shared experiences and best practices.

As part of the “Global Summit of Women” in May 2009 in Santiago, Chile, the International Day of the Family was held. It was linked to the United Nations Secretary General’s campaign: “UNiTE to end violence against women,” as well as to OAS efforts to position the theme within the regional agenda, more specifically through the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI). The President of CIM participated in the event, together with ministers for women’s affairs and other portfolios from: Saudi Arabia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Guyana, Honduras, Lesotho, Libya, Mexico, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

In June 2009, Chile organized the Seminar: UNASUR: Human Security: public policies on the prevention of, attention to and protection from violence against women in the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)”. The President of the CIM participated in that seminar.

In July 2009, the President participated in the XLIII Bureau of the Regional Conference of the Women of Latin America, and the Caribbean, held in Trinidad and Tobago.

In July 2009, the CIM President visited Grenada. The working agenda was coordinated by the Minister of Social Development, Hon. Glynis Roberts. The President met with high-level Grenadian authorities to discuss such issues as gender violence, level of education and participation of women in the Cabinet.

Also in July 2009, the CIM President visited Antigua and Barbuda. Accompanied by Former CIM President, Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro, she met with the Prime Minister, who thanked her for including themes of interest to the Caribbean in the work program of the CIM. He also expressed appreciation for the efforts towards regional integration, which demonstrate the Commission’s

interest in becoming acquainted with the reality of the nations of the Caribbean. She also visited the police training program on domestic violence.

In August 2009, the President attended the “Meeting of Women Leaders in the Economies of Asia Pacific” held in Singapore. Interventions at that meeting centered on the link between market access and the competitiveness of women in the Region. The President held bilateral meetings with the Ministers of Malaysia, Singapore, Canada, China, Thailand and the representative of the State Department of the United States to acquaint them with the work of CIM.

In September 2009, the President traveled to Guatemala for discussions on the link between the CIM and the Ministers of Women’s Affairs of the Americas. The discussions highlighted the commitment of all OAS member states to the commemoration of the Inter-American Year of Women 2010. The President participated in the IV Conference of Women Leaders in Guatemala, the objective of which was to improve Guatemala’s competitiveness and growth by enhancing the important role of women in entrepreneurship and promoting women’s participation in the activities of the business sector.

In September 2009, the President participated in the following activities held in El Salvador: “Seminar on violence against women”, where updated statistics on gender violence in that country were presented; and the “Discussion on gender cross-cutting in the State”, to debate the theme of public policies as an issue of interest to Salvadorian society.

On October, 2009 the President sent a communiqué to the Secretary of State of the United States, Hillary Clinton, informing her of progress made in the proclamation of 2010 as the Inter-American Year of Women, and invited her to participate in this initiative.

In response to the invitation received from the United States Department of State, the President participated in the First “Pathways to Prosperity” Conference (October 7 to 9, 2009, Washington, D.C.), which focused on women entrepreneurs.

On October 7, 2009, the President held meetings with senior staff of the US State Department and the White House: Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; Lynn Rosenthal, White House Adviser on Violence against Women; and Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. During these meetings, President Albornoz emphasized that women’s rights and gender equality should not be considered only the domain of specialized agencies, but should also be included in other areas as part of their reflection and programming processes. She also provided an overview of the work of the CIM.

As follow-up to dialogue held with the Minister of State for the Status of Women of Canada, Helena Guergis, during the “Pathways to Prosperity” event, the President sent her a note on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention, as well as two publications of the Follow-up Mechanism (MESECVI), as part of ongoing efforts to convince the Government of Canada to ratify the Convention.

The President sent a note to the Principal Delegates, informing them of the results of the second regular session of the CIM Executive Committee:

- a) The Principal Delegate of the United States was unanimously accepted as the Vice-President of the CIM;
- b) The observance the Inter-American Year of Women was established and the following activities were planned for 2010: i) Launch of the Year at OAS headquarters with the participation of the Principal Delegates and other invited stakeholders; ii) The promotion of the Year during the XI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (July 2010, Brasilia);
- c) Delegates were encouraged to send in their activities related to the Year, and their collaboration was requested in the activities of the Working Group, in order to prepare a consolidated Calendar of Activities by November 30, 2009.

On November 3, 2009, the CIM Executive Secretary held a meeting with the President, during which she informed her of the CIM work plan and agenda. The Executive Secretary highlighted the urgent need for more personnel for the CIM, in order to be able to comply with its many mandates. She explained the importance of working to re-position CIM at the political level and increase its visibility and coordination with other entities in the region. She also provided a list of the events to be organized during 2010 which would require the participation of President Jones.

The President informed the Delegates of her participation in the Second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Gender, Equality and Health at the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), which was held on November 9 and 10 in Washington, D.C. During this meeting, PAHO launched its Action Plan for the Implementation of the Gender Equality Policy for Latin America and the Caribbean. The communication encouraged the Delegates to analyze the Plan and contribute to its visibility and implementation.

The Press Department of the OAS conducted an interview with the President: "Eliminating Violence against Women in the Hemisphere" (November 30, 2009). The interview was published in the *Nación Dominicana* (<http://www.lanaciondominicana.com>) and can be found on the CIM Webpage (<http://www.oas.org/cim>).

Within the framework of the Inter-American Year of Women, President Jones agreed to prepare an article for the journal *Americas Quarterly*, in collaboration with PAHO. The article will look at the access of women to health benefits (for example, health insurance) in the Region and how this can be determined by gender inequalities.

On February 17, 2010, President Jones participated, along with the Secretary-General of the OAS and the Permanent Representative of Canada, Ambassador Graeme Clark, in the inauguration of the OAS Gender Programme, beginning with a series of gender workshops, which will be organized by the CIM throughout 2010 in order to build the capacity of OAS staff on gender issues.

**III. FULFILLMENT OF THE MANDATES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE OAS AT ITS THIRTY NINTH SESSION**

<b>Mandate</b>	<b>Stage of Fulfillment</b>	<b>Comments</b>
AG/RES. 2322	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At the request of the Chair of the Working Group created to mark the Inter-American Year of Women, the Executive Secretariat of CIM worked as the Technical Secretariat for the commemorative activities.</li> <li>- The Commission took part in all three meetings and helped organize the various activities celebrating the Inter-American Year of Women.</li> </ul>
AG/RES. 2351	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CIM is working on an ongoing basis as the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism (MESECVI).</li> </ul>
AG/RES. 2454	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CIM is continuing the follow up and implementation of the IAP.</li> </ul>
AG/RES. 2502	Partially completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Executive Secretariat of the CIM organized a special session on Migration and Gender, which took place on April 1, 2009.</li> </ul>
AG/RES. 2518	Partially completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CIM, as a specialized organization, continues to give priority to implementing the initiatives contained in the Port-of-Spain Declaration of Commitment of the Fifth Summit of the Americas.</li> <li>- A report on the activities carried out still remains to be submitted to the Summits Secretariat.</li> </ul>

**IV. FULFILLMENT OF THE AGREEMENTS ADOPTED DURING THE REGULAR  
SESSIONS OF THE CIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008-2010**

**A. FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CIM  
(March 30 to 31, 2009)**

<b>Agreement</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In a note dated April 2, the president offered her condolences to the government and to the people of Guyana on the passing of their former President, Janet Jagan.</li> </ul>
2	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The President and Sonia Montañó, Acting Director of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), agreed to exchange information on topics of common interest, specially, the results emanating from MESECVI, as contributions to the Gender Equality Observatory of ECLAC.</li> </ul>

Agreement	Status	Comments
3	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On April 1, 2009, the three mandates contained in this agreement were met through communication No. 04-023/09 to the National Coordinator, Fifth Summit of the Americas, communication No. 04-025/09 to the national coordinators for SIRG, and through communication No. 04-026/09 to the Chair of the Style Committee, Summit of the Americas Declaration.</li> <li>- Copies of those communications were forwarded to the Permanent Missions and to the Principal Delegates.</li> </ul>
4	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On April 24, 2009, communication No. 04/033/09 was sent to Ms. Dawn Nicholson-O'Brien, Alternate Delegate of Canada to the CIM, to request information regarding her offer to identify external financial sources to sponsor the 2010 celebration of the Inter-American Year of Women.</li> </ul>
5	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On July 14, 2009, the biennial program CIM/CD/doc.9/09 was forwarded to all the Delegates. The revised version was published as document CIM/CD/doc.9/09 rev. 1.</li> </ul>
6	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To forward a note to the Principle Delegates requesting them to include in their national campaigns activities to celebrate the Inter-American Year of Women in 2010, following the meeting of the Permanent Council.</li> </ul>
7	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In order to gather information on best practices, areas of activity and programs in the region, letter No. 04-031/09 dated April 17, was sent to REMMA, letter No.04-031/09, dated April 17, was sent to the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana and letter No.04-031/09, dated April 28, was sent to the President Pro tempore of COMMCA.</li> </ul>
8	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On April 17, 2009, the Secretariat sent communication No. 04/031/09 to the Delegates requesting that they complete the questionnaire they had previously received as part of the study on the institutionalization of a gender perspective in the Ministries of Labor.</li> </ul>
9	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The President sent letter No. 04-025/09, dated April 1, 2009, which included the proposals agreed upon by the Executive Committee, to the Chair of the working group responsible for redacting the Draft Declaration of San Pedro Sula.</li> </ul>
10	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With communication No. 04-028/09, dated April 15, 2009, the Secretariat fulfilled both agreements requesting the CNA to submit the responses to the follow up indicators that had been previously sent and the responses to the indicators presented by the Delegate of Mexico to the Executive Committee.</li> </ul>

Agreement	Status	Comments
11	Fulfilled	- With communication No. 04-028/09, dated April 15, 2009, the Secretariat fulfilled both agreements requesting the CNA to submit the responses to the follow up indicators that had been previously sent and the responses to the indicators presented by the Delegate of Mexico to the Executive Committee.
12	Fulfilled	- External financing has been requested for seminars to disseminate the Hemispheric and the MESECVI Reports.
13	Fulfilled	- The President expressed her appreciation to the government of Chile for taking responsibility for systematizing the MESECVI Hemispheric Report.
14	Fulfilled	- Through communication No. 04-031/09 the Foreign Affairs Secretariat was requested to provide information on areas of interest to donor countries and on the response to the proposal aimed at achieving a new institutional image for the CIM that would be introduced by the President during an informal meeting to be held in January 2009. The Foreign Affairs Secretariat responded that the CIM could adopt any logo of its choosing as long as it met the standards followed by the OAS and by other specialized organizations.
15	Fulfilled	- Through communication No. 04-031/09 the Foreign Affairs Secretariat was requested to provide information on areas of interest to donor countries and on the response to the proposal aimed at achieving a new institutional image for the CIM that would be introduced by the President during an informal meeting to be held in January 2009. The Foreign Affairs Secretariat responded that the CIM could adopt any logo of its choosing as long as it met the standards followed by the OAS and by other specialized organizations.
16	Fulfilled	- Within the framework of the process of preparing the report on the integration of a gender perspective, the various areas of the OAS are requested that, in 2010, they include the progress made in integrating a gender perspective during the last decade as well as the resources utilized for that purpose, information that organisms and agencies will be reminded of when inputs are requested in the preparation of the report.
17	Fulfilled	- The President sent communication No.05-038/09 thanking Ms. Carmen Lomellin for her efforts and accomplishments while heading the Permanent Secretariat of CIM.
18	Fulfilled	- To thank the Government of Chile for its offer to prepare the logo for the Inter-American Year of Women.
19	Fulfilled	- During the session, budget expenditures executed until February 27, 2009, were approved.



**B. FULFILLMENT OF THE AGREEMENTS ADOPTED DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE CIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (October 5 to 6, 2009)**

Agreement	Status	Comments
1	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Summary Minutes of the First Regular Session of the Executive Committee were approved.</li> </ul>
2	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Executive Secretariat of the CIM made the necessary arrangements and assumed the travel expenses for the Delegates from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and the Bahamas.</li> <li>- On November 25<sup>th</sup> 2009, the Delegate of Costa Rica informed the President of CIM that the meeting was cancelled for internal reasons.</li> </ul>
3	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Working Group approved the slogan for the Inter-American Year of Women: “Women and power: For a world of equality.” This information was conveyed to the Delegates.</li> <li>- In January 2010, a concept note was prepared and has been circulated to the Delegates and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>
4	In execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In fulfillment of this agreement:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The launch of the Inter-American Year of Women has been scheduled for February 25, 2010.</li> <li>b) On December 18, 2009, a meeting was held between the CIM Executive Secretariat and UNIFEM in order to plan a joint event on indigenous women and economic empowerment, to be held during the XI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (July, Brasilia.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5	In execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CIM Executive Secretariat participated in the launch of the United Nations’ Secretary-General’s Unite to End Violence against Women Campaign (November 25<sup>th</sup> 2009, Guatemala). During this meeting, CIM stressed its willingness to analyze and promote the Belém do Pará Convention as an example for other regions.</li> </ul>
6	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- During the meeting of the Working Group, 10 draft logos were presented. Draft #1 was chosen and has been circulated to the Delegates and the OAS Permanent Missions (January 15, 2010.)</li> <li>- During 2010, the logo will be utilized in all of CIM’s documentation, as well on its Webpage.</li> </ul>

Agreement	Status	Comments
7	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work on the mandates contained in the Biennial Work Plan is ongoing.</li> </ul>
8	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CIM Executive Secretariat sent Note No.10-098/09 (October 21<sup>st</sup> 2009), which included the draft agenda, to the Delegates for their consideration. To-date, nine delegations have sent in their answers.</li> <li>- A summary of these answers was prepared and circulated to the Delegates.</li> </ul>
9	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CIM Executive Secretariat is supporting the preparation of the XXXV Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, which will be held in Mexico from November 9 to 11, 2010.</li> </ul>
10	In execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The participatory evaluation of the IAP has been conducted, and the CIM Executive Secretariat is in the process of finalizing the evaluation report.</li> <li>- An executive summary of progress made in the evaluation has been prepared and will be presented to the Third Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee (February 24 to 26, 2010.)</li> </ul>
11	In execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Report on the History and Development of the MESECVI (2004-2010) and Assessment of Performance has been circulated to the Delegates and will be discussed during the Third Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee (February 24 to 26, 2010.)</li> <li>- The independent, participatory evaluation of MESECVI was initiated in January 2010, and a progress report will be presented during the Third Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee (February 24 to 26, 2010.)</li> </ul>
12	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The special session of the Executive Committee to evaluate the performance of MESECVI has been scheduled for February 25, 2010 in Washington D.C., as part of the Third Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee (February 24 to 26, 2010.)</li> </ul>
13	To be initiated	N/A
14	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In fulfillment of this agreement:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The CIM Executive Secretariat sent Note No.10-095/09 (October 8, 2009) to the IACHR, requesting information on the decisions of the Commission on cases of marital rape. The IACHR responded with information on inter-American and international advances related to this issue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Agreement	Status	Comments
		b) The CIM Executive Secretariat sent letter No. 11-128/09 to the Delegate of the Bahamas, attaching the documents related to marital rape in Latin America and the Caribbean.
15	Fulfilled	- The budgetary execution through September 30, as shown in document CIM/CD/doc.18/09 was approved.

## V. INTER-AMERICAN YEAR OF WOMEN

In 2007, the OAS General Assembly proclaimed 2010 as the “Inter-American Year of Women.”<sup>1/</sup> In fulfillment of this mandate, the General Assembly established the Working Group to prepare the programme of activities for the Inter-American Year of Women (September 29, 2009), which has been chaired by the Alternate Delegate from Chile, Pamela Albornoz. The Working Group requested that the CIM Executive Secretariat act as Technical Secretariat to the Group.

The Working Group presented a work plan of concrete initiatives invited interested Member States to two formal and one informal meeting in order to discuss how they could participate in the preparations for these initiatives. All Member States were encouraged to present a national program of activities in order to establish a consolidated calendar that could be published on the CIM Webpage. To-date, twelve countries have presented their activities.

During the informal meeting of the Working Group, the slogan for the Inter-American Year of Women was decided on the basis of several proposals. “Women and Power: For a World of Equality” points to a disturbing reality: in spite of the achievements made and the massive and active participation of women, their real access to power and influence in political and economic decision-making processes is still very limited, though it is widely acknowledged that the participation of women in all areas of society, politics and the economy is directly linked to the recognition and respect of human rights, and is an essential precursor and contributor to inclusive and sustainable human development. This proposal was unanimously adopted in a meeting on November 17, 2009.

The CIM Executive Secretariat prepared a concept note<sup>2/</sup> for the Year, which highlights the main challenges to the participation of women in decision-making processes and, on the basis a regional needs assessment, proposes a list of priority actions.

During a meeting of the Working Group (November 17, 2009), Delegates discussed two potential activities for 2010, namely a photograph exhibition or a movie festival on gender issues, using material from the countries of the region. To-date, the delegations of Brazil, Colombia and the Dominican Republic have submitted titles of movies that could be included in the festival.

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1. In its XXXVII Regular Session, the General Assembly adopted resolution AG/RES. 2322 (XXXVII-O/07.)

2. The note “Inter-American Year of Women, Women and power 2010: For a world of equality” is available on the CIM Webpage: <http://www.oas.org/cim>.

In order to increase the visibility of gender issues in the region and support their integration in the hemispheric policy agenda, the CIM Executive Secretariat, in collaboration with the Department of External Relations of the OAS, has reached an agreement with the journal *Americas Quarterly* for the publication of a series of articles in three editions of the journal throughout 2010. The articles will deal with the following issues: i) trafficking of women and transnational organized crime (April 2010); ii) women's access to health benefits (July 2010); and iii) the gap between women's access to education and their position in the labour market (October 2010). The CIM Executive Secretariat has identified several potential authors for these articles from among a group of recognized experts, and is in the process of confirming their participation in this initiative.

On the basis of the request of the Delegates to develop a logo for the Inter-American Year of Women, a number of proposals were prepared. In January 2010, the proposal that Delegates thought best represented the slogan and objectives of the Year was chosen. The CIM Executive Secretary has authorized that the logo be utilized on all CIM documentation throughout 2010 and has commissioned the production of a number of promotional material to publicize the year at OAS headquarters; among its national offices; and with the national women's machinery in each of the Member States.



The CIM Executive Secretariat chose February 25<sup>th</sup> as the official launch day of the Inter-American Year of Women, taking advantage of the fact that many delegates would be in Washington, DC for the meeting of the CIM Executive Committee, and in New York for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the following week. The launch, which will be moderated by President Wanda K. Jones, will bring together women from the region to present their experiences with political power. Along these lines, the CIM Executive Secretariat has invited academics and political representatives from Barbados, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and the United States to participate in a round-table discussion, moderated by the OAS Department of External Relations, on the topic of governance and political participation. A number of international organizations, as well as representatives of all the OAS Members States and other key stakeholders have also been invited to the event.

## **VI. ACTIVITIES OF THE CIM EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT: IMPLEMENTATION OF CIM MANDATES**

### **A. DEMOCRACY**

#### **1. *Capacity-Building: CIM-FLACSO Project***

The joint CIM-FLACSO project on virtual capacity building was launched with the first course (in Spanish) on “Women’s Leadership Today: Renewing Strategies and Practices” (September 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> 2009) through the virtual platform of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO). This initiative is accompanied by a shared scholarships component. Twenty-eight professionals from thirteen Member States participated in the course, of which sixteen participants from ten Member States received scholarships covered by the OAS, through the FLACSO Department of Human Development, Education and Culture.

#### **2. *Capacity Development for Leadership and Incidence in Public Policy from a Gender Equality Perspective***

In 2009, the CIM Executive Secretariat submitted a project proposal to the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). The project aims to: i) support the leadership of women and their incidence in decision-making on public policy; and ii) strengthen the capacity of governmental and non-governmental bodies to lead dialogue, negotiate and design gender-sensitive public policy.

#### **3. *Integration of Gender into the OAS Electoral Observation Missions***

In 2009, the OAS Department of Cooperation and Electoral Observation (DECO) began a project on the integration of gender and rights issues in their international electoral observation methodology. The project will be implemented over a two-year period, beginning at the end of 2009 and finalizing at the end of 2011 with the publication of a Practical Manual for OAS Electoral Observation Missions, which will focus in particular on the monitoring and evaluation of quota laws and the commitments made by Member States to the political rights of women.

The support of the CIM Executive Secretariat to this project has consisted in: i) technical revision of key project documents; ii) participation in an institutional panel for the selection of the organization that will execute the project (*Humanas* Corporation of Chile); iii) participation in the organization of a *Workshop on Experiences in Electoral Monitoring from a Gender and Rights Perspective* (January 25 and 26, 2010), including the identification of elements and inputs for the definition of the project approach, procedures and methodology.

#### **4. *Strategies for the Effective Application of Quota Laws in the Andean Region***

With funds from AECID, the CIM Executive Secretariat is working with the Andean Parliament, International IDEA and other relevant groups to support the implementation of quota laws for the participation of women in political bodies at the national and local levels, as well as in political parties.

The first phase of this project began in December 2009 with the selection of a Project Coordinator. In January 2010, the Coordinator submitted to the CIM Executive Secretariat the draft of an analytical document on the status of quota laws in the Americas, with a particular focus on the identification of good practices and lessons learned in their implementation. The final version of this document will serve as an input to a special session of the Andean Parliament on April 12 and 13, 2010 in Lima, Peru, on the implementation of quota laws in the Andean region. In February 2010, invitations to this meeting were circulated, along with the provisional agenda. This first phase of the project in the Andean region will be evaluated with a view to its replication in other regions of the Americas.

#### **5. *Democracy and gender perspective in local government finance***

In early 2009, the Executive Secretariat of the CIM provided support to prepare a project profile for promoting the integration of a gender perspective in negotiating and allocating local government budgets. This proposal was circulated to various donors, with the support of the OAS Department of International Affairs, and in February 2010 the Executive Secretariat of the CIM received confirmation that the government of Finland was going to contribute €88,000 to embark on the first phase of the project.

The CIM Executive Secretariat prepared the operational plan for this project and submitted it for the approval of the CEP/OAS. Project activities will begin in March 2010.

#### **6. *Other projects***

In addition to projects already in execution or recently financed, the CIM Executive Secretariat has prepared two additional projects for eventual funding:

- a. *Perceptions of Women's Rights and Political Leadership in the Americas: Public Opinion as a Tool for Changing Democratic Culture* – this project aims to promote positive perceptions and confidence in the leadership of women through public information campaigns and other tools. One of the main activities of the project is the development of an up-to-date database on public opinion around the political participation of women, through a survey module or other similar instrument. The project has been presented to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for consideration.
- b. *Participation of Women in Recovery and Reconstruction Processes in Haiti* - this project aims to build support for and collaboration with the strengthening of the Haitian Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights (*Ministère a la Condition Feminine et aux Droits des Femmes*), with the objective of establishing it as the lead agency for promoting the participation of women and gender mainstreaming in recovery and reconstruction processes at all levels.

The CIM Executive Secretariat is in the process of identifying potential donors for these projects, and will circulate them throughout 2010.

## **B. HUMAN RIGHTS**

### ***1. Violence against women***

Follow-up Mechanism to the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention for the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Belém do Pará Convention” (MESECVI)

During the first half of 2009, a system for measuring States’ progress in implementing CEVI recommendations went into operation. As a result, 16 Competent National Authorities provided answers to a document comprising 38 quantitative and qualitative indicators. On the basis of these country reports, a preliminary version of the follow-up to the recommendations was produced, and is pending approval.

The V Meeting of the CEVI took place on June 25 and 26, and discussed the questionnaire for the second round of the multilateral evaluation. New committee members were also elected, with Hilda Morales, expert from Guatemala, being elected as Coordinator, and Asia Villegas, the expert from Venezuela, as her Alternate. Due to insufficient time to examine all the items on the agenda, and in the interest of concluding the Committee’s deliberations, Venezuela offered to host an extraordinary meeting of experts. Following consultations with Drany Pamphil of the National Women’s Institute of Venezuela (INAMUJER), the Institute requested that the meeting be postponed until 2010.

Furthermore, preliminary consultations have begun for the holding of the III Conference of States Parties, to be held in Guatemala in September 2010. At that Conference, the CEVI will submit its report on follow-up indicators, thus marking the end of the First Round of the Multilateral Evaluation.

On May 6, in Strasbourg, France, the CIM Executive Secretariat participated in a meeting with representatives of the Council of Europe as part of the OAS delegation. The meeting was convened as a result of the interest of the European Union in drafting a convention on violence against women. Contact was subsequently established with the Chief of the Legal Reform Department of the Human Rights Directorate and with the Secretariat of the Committee for Equal Opportunities between Men and Women of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The CIM also attended the 16th Meeting of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations, held on July 6, 2009 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the 43rd Meeting of the Bureau of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC, which also took place in Port-of-Spain, on July 7 and 8, 2009. At these meetings, links were established between the MESECVI and the recently launched Observatory on Gender Equality (<http://www.cepal.org/oig/>) The Secretariat will support ECLAC in the promotion of the Observatory, and follow the guidelines of the UN Statistics Commission for measuring the levels of violence.

The MESECVI Technical Secretariat participated in the launch of the UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign (November 24 and 25, 2009, Guatemala City) and contributed materials to the Knowledge Fair (November 24, 2009), whose

objective was to facilitate the exchange of good practices for the prevention and punishment of violence against women. The progress and results of MESECVI over the last five years were presented during the fair as a regional good practice, and informational materials were distributed to participants.

In response to the need to evaluate the MESECVI experience over its first five years (2004-2009), an independent, participatory evaluation was initiated in January 2010. This process consists of interviews, conducted via e-mail or telephone by a nongovernmental organization with expertise in the topic, between January 7 and February 15, 2010. The interviews brought together the perspectives of a number of MESECVI stakeholders, including the States Party to the Convention, CEVI experts and relevant international and nongovernmental organizations.

## **2. *Violence against Women and HIV/AIDS: Development of an Integrated Model of Care***

On July 1 2009, the CIM participated in the Conference: *“Going beyond gender as usual: How HIV/AIDS donors can do more for women and girls”*. The conference was organized by the Centre for Global Development and analyzed the work being done in this field by three international donors (PEPFAR, Global Fund, and World Bank). It assessed the extent to which HIV/AIDS programs take account of the gender question. The conference concluded that to increase the success rates of the programs conducted by donor agencies, gender inequalities needed to be addressed, as these posed an obstacle to the prevention, treatment, and care of HIV/AIDS.

Within this particular line of work, CIM is currently implementing two projects:

### **a) *Integration of policies and programmes on HIV and violence against women from a gender and human rights perspective in Central America***

The CIM Executive Secretariat has continued the implementation of this project, initiated in September 2008 with funding from AECID in the four participating countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama).

In December 2009, the preliminary situation analyses and mapping of actors on the intersections between interventions on violence against women and HIV/AIDS programmes and services were concluded and submitted to the CIM Executive Secretariat. On the basis of these studies, the second phase of the project was initiated in January 2010, consisting of the development of an integrated model of care for HIV-positive women victims of violence. Initially, the second phase will be implemented only in El Salvador, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) office in El Salvador. In view of PAHO's experience on these topics and their privileged relationship with the Ministries of Health in the project countries, they have assumed a leading role in advising and implementing this second phase.



**b) Strengthening Capabilities to Integrate Services for HIV and Violence against Women in the Caribbean: A Pilot Project**

The CIM Executive Secretariat has continued the implementation of this project in Barbados and Dominica, in collaboration with the Institute of Gender and Development Studies, Cave Hill Campus, University of the West Indies (UWI) and the National HIV/AIDS Response Programme of Dominica. On the basis of the results of the *Study to Enable the Preparation of Pilot Interventions to Address Intersections between HIV/AIDS and Violence against Women in Barbados and Dominica*, the project conducted workshops in the participating countries (September 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> 2009). As a result of its pioneering work in this area, CIM was mentioned in a number of media reports in the participating countries, including UWICHILL News Magazine (No. 10, November 2009) published by UWI.

The second phase of this project began in January 2010, and will include the organization of focus group discussion with stakeholders in each participating country in order to contribute to the development of an integrated model care for women who are users of VCT services and those who are victims of violence.

The research that CIM has conducted on violence against women and HIV/AIDS was presented at the Annual Symposium of the National HIV/AIDS Commission of Barbados (December 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> 2009, Bridgetown). The CIM Executive Secretariat has also been invited to present the results of phase two of the project during the 35th Annual Conference of the Caribbean Studies Association, which will be held from May 24 to 28, 2010 in Barbados, under the rubric of Violence in the Caribbean.

**C. SECURITY**

**1. *Integration of Gender in the Response to Trafficking of Women***

The Executive Secretariat of the participated part in the event “Human Trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and the Sex Sector,” organized by *American University*, in Washington D.C., on March 18, 2009.

The CIM also participated in the event *Combating Sex Trafficking by Eliminating Demand*, May 13, 2009 at the Woodrow Wilson Center. The Comparative Urban Studies project hosted the first discussion in the Demand Dynamics of Sex Trafficking Speaker Series, co-sponsored by Hunt Alternatives Fund. The expert panelists examined the individuals and organizations which foster and drive the sex trade and identified some far-reaching effects of commercial sexual exploitation on individuals and communities, and highlighted national and international best practices to eradicate the demand for sex-trafficking.

Since the second semester of 2009, the Executive Secretariat of the CIM has been collaborating with the Department of Public Security of the GS/OAS in a project to train police officers in dealing with cases of violence against women, as part of the program to fight against trafficking in persons. The project promotes the implementation of existing laws and related international instruments through the promotion, support, and improvement of the police response to this pandemic.

The CIM Executive Secretariat participated in the Fourth Annual Symposium on the Human Rights at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University (November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009, Washington, D.C.) During this symposium on “Trafficking in Persons as a Form of Violence against Women,” which included the participation of multiple sectors, the main speaker was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Dr. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo.

The CIM Executive Secretariat was invited to participate in the 46<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (November 18 to 20, 2009, Miami, Florida). During this meeting, a draft Hemispheric Drug Control Strategy and its action plan were presented for the consideration of participants. The strategy includes a section on gender issues. The meeting was presided over for the first time by the United States, and included a visit to the Miami Dade County Drug Court to hear about its progress in alternative sentencing for people charged of drug-related crimes.

In November 2009, the CIM Executive Secretariat received, through the Trust for the Americas, a United States Department of State call for proposals on trafficking in persons. In collaboration with the Trust, CIM prepared an expression of interest for a project on good practices in the prevention of trafficking of women in various countries of the region, which was submitted on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009. To-date, no response has been received from the State Department.

#### **D. DEVELOPMENT**

##### ***1. Gender Equality in the Context of “Decent Work”***

The CIM Executive Secretariat continued to work with the OAS Department of Social Development and Employment (DSDE) in the implementation of their Strategic Guidelines for Advancing Gender Equality and Non-discrimination within a Decent Work Framework, adopted during the XV Inter-American Conference of the Ministers of Labour (IACML) (September 2007, Trinidad and Tobago). In particular, CIM collaborated in the preparation of the study, *The Institutionalization of a Gender Approach in the Ministries of Labour of the Americas*, which was presented at the XVI IAMCL (October 6 to 8, 2009, Buenos Aires). The study serves as the basis for a CIM project on “Gender Equality in the context of ‘Decent Work,’” which is being implemented as part of the OAS/CIDA Cooperation Plan 2008-2011 and includes high-level dialogues between the Ministries of Labour and the Ministries of Women of OAS Member States, capacity-building workshops on gender and strategic planning for representatives of both sectors, and the development of indicators to monitor the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the Ministries of Labour.

The CIM Executive Secretariat took part in the introductory session of the “*Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in the Ministries of Labor of the Americas*”, on July 21, 2009 in Buenos Aires, as part of the activities of CIMT, and as a follow-up to its strategic lines of action. Participants at the session included officials responsible for gender issues in the ministries of Labor, representatives of the OAS and ILO, as well as civil society organizations. The preliminary version of the study was discussed, including the need for capacity building in the various labor ministries for more effective gender mainstreaming in their policies, programs and institutional activities.

A consultant has been engaged to prepare the materials and facilitate the capacity-building workshops in Spanish, and another has been engaged to facilitate workshops in English with the

Caribbean. A total of four workshops have been scheduled for 2010 – one for the Caribbean in April 2010, two for Central America and the Southern Cone in May 2010; and a final workshop for the Andean region in September 2010.

The CIM Executive Secretariat participated in the planning meeting for the XVI IACML (December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2009, Washington, DC). During a joint session with other international organizations (ECLAC, IADB, ILO, and PAHO), inputs were shared for the preparation of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the XVI IACML, and CIM presented its activities in the area of gender and decent work.

## **2. Gender and Science and Technology**

On April 14, 2009 the CIM Executive Secretariat held consultations with Dr. Sophia Huyer, Principal Advisor of the *Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS)*, and member of the Advisory Board on Gender of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), to explore possibilities for cooperation. Dr. Huyer noted the interest of *TWOWS* in having the CIM participate in its future activities, which will include a conference on women in science in the region, in which the Department of Science and Technology is also invited to participate.

In response to the interest expressed during the First Regular Session of the Executive Committee, to foster and give priority to women's projects, CIM, together with the UNESCO Regional Forum, Women, Science and Technology in Latin America, drafted a project proposal in line with Economic Autonomy and Labor and with the efforts regarding SEPIA IV. The proposal, "*Strengthening women's training to develop productive, technology-based projects in municipalities,*" for which financing is still needed, aims to develop and implement the pilot phase of a training program for teachers to stimulate and develop entrepreneurial capacity and the strategic use of information and communications technology on women, specially young women, in municipalities. When completed, this phase would provide trained teachers and a proven methodology for training and mentoring women.

## **3. Gender and Migration**

Within the framework of the **Special Commission on Migration Issues (CEAM)**, the Permanent Secretariat organized a **Special Session on Migration and Gender** which was held April 1, 2009. This meeting facilitated a high level dialogue between the members of CEAM and the Executive Committee of the CIM, and helped both parties gain a deeper understanding of the topic and to generate ideas, suggestions and recommendations for future activities of the organization in this area. Special guests from IOM and from academia also took part in this meeting.<sup>3/</sup>

The CIM also participated in the seminar: *Beyond the Wall: Research-based Lessons on the ways in which Migration and Remittances affect Global Development*". The seminar was held on May 26, 2009, at the *Center for Global Development*, in Washington, D.C.

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3. The details and results of this meeting are available in this link:  
<http://portal.oas.org/Portal/Topic/Comisi%C3%B3nInteramericanadeMujeres/Migration/Conferencias/tabid/1647/Default.aspx>

## **E. GENDER MAINSTREAMING AT THE OAS**

### **1. *Inter-American Program on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP)***

The previous session of the OAS General Assembly reaffirmed its support to the follow-up and implementation of the IAP, including activities to continue promoting gender mainstreaming in ministerial meetings.

Within this context, CIM has implemented the following activities:

#### **a) *Implementation of the project “Incorporation of Gender Analysis and Gender Equity and Equality as Cross-Cutting Issues and Objectives in all Programmes of the OAS”***

With funds from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the CIM Executive Secretariat is following-up with the implementation of this project that aims to mainstream gender perspectives in the policies, programmes and projects of all the OAS bodies, organisms and entities. The main components of this OAS Gender Programme are virtual and in-person capacity-building sessions and; the development of an information system; and specific indicators on gender mainstreaming.

In October 2009, the CIM Executive Secretariat concluded the recruitment process for a consultancy firm to conduct a needs assessment and prepare and facilitate in-person gender workshops with OAS staff. The Gender, Society and Politics Area of FLACSO was chosen as the best-qualified candidate for this project, and has been conducting interviews with OAS staff since December 2009, including with Secretaries and departmental Directors, using a questionnaire developed for this purpose.

On February 17, 2010, the President of the CIM, the Secretary-General of the OAS and the Permanent Representative of Canada officially launched the OAS Gender Programme. The Programme will begin with a series of in-person workshops, the first of which is a training-of-trainers session with representatives of different OAS Secretariats and Departments. The aim of these sessions is to build a core group of gender experts within the OAS, who will then begin to build up a Gender Community of Practice, with support from the CIM. The OAS Gender Community of Practice will serve as a space for reflection, dialogue and programming in support of gender mainstreaming processes within the OAS.

Following the training-of-trainers, participants will then assist CIM personnel in facilitating specialized gender workshops with specific entities of the OAS. The first of these specialized workshops included key personnel from the Department of Human Resources (February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2010). An agenda of five more specialized courses is being prepared for the rest of 2010. The materials developed for these in-person workshops, as well as for the virtual course, will also form the basis of the OAS Gender Community of Practice.

## **2. *Gender Mainstreaming in Project Evaluation***

During the period covered by this report, the CIM Executive Secretariat has participated in the Working Group of the OAS Commission on Project Evaluation, which is under the direction of the OAS Department of Planning and Evaluation. This Group evaluates the project profiles presented by various areas of the OAS and provides guidelines for the inclusion of specific issues, including gender equality considerations. The CIM Executive Secretary participates regularly in the meetings of the Project Evaluation Committee (CEP), which incorporates senior managers in the evaluation of OAS projects.

## **3. *Other Activities***

The CIM Executive Secretariat participated for the first time in the Fifth Meeting of the Heads of CARICOM Women's/Gender Bureaux (October 6 and 7, Georgetown, Guyana). During this meeting, which was also attended by representatives of CAFRA, ECLAC, IOM, PAHO, and UNIFEM; CIM presented reports on its 34<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Delegates, MESECVI and the Inter-American Year of Women. As a result of this meeting, CIM was invited to join the CARICOM Regional Advisory Committee on Gender (RAC), which will meet during 2010.

In response to an invitation from the OAS Department of External Relations (Secretariat of International Affairs), the CIM Executive Secretariat provided technical support to the 28<sup>th</sup> Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) (December 2 to 5, 2009, Washington, DC), which is organized for high-school students. One of the issues addressed during the MOAS was the formulation of public policies and the strengthening of national machineries for the advancement of women, and this year the role of Secretary-General was portrayed by a young woman.

Between October and November 2009, at the invitation of the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat, the CIM Executive Secretariat participated in planning meetings regarding the new phase of the OAS Virtual Community, which is being implemented by the Secretariat.

In response to the invitation of the President of the OAS Staff Association, the CIM Executive Secretariat participated in a meeting of the Task Group on the Status of Women in the OAS (November 20, 2009). During the meeting, the Task Group informed CIM of its planned activities, including a study on the situation of women in the OAS. Similarly, the Group expressed interest in collaborating with the Department of Human Resources and the CIM Executive Secretariat.

In January 2010, the CIM Executive Secretariat joined the OAS Haiti Task Force, which is responsible for guiding the OAS response to the situation in Haiti following the January 12<sup>th</sup> earthquake. The Executive Secretariat has participated in the meetings and CIM has prepared a number of articles and informational materials on the importance of including gender mainstreaming and women's participation in the planning and implementation of response and recovery efforts. On February 26, 2010, as part of the Third Regular Session of the OAS Executive Committee, CIM will host a meeting between its Delegates, OAS staff,

representatives of international and civil society organizations and the Minister for the Status of Women and Women's Rights of Haiti, Hon. Marjorie Michel. This will be the first inter-American meeting to address the situation and needs of women and girls in Haiti during this period of crisis.

## **F. RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS**

The Commission respectfully requests that the OAS Permanent Council consider the desirability of submitting this report, together with any observations that it may deem appropriate, for the consideration of the fortieth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, during its discussions on the item.

1. The member states of the Organization could increase their support to the CIM through the promotion and dissemination of its projects and by giving greater visibility to the Commission in their internal agencies and institutions (for example, by including the CIM in their institutional web pages. They could also facilitate the establishment of links between the work of the Commission and that of civil society and academic organizations within their countries.
2. Member states could consider ways in which they could harmonize their internal legislation with the provisions of inter-American treaties and conventions that promote the human rights of women, and seek to achieve the objectives of gender equity and empowerment of women. These include the relevant provisions of the Convention of Belém do Pará.
3. The CIM should be in a position to help the women of the region to confront the challenges posed to them by the international environment, and to transform the paradigm of the region's women as a vulnerable group, to one of heterogeneity and diversity, which is inclusive and modern.
4. The year 2009 was for the countries of the region and indeed, the entire world, a year of economic crisis and profound market changes, and women were naturally not immune from the effects of these disruptions. The CIM should, therefore, adjust its programs, plans and activities, redefining them wherever necessary, to take into account the prevailing situation.
5. The process of strengthening the IAP should continue, especially in support of current efforts to achieve gender mainstreaming throughout the Organization. For this reason, the political support of the General Secretariat and cooperating countries is and will continue to be invaluable.
6. Member states and permanent observers could consider different ways to strengthen the Inter-American Commission of Women, including by providing it with the human and financial resources in keeping with its important objectives of achieving gender equality and empowerment for the women of the Hemisphere.

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