



Organization of  
American States



Inter-American Commission of Women

## **INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN**

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

## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	v
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	vii
I. ORIGIN, LEGAL BASES, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECTIVES .....	1
II. ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE CIM.....	2
III. FULFILLMENT OF THE MANDATES ADOPTED BY THE OAS GENERAL Assembly AT ITS FORTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION.....	2
IV. FULFILLMENT OF THE AGREEMENTS ADOPTED AT THE REGULAR sessions OF THE CIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013-2016.....	3
V. ACTIVITIES OF THE CIM SECRETARIAT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CIM TRIENNIAL PROGRAM OF WORK 2013-2015.....	6
a. Women's substantive political citizenship for democracy and governance .....	6
b. Women's human rights and gender violence' .....	9
c. Citizen security from a gender perspective .....	12
d. Integral development and women's economic citizenship.....	13
e. Institutionalization of the human rights and gender equality approach in the work of the OAS .....	15
f. Strengthening the visibility of the CIM.....	17



## 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 General Committee of the Permanent Council so it may subsequently be submitted to the General Assembly's consideration at its forty-sixth regular session with the observations and recommendations the Council deems appropriate.

This report summarizes the activities carried out by the CIM between March 2015 and February 2016. To better coordinate its work with its existing mandates, which stem from the *Inter-American Program on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality* (IAP), its *Strategic Plan 2011-2016*, specific resolutions of the OAS General Assembly, agreements adopted by the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2016, and the declaration and resolution adopted by the Thirty-Sixth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (October 29-30, 2012, San José, Costa Rica).

The *CIM Strategic Plan 2011-2016*, adopted by the CIM Executive Committee 2011-2012 during its First Regular Session (April 7-8, 2011), seeks to strengthen the pivotal role of the CIM as a hemispheric policy forum for women's rights and gender equality, as well as its coordination with other OAS entities and agencies, international organizations, civil society, and other key sectors.

During the period covered by this report, the CIM worked to promote women's full political citizenship as a prerequisite for democratic governance and eliminating gender violence—both essential to the exercise of human rights and public security. It continued to support the incorporation of a gender perspective as a precondition for sustainable and inclusive human development, and strengthened the image of the OAS as an organization responsive to the demands of women in the Hemisphere.

On March 7, 2016, the OAS General Secretariat adopted its *Institutional Policy on Gender Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights*, through Executive Order No. 16-03. The policy seeks to promote equality and equity in the exercise of rights, and equal opportunities and treatment for men and women in all of the General Secretariat's work by strengthening its management, culture, and institutional capacities. The GS/OAS, under the coordination of the CIM Secretariat, is currently preparing an action plan to implement the Policy.

At the end of 2014, the CIM, in collaboration with the Washington Office on Latin American (WOLA), International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), DeJusticia, the Costa Rican Association for the Study and Intervention of Drugs (ACEID), and Corporación Humanas/Colombia launched a Project on 'Women, Drug Policies, and Incarceration in the Americas: Promoting More Effective and Humane Policies' with the support of Open Society Foundation. In 2015, the main outcome of this Project was the preparation and publication of "*Women, Drug Policies, and Incarceration: A Guide for Policy Reform in Latin America and the Caribbean*," which was launched at a round table that was held on February 2, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

On March 1, 2016, as part of the Zero Discrimination Day celebration, the report “Human Rights of Women Living with HIV in the Americas,”<sup>1/</sup> was launched in coordination with the UNAIDS office for Latin America and the Caribbean. This report seeks to identify progress and challenges with respect to the protection and exercise of rights of women living with HIV, in all their diversity, as well as promote the development of regional and national strategies, based on the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of these rights.

In September 2015, the *Third Consultation with Women and Men Parliamentarians of the Americas* took place in Guanajuato, México, the aim of which was to identify specific lines of work and policy reform in two areas: (i) Political violence and/or harassment of women; and (ii) Striking a balance between one’s parliamentary work and one’s personal life. Participants highlighted, *inter alia*, the need to: enact legislation to prevent, punish, and eradicate political harassment and/or violence against women; adopt public policies on this issue that consider the diversity of women in the Americas, and therefore, the overlap of different kinds of inequality related to race, ethnicity, age, and socio-economic status; promote awareness-raising initiatives and lobbying strategies to achieve approval of legislation on political violence and/or harassment; highlight the importance of creating partnerships with the media and stopping violence against women in the media, as well as on social networks; and promote reforms within parliaments so that men and women may exercise their right to maternity/paternity leave.

From October 29-30, the CIM collaborated with the Autonomous University of Chihuahua (Mexico) to organize Campus Link 2015, an annual inter-university forum for digital innovation and culture held in Ciudad Juárez (Mexico) and Las Cruces, New Mexico (USA). The CIM organized and moderated the panel “Women in Tech,” which brought together a group of prominent women from the world of technology to discuss their experiences and share their reflections on how women are participating in the information and technology industry. Additionally, the CIM sponsored the IDEAHack “ICTs vs Gender Violence,” a forum where university students may positively influence their communities through ideas and solutions that address the issue of gender violence in cyberspace. The winners of IDEAHack will present their ideas during the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.

The CIM will continue working to fulfill the mandates received and strengthen the Commission by meeting the demands of women and striving to make respect for human rights and gender equality a reality throughout the hemisphere.

Alejandra Mora Mora  
President, 2013-2016  
Inter-American Commission of Women

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1. Available in Spanish at: <http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/VIH-DDHH-ESP.pdf>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the activities carried out by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in compliance with its mandates for the period spanning March 2015 to February 2016, which stem from the *Inter-American Program on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality* (IAP), the *CIM's Strategic Plan 2011-2016*, specific OAS General Assembly resolutions, agreements adopted by the CIM Executive Committee for 2013-2016 at its Fifth Regular Session (May 7-8, 2015, Washington, D.C.), and the declaration and resolutions adopted by the Thirty-Sixth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (October 29-30, 2012, San José, Costa Rica).

In compliance with the different mandates entrusted by the OAS General Assembly to the General Secretariat in terms of strengthening the CIM,<sup>2/</sup> during this period the Secretary General lent important political support to the CIM through his participation, and that of the Assistant Secretary General, in various events organized by the Commission. The CIM also received support in seeking resources for existing and new projects.

Fulfillment of the mandate to strengthen the CIM involves improving internal coordination with all the areas of the Organization and ongoing participation in their activities to ensure inclusion of a rights and gender-equality perspective. It also includes implementation of a Gender Program for the OAS General Secretariat, as well as technical support to the different secretariats and member countries of the Organization.<sup>3/</sup>

The CIM made progress in coordinating and collaborating with the principal areas of the OAS, contributing to a better understanding of the negative impact of gender inequalities in each of the thematic areas, to ensure that public policies and action strategies help eliminate inequalities between women and men in the countries of the Americas.

In this period, the CIM received two mandates from the General Assembly and seven specific mandates from its Executive Committee. Of these, the two General Assembly mandates are permanent, that is, their execution is ongoing. Of the Executive Committee decisions, five have been fulfilled totally and two are in progress.

A series of activities were conducted in furtherance of those mandates. They are presented in the report in accordance with the areas identified as “pillars” of the Organization of American States: (a) democracy and governance, (b) human rights, (c) multidimensional security, and (d) integral development. In addition, information is provided on an area of work that is central to the mandate of the CIM: (e) Institutionalization of a Human Rights and Gender Equality Approach in the Work the OAS.

2. AG/RES. 1451 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1592 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1625 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1777 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1941 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2021 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2161 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2323 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2441 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2560 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2685 (XLI-O/11); AG/RES. 2710 (XLII-O/12); AG/RES. 2770 (XLIII-O/13), and AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14).

3. For more information on progress at the OAS General Secretariat in mainstreaming the rights and gender equality perspective, see the *Report by the Secretary General on the Implementation of the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality,” Pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14)*, document CIM/doc.130/15.

## **I. ORIGIN, LEGAL BASES, 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 Executive Secretariat of the CIM.

In 1953, the Commission signed an agreement with the OAS Permanent Council under which the CIM was recognized as a permanent inter-American specialized organization having 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 permanent specialized 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 was signed between the CIM and the OAS.

As the principal hemispheric forum for women’s rights and gender equality, the CIM links the commitments undertaken at the international level on women’s human rights with effective public policies at the national level, in order to support the full political, economic, and social citizenship of women. The CIM addresses the rights and demands of women in five key areas: (i) democracy and governance; (ii) human rights; (iii) multidimensional security; (iv) integral development; and (v) mainstreaming a rights and gender equality perspective at the OAS and in its member states. In these areas, the CIM provides technical support at the legal, political, and programming levels, manages specific regional projects, and uses participatory knowledge management to ensure that political and programming discussions and decisions are evidence-based.

The CIM pursues its objectives through the following organs: the Assembly of Delegates; the Executive Committee, composed of the president, three vice presidents, and five representatives of member countries, all elected by the Assembly; and the Permanent Secretariat, which performs the Commission’s administrative, technical, and executive duties. The Assembly of Delegates is the supreme authority of the CIM, and its resolutions, together with those of the OAS General Assembly, establish the guidelines for the 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.

## II. ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE CIM

In compliance with resolution CIM/RES. 257 (XXXV-O/10), adopted by the Thirty-Fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (November 3-5, 2010, Mexico City), the Thirty-Sixth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM was held October 29-30, 2012, in San José, Costa Rica.

During this Assembly, the CIM Executive Committee was elected for the 2013-2015 period:

President:	Costa Rica (Alejandra Mora Mora)
Vice-Presidents:	Haiti (Yves Rose Morquette) Panama (Liriola Leoteau) Uruguay (Mariella Mazzotti)
Members:	Barbados, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and the United States

Given the decision to delay the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (which will take place May 24-25, 2016 in Lima, Peru), the First Special Session of the CIM Executive Committee held in Lima, Peru, on October 16, made the decision to extend the term of the Committee and its officers (President and Vice-President) until the Assembly is held.

From May 7 to 8, 2015, the President of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora, chaired the Fifth Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee in Washington, DC. In her opening remarks, the President highlighted the accomplishments of the CIM during this last period, thanked the Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza, for his support of the CIM during her tenure and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the former President of the CIM, Rocío García Gaytán.

From October 15 to 16, the President of the CIM concluded her term as President of the Conference of States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará, ceding her post to the Permanent Delegate of Peru to the CIM, the Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Marcela Huaita.

## III. FULFILLMENT OF THE MANDATES ADOPTED BY THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

Mandate	Status implementation	Comments
AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14) "Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against	Permanent	- The CIM serves in a permanent capacity as Secretariat of the MESECVI. <sup>4/</sup> - The Second Follow-up Round to the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts was finalized with the adoption of

4. For more information on the work of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), see the *Report on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará' in fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14)*, document CIM/doc.133/16.



Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará"		<p>the <i>Second Follow-up Report on the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Sixth Conference of the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará was held (October 15-16, 2015, Lima)</li> <li>- The Twelfth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI was held (October 13-14, 2015, Lima)</li> </ul>
<b>AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14)</b> "Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women"	Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CIM continues with the monitoring and implementation of the IAP.<sup>5/</sup></li> <li>- Continued implementation of the CIM Strategic Plan 2011-2016.</li> <li>- Continued implementation of the Triennial Program of Work 2013-2015</li> <li>- Initiated agreements and activities in collaboration with international organizations, civil society groups, and academic and research institutions</li> <li>- Strengthened the CIM's visibility in the region through communication and dissemination initiatives</li> </ul>

#### IV. FULFILLMENT OF THE AGREEMENTS ADOPTED AT THE REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE CIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013-2016

At its First Regular Session (April 2011), the CIM Executive Committee 2011-2012 adopted the *CIM 2011-2016 Strategic Plan*,<sup>6/</sup> the main strategies of which are:

1. coordination and harmonization of the CIM's activities with those of the OAS; and
2. mainstreaming of a rights and gender equality approach in the main forums, programs, and institutional planning of the Organization. The Plan is built on four program areas, to harmonize and coordinate the CIM's activities with the four thematic pillars of the OAS and its programs, forums, and strategies:
  - a. Women's substantive political citizenship for democracy and governance;
  - b. Women's economic security and citizenship;
  - c. Women's human rights and gender violence; and
  - d. Citizen security from a gender perspective.

5. For more information on progress at the OAS General Secretariat in mainstreaming a rights and gender equality approach, see the *Report by the Secretary General on the Implementation of the "Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality," Pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14)*, document CIM/doc.132/16.

6. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/plan.asp>

***Fifth Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2016***  
(May 7-8, 2015 – Washington, DC)

<b>Agreement</b>		<b>Status of implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	<p>The CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015, at its Fifth Regular Session held in Washington, DC, on May 7, 2015, agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Submit to the Secretary General-Elect of the Organization of American States (OAS) the two candidacies presented for the post of CIM Executive Secretary, in keeping with Article 28 of the CIM Statute;</li> <li>2. Attach thereto the candidates' résumés, notes from their respective Foreign Ministries, and the Minutes of the Fifth Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015, which reflect the delegations' presentations and subsequent comments, as a mechanism for the process' transparency;</li> <li>3. Affirm that both candidacies comply with the requirements provided for in the four pertinent legal instruments: the Statute of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the 1978 Agreement between the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Program-Budget of the Organization for 2015-2016 [AG/RES. 1 (XLVIII-E/14)], and Executive Order No. 08-01 Rev.7, Annex I of December 1, 2014; and</li> <li>4. Underscore that these procedures were carried out in strict adherence to Article 28 of the Statute of the CIM.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p>The candidacies were submitted to the Secretary General of the OAS and the Executive Secretary was appointed on June 25, 2015.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>Recommend to the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM that regulation of the process for receiving candidacies for appointment to the post of Executive Secretary of the CIM be adjusted in the future.</p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p>With the support of the OAS Legal Services Department, the Executive Secretariat of CIM prepared a draft amendment to the CIM Statute, which will be submitted to the consideration of the 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Delegates (May 24-25, 2016 , Lima.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>In view of the CIM's progress in providing greater visibility to the phenomenon of violence and harassment of women in the political sphere, the Executive Committee agrees to request that the Executive Secretariat:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distribute the draft project proposal for preparation of the Model Law on Political Violence against Women to Delegates for their comments;</li> </ol>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>The Secretariat of the CIM prepared a project proposal that has passed the PEC approval process and funds are currently being sought.</p>

<b>Agreement</b>	<b>Status of implementation</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Submit the draft project to the OAS Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) for approval;</li> <li>3. Continue with and strengthen this line of work, including the mobilization of resources for preparation of the draft Model Law on Political Violence against Women, and other tools provided for in the project document, in collaboration with UN Women, IDEA Internacional, UNDP, and other relevant partners; and</li> <li>4. Present the results of this work during the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.</li> </ol>	<p>The project has been included in the OAS project portfolio and will receive support from the OAS Strategic Counsel for Organizational Development and Management for Results.</p> <p>The results of these efforts will be presented to the 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Delegates (May 24-25, 2016, Lima)</p>
<p><b>4</b> In preparation for the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, the Executive Committee agrees to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thank the Delegation of Peru for offering to host the Assembly at the beginning of 2016; and</li> <li>2. Request that the Executive Secretariat:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide the necessary technical and logistical support to ensure a successful meeting;</li> <li>b. Create the Working Group for the Preparation of the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, open to all delegations and to be chaired by the delegations of Costa Rica and Peru, to consider the draft declaration and resolutions, as well as other relevant documents;</li> <li>c. Hold the first meeting of this Working Group after the OAS management transition process concludes;</li> <li>d. Include the changes suggested by the Delegates to the draft Agenda (CIM/CD/doc.26/15) and Organization of Work (CIM/CD/doc.27/15) and redistribute these documents to the Delegates; and</li> <li>e. Prepare the draft declaration and resolutions, distribute them to the Delegates with due time in order to obtain their comments, and submit them to the Working Group's consideration.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>The date of the Assembly was set for May 24-25, 2016, in Lima.</p> <p>The first meeting of the Working Group took place on February 9 and meetings continue to be held to consider documents for the Assembly and their submission to the same.</p>
<p><b>5</b> In reference to the draft CIM Triennial Program of Work 2016-2018 (CIM/CD/doc.28/15), the Executive Committee agrees to request that the Executive Secretariat:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Redistribute this document so that Delegates may provide their comments within 30 days;</li> <li>2. Include the suggestions and comments received from Delegates and submit the document to the consideration of the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM through the Preparatory Working Group; and</li> <li>3. Ensure that the CIM work plans and programs are coordinated with the priorities set by the Organization to achieve full</li> </ol>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p>The draft CIM Triennial Program of Work was distributed to the Delegates and the revised draft is under consideration by the Preparatory Working Group.</p>

Agreement		Status of implementation
	integration of a gender perspective in the framework of the change in OAS leadership and the process of implementing a new strategic vision.	
6	Reaffirm the existing resolutions regarding gender and recommend to the General Assembly and the OAS General Secretariat that gender equality be considered a criteria in appointments to OAS management positions and the election of high-level positions at Inter-American bodies.	On-going

*First Special Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2016*  
(October 16, 2015, Lima)

Agreement		Status of Implementation
1	The CIM Executive Committee, at its First Special Session on October 16, 2015, in Lima, Peru, agrees to postpone the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates until May 2016	<b>Fulfilled</b>  The date of the Assembly was set for May 24-25, 2016, in Lima.

**V. ACTIVITIES OF THE CIM SECRETARIAT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CIM TRIENNIAL PROGRAM OF WORK 2013-2015**

**a. Women's substantive political citizenship for democracy and governance**

In the last five years, the OAS has been fostering consensus on the main challenges to strengthening democracy and governance in Latin America and the Caribbean through national dialogue and consultations in order to generate a common view on the kind of democracy that citizens of the region aspire to have, as well as renewed thinking on the democratic system and new forms of political participation.

As part of this process, the CIM has strengthened its role as the main hemispheric political forum for the promotion of women's full citizenship and rights in the Americas, by organizing a series of hemispheric forums on women's rights and citizenship in democratic systems (April 2011, July 2012, September 2013, December 2014, February 2015) with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and other partners. These events aim to identify policy and institutional reforms needed to ensure women the full exercise of their political rights and to eliminate violence and harassment against them in the political sphere.

These hemispheric dialogues have brought together a large and varied group of women who work in women's rights, politics, and democracy in the region, including women ministers, parliamentarians, ambassadors, and authorities from local government, human rights organizations, women's organizations and networks, as well as intergovernmental and academic organizations.

The CIM, in collaboration with UN Women and IDEA Internacional and with the support of the AECID, published two studies:

- *Women's Citizenship in the Democracies of the Americas* (2013) presents a critical reflection on democracy based on diverse perspectives, visions, concerns, and proposals and contributes to the analysis of democratic systems not limited to the dimension of representation and institutions, encompassing other spheres of life not included in the classic notion of citizenship, such as gender, inter-culturalism, pluri-ethnicity, sexual and reproductive citizenship, and global citizenship; and
- *Betting on Parity: The Democratization of Political Systems in Latin American (Case studies from Ecuador, Bolivia, and Costa Rica)* documents and analyzes from a critical and systematic perspective the processes that led to the adoption of the principle of parity, identifies the pertinent factors involved that influenced these processes, and assesses its implementation.

In July 2012 and October 2013, the CIM organized the Hemispheric Consultation with Women Parliamentarians in collaboration with the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA). These consultations brought together gender equity committee chairs of the legislative and parliamentary bodies of American nations in order to identify the main problems, priorities, and strategies aimed at introducing women's rights and gender equality on the legislative agenda, as part of international and inter-American commitments undertaken by the States.

In this regard, the CIM has focused its attention on analyzing the exercise of women's political rights in the Hemisphere, with particular emphasis on the issue of parity. Given the persistent political exclusion of women and the slow pace of change, in recent years the States have recognized the urgency of making headway and are beginning to rethink democracy from the perspective of parity, as a general democratic principle and a strategy aimed at resolving the current inadequacies of representative democracies. The work of the CIM has centered on two important spheres that the Commission proposes be broadened in upcoming years:

1. To go beyond the quota system and advance toward parity between men and women in all institutions of the State and all arenas of public and political life; and
2. To focus on eliminating violence and harassment from politics as a fundamental component for the full exercise of women's political rights.

As follow-up to its achievements in this sphere, the CIM's current work is focused on attaining the following goals:

- The preparation of a *Toolkit on Gender Parity in Political Representation: Guidelines and Best Practices*, which aims to provide the States practical instruments for effective implementation of laws and other standards for parity in political representation. A capacity-building process around this Toolkit will focus efforts on promoting affirmative action in political reforms addressing issues such as electoral campaign financing, the balance between political life and family responsibilities, political violence, and diversity; and

- The preparation of a *Model Law on Violence against Women in the Political Sphere*, and a series of guides for its implementation in different arenas (political parties, electoral institutions), as well as inclusion of the issue of political violence in the work of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI).

On February 25, 2015, two events were held in Washington, D.C: (i) a meeting of experts to analyze the challenges countries in the region face to effectively respond to the problem of political violence against women, particularly through provisions that punish such violence; and (ii) the round table “Political Violence against Women: A Hemispheric Challenge,” aimed at highlighting the different manifestations of violence that women experience in the political sphere and strengthening the hemispheric and institutional response to them. As a result of the meeting, the CIM/MESECVI has identified the main elements that a provision on this matter is to contain—analysis that will provide guidance for the Commission’s future work on this topic.

As a follow-up to this meeting, consultations were held on the outcomes of the February meeting and next steps to be taken, as part of the 8th Latin American Congress on Political Science in July 2010 in Lima, Peru.

On September 10, 2015, the Third Consultation with Women and Men Parliamentarians of the Americas took place in Guanajuato, Mexico, the purpose of which was to identify specific lines of work and political reform in two areas:

- Political violence and/or harassment against women; and
- Balance between personal and parliamentary life.

Participants underscored, among others, the following priorities:

- To enact legislation to prevent, punish, and eradicate political violence and/or harassment against women, taking into account the definition of “violence against women” set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Belém do Para Convention, as well as women’s political rights as provided for under Article 7 of CEDAW;
- Public policies on this issue must consider the diversity of women in the Americas, and thus, the overlapping of different kinds of inequality related to race, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, among others;
- To promote initiatives for awareness raising and lobbying strategies to achieve approval of legislation on political violence and/or harassment;
- To note greater incidence of this violence in sub-national political spheres;
- To highlight the essential role of political parties and the need to provide mechanisms to prevent, address, and punish political violence and/or harassment against women within political parties;
- To underscore the importance of creating partnerships with the media and stopping violence against women in the media, as well as on social networks.
- To note the absence of formal rules in parliaments that regulate the timetables of political activities and other important aspects; and
- To promote reforms within parliaments so women and men may exercise their right to maternity/paternity leave.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that the Fourth Consultation would be held in 2016.

These activities are also framed in the actions of the CIM to fulfill the commitment undertaken by the OAS member states in the Declaration of the Inter-American Year of Women “Women and Power: For a World of Equality,” CIM/DEC. 10 (XXXV-O/10) and the mandates received to strengthen the CIM as the hemispheric forum for promotion of women’s rights and full citizenship in the Americas.

**b. Women’s human rights and gender violence<sup>7/</sup>**

***Evaluating national initiatives to produce comparable data about violence against women in OECS countries***

With the support of the Governments of Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname, this project mapped the main strategies of the six countries that comprise the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS – Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) as part of a comparative study of the sub-region to analyze violence against women. This sub-regional analysis will enable OECS policymakers to better identify and address gaps in their response to violence against women at both the national and sub-regional levels, in accordance with their acquired commitments under the Belém do Pará Convention. This strategic resource to address violence against women highlights the need for more and better data and for proper standardized tools for data collection across the sub-region. With sufficient financing, this would be the second phase of the current project.

To date, the project has completed the following activities:

- A compilation of data for each country of the OECS;
- Two focus groups for domestic violence service users held in two of the project countries: Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- A validation workshop held jointly with the Second OECS Round Table on Violence against Women, at which the findings of the project’s research phase were reviewed. A report was prepared on this workshop, which was held in Saint Lucia on September 23-24, 2014. At this meeting, in observance of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Belém do Pará Convention, attendees heard presentations from OECS and CEVI experts and deliberated on the achievements and challenges of implementing the Convention in the Caribbean. A round table discussion was also held about the role of men as perpetrators and victims of gender violence – a topic of great interest to the Caribbean region;
- A consolidated sub-regional report that includes national data and information on violence against women in the OECS sub-region;

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7. For further information on the work of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), see the *Report on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará,” in fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14)*, document CIM/doc.129/15.

- Validated results to be published as country reports as well as a consolidated sub-regional report.

***Incorporation of policies and programs on HIV and violence against women from a human rights perspective in Central America and the Caribbean***

Pursuant to the Declaration of San Salvador, adopted by the CIM in November 2007, the CIM implemented this project from September 2008 through January 2012, with funding from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Although the project has formally ended, in response to the demands made by the project's partners, particularly the community of women living with HIV in the Americas, the CIM has continued working in this area, with the following specific results:

- Adoption by the OAS General Assembly of resolution AG/RES. 2802 (XLIII-O/13) "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of People Vulnerable to, Living with, or Affected by HIV/AIDS in the Americas," which aims to foster action in the following areas:
  - Analysis, by the CIM and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the legal and regulatory framework governing HIV in the States of the region – in the context of the international and inter-American commitments undertaken by the member states – in order to identify obstacles faced by people living with HIV to the full exercise of their rights;
  - The work of the OAS, in collaboration with its strategic partners, including groups of women living with HIV, to support States in formulating and implementing laws and public policies that protect the human rights of people living with HIV;
  - Greater access for people living with HIV, particularly pregnant and lactating women, to antiretrovirals; and
  - The participation of people living with HIV, including young women, in the decision-making and dialogue spaces of the OAS.
- The signing of a collaboration agreement between the OAS and UNAIDS in January 2014 in order to strengthen the guarantee and protection of human rights of people vulnerable to, living with, or affected by HIV/AIDS in the Americas;
- The development, in coordination with the LAC offices of UNAIDS, of the *Manual for Strengthening the Exercise of the Human Rights of Women Living with HIV in Latin America*,<sup>8</sup> which was published and launched during the round table on "Violence against women and sexual and reproductive rights in the Americas: Progress and persistent challenges" (December 2, 2014, Washington, D.C.). This manual is based on initiatives at the international, regional, and national levels, which, in recent decades, have formed the basis for advancing national responses from the perspective of gender equality and constitutes a tool to support the assessment of progress in different sectors on knowledge generation, advocacy, and promotion of the human rights of women living with HIV; and

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8. Available in Spanish at: [http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/Manual\\_CIM\\_ONUSida\\_ES.pdf](http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/Manual_CIM_ONUSida_ES.pdf)



- The preparation and launch, on March 1, 2016, as part of the observance of Zero Discrimination Day and in coordination with the LAC offices of UNAIDS, of a report on “The Human Rights of Women Living with HIV in the Americas,”<sup>9/</sup> which seeks to identify progress and challenges in connection with the protection and exercise of the rights of women living with HIV, in all their diversity, and to promote the development of regional and national strategies based on the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of these rights. The report was not only prepared for women living with HIV, but also to serve as a guide and an advocacy and training tool for governments, civil society organizations, and other actors that are seeking to push forward with public policies and programs that respond to the needs of women living with HIV and guarantee them full exercise of their human rights.

### ***Indicators on the exercise of women’s human rights***

As a follow-up to the *System of progress indicators for measuring the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention*<sup>10/</sup> and with the support of the Government of Canada, the CIM has made progress in the implementation of the project “Bringing women’s rights and gender equality instruments to public policy formulation in the Americas.” The objectives of this project are to: (i) Strengthen the capacity of OAS member states to effectively monitor and evaluate the impact of public policies on women’s human rights; and (ii) evaluate and support the role of national machineries for the advancement of women in their capacity as the main bodies responsible for discharging the aforementioned functions of monitoring and evaluation.

In this context, a series of diagnostic assessments were conducted in Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago in 2013 in order to identify: (i) To what extent national reports and plans about women’s rights and gender equality took into account commitments undertaken at both an inter-American and international level; and (ii) existing sex-disaggregated data that could support monitoring of the exercise of women’s rights. On the basis of these assessments, a Regional Group of Experts on Indicators of the Exercise of Women’s Rights was established, which prepared a first version of draft indicators that could be used by States for more effective monitoring of the exercise of women’s rights.

The initial proposal for the Integrated System of Indicators on Women’s Human Rights (ISIWHR) has served as the basis for a series of validation and capacity-building workshops with national machineries for the advancement of women, national statistics institutes, and other relevant actors in the countries participating in the project, which were held in 2014 in: Brazil (June 2-3), Ecuador (June 18-19), Costa Rica (July 29-31), Guatemala (August 26-28), Bolivia (September 9-11), the Dominican Republic (October 7-9), and Panama (March 25-27, 2015). The results of each of these workshops have been incorporated into the ISIWHR, which is currently being edited and translated for future publication.

On the basis of this progress, the CIM has prepared a follow-up proposal to the current project for the consideration of donors. With adequate funding, this proposal will allow the CIM, on

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9. Available in Spanish at: <http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/VIH-DDHH-ESP.pdf>

10. See: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/indicators.asp>

the one hand, to expand the current project to other countries in the region and, on the other hand, to continue providing technical assistance to those countries that have already participated in the project, with a view to making the ISIWHR an integral part of processes to monitor women's human rights at the national level.

**c. Citizen security from a gender perspective**

**Women's participation in the world of illicit drugs**

Claims by the media, paired with the scarce data available, suggest that in recent years, the participation of women in the international drug problem has increased significantly. Nevertheless, while this participation is visible in the news, it has been largely absent from the research and other activities of most governmental and inter-governmental bodies in the Americas.

As a follow-up to the agreements adopted by the First Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015 (February 28, 2013), in the framework of the forty-third regular session of the General Assembly of the OAS (June 4-6, 2013, La Antigua, Guatemala), and with the aim of raising awareness among OAS delegates and other stakeholders about the growing number of women involved in the complex matter of drugs, the CIM held a round table discussion on "Women and drugs in the Americas: A working situation analysis." During the round table, panelists stressed the importance of incorporating differentiating criteria into the analysis of the situation of women and men involved in the drug problem.

As a follow-up to the "Women and drugs in the Americas" round table, and with the aim of beginning to fill the information gap on women's participation in the world of drugs, the CIM prepared the study, *Women and drugs in the Americas: A policy working paper*, which was launched during a policy round table on "Women, drug policies, and incarceration in the Americas," on March 31, 2014 in Washington, D.C.

In early 2015, the CIM began to work with the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), and *DeJusticia* on the project "Women, Drug Policies, and Incarceration in the Americas," to assist with development of more humane and effective policies to address drugs and incarceration from a gender and human rights perspective.

To date, this project has achieved the following specific results:

- Establishment of a Working Group to analyze and share best practices on the situation of women incarcerated for drug-related crimes;
- Preparation of four photo essays<sup>11/</sup> that show the cost and human face of punitive drug policies and their gender manifestations;
- Two workshops with government officials in Costa Rica and Colombia;
- Meetings of the Working Group with key partners from multiple sectors in each country;
- Development and publication of "Women, Drug Policies, and Incarceration: A Guide for Policy Reform in Latin America and the Caribbean;"

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11. Available at: [http://www.wola.org/publications/the\\_human\\_face](http://www.wola.org/publications/the_human_face)

- Launch of this Guide during a panel discussion held in Washington, D.C. on February 2, 2016; and
- The establishment of agreements with specific countries (Colombia, Costa Rica) for the preparation of National Guides.

**d. Integral development and women's economic citizenship**

Over the last three years, the CIM has broadened its collaboration with the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), including the inter-American committees and ministerial meetings of various sectors, their technical secretariats and cooperation networks that fall under SEDI. In this regard, the technical advice and assistance provided by the CIM is reflected in terms of its incidence in the formulation and implementation of policies, programs, and projects.

In addition to the economic area, which has focused primarily on the issue of labor, the CIM has worked with other sector areas including social development, disaster management, competitiveness, ICTs, and ports, as well as with the Educational Portal of the Americas and the OAS Scholarships Program.

In the area of labor, the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment (DDHEE) is in constant coordination with the CIM to follow up on the "Strategic guidelines of the XV IACML for advancing gender equality and non-discrimination within a decent work framework" (2007),<sup>12/</sup> the conclusions of the First Inter-Ministerial Meeting between Ministers of Labor and Ministers of Women or senior authorities in this sector in the Hemisphere regarding Gender Equality in Decent Work (2011), and the results of the CIM project "Advancing Gender Equality in the Context of Decent Work" (2009-2011).<sup>13/</sup> The CIM-IACML collaboration is reflected in the consolidation of a gender and women's rights perspective on the technical and political agenda of this Conference. The CIM has also worked very closely with DDHEE through the Educational Portal of the Americas in the preparation and delivery of OAS online courses and management of the OAS' Gender Community of Practice. Additionally, as a result of the open competitions in which it participates with the OAS Scholarships Program, the CIM receives scholarships that it can offer in the region for online training.

With the then-Department for Economic and Social Development (DDES), currently the Department for Social Inclusion, the CIM is supporting the implementation of Participatory Gender Audits (PGAs) in various Social Ministries in collaboration with the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, in the framework of the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN), and with the support of the Government of the United States of America. To date, PGAs have been carried out with the Social Ministries of Guatemala (March-April 2014), Uruguay (July-August 2014), and Paraguay (September 2014). This technical assistance includes training on the PGA methodology from a team of facilitators that includes personnel from the Social Ministry and the National Machinery, followed by the PGA itself over a two-week period under the guidance of experts and with the participation of the team that has been trained. The PGA concludes with an Action Plan for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the Social Ministry. As a follow-up to this

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12 Available at: [http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/ddse/documentos/trabajo/15cimt/doc10%20ing%20\(Genero\).doc](http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/ddse/documentos/trabajo/15cimt/doc10%20ing%20(Genero).doc).

13. The results of this project are available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/labour.asp>.

project, in 2014 the CIM developed a proposal to be presented to donors, which contemplates the transfer of the PGA methodology to the National Machineries for replication in other sectors.

With the Department of Economic Development (DED), on the issue of Science and Technology, inputs were provided for the Plan of Action of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology—held in Guatemala on March 10-11, 2015—which served to enrich the discussions of this Ministerial through the preparation of a document with specific recommendations (“Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Rights in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Innovation”); this was also addressed at the meeting during the panel discussion on Women’s Participation and Leadership in Science, Technology, and Innovation.

The CIM has continued its collaboration with and technical support to the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), through the meetings of its Consultative Committee on Gender Issues in the Americas (CCP1), which in 2015 adopted resolution PCC.I/RES. 243 (XXVI-15) “Collaboration Request Between CITEL and the Inter-American Commission of Women to Address Issues Related to the Benefit of the Use of ICTs as Tools for the Empowerment of Women, Particularly to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women.” This resolution envisions close coordination with the CIM for implementation of a work program on harassment and violence against women in cyberspace, including through the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI).

Along these same lines, on October 29-30, the CIM worked with the Autonomous University of Chihuahua (Mexico) to hold Campus Link 2015, an annual inter-university forum for digital culture and innovation, which was held in Ciudad Juarez (Mexico) and Las Cruces, New Mexico (USA). The CIM organized and moderated a panel entitled “Women in tech,” which brought together a group of prominent women from the world of technology to discuss their experiences and share their reflections on what women’s participation in the information technology industry is like. In addition, the CIM sponsored IDEAHack, “ICTs vs. Gender Violence,” a forum via which young college students can have a positive influence on their communities by means of ideas and solutions that address the issue of gender violence in cyberspace. The IDEAHack winners will present their ideas during the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.

On the issue of ports, the CIM has strengthened the collaboration that was initiated in 2013 with the Inter-American Committee of Ports (CIP). Such collaboration resulted in the “Hemispheric Seminar on Public Policies and the Visibility of Women in the Ports Sector in the Americas,” which was held on March 14-15, 2013 in the Dominican Republic, with the participation and technical advice of the CIM. The CIM was also invited to take part in the Hemispheric Seminar on “Corporate Social Responsibility and Gender Equality in the Port Sector: From Awareness to Action,” which will be held on April 27-29, 2016 in Panama City and will include a ceremony to award the “Maritime Award of the Americas: Outstanding Women in the Maritime and Port Sectors.”

In coordination with the Department of Social Inclusion of the OAS Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity and with UN Women, the CIM held a round table on “Progress of Women in the Americas: A critical overview of Beijing+20 and perspectives for the post-2015 development agenda” in the framework of the Seventh Summit of the Americas (April 9, 2015, Panama City). The event was proposed as a forum for reviewing advances in gender equality by analyzing progress made since the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted, highlighting economic aspects and unpaid

work in the context of the post-2015 Agenda goals and objectives, with a view to being able to contribute to the 2015 Summit of the Americas on prosperity with equity. The core theme of the event was caretaking and how the burden of unpaid work continues to pose an obstacle to women's ability to achieve full economic and political autonomy as well as equal participation in all areas. Event participants underscored the lack or nonexistence of public services and policies on caregiving and co-responsibility and called for public policies to consider caregiving as a collective social responsibility and recognize the rights of both caregivers and those for whom they care.

**e. Institutionalization of the human rights and gender equality approach in the work of the OAS<sup>14/</sup>**

On March 7, 2016, the OAS General Secretariat adopted *The General Secretariat's Institutional Policy on Gender Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights*, via Executive Order No. 16-03. This policy seeks to advance equality and equity in the exercise of rights, equal opportunities, and equal treatment for men and women in all GS/OAS work by strengthening its management, culture, and institutional capacity. The GS/OAS, under the coordination of the CIM Secretariat, is currently preparing a plan of action for implementing this policy.

As part of the CIM's efforts to advance the institutionalization of a gender and rights perspective in the work of the OAS, it has continued with: (i) Coordination of the OAS Gender Program; (ii) ongoing collaboration with the Department of Planning and Evaluation (DPE) through technical assistance and recommendations to ensure that gender and women's rights dimensions are integrated into project and programming cycles; and (iii) the provision of technical advice and assistance to other secretariats and departments of the OAS, including inter-American committees and their secretariats, in order to advance women's rights and gender equality in the formulation and implementation of their policies, projects, and initiatives.

Within the framework of the OAS Gender Program, whose third phase began with the project "Incorporation of Gender Analysis and Gender Equity and Equality as Crosscutting Topics and Objectives in OAS Programs," executed as part of the OAS/CIDA 2008-2011 Program, the CIM provides ongoing online training to personnel from the OAS and other organizations on gender and rights; manages a Gender Community of Practice for OAS personnel; and monitors, evaluates, and reports annually on the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) within the OAS General Secretariat and its autonomous and decentralized entities.

In the area of capacity building, the CIM offers the online course "Gender Equality and Rights-based approach to Policies, Programs, and Projects," which is currently seeking applications for its sixth edition. The course arose in response to the need of the OAS to advance more systematically and substantively in the integration of a gender and rights perspective in the work of the inter-American system. In collaboration with the Educational Portal of the Americas, a strategic partner in this project, the CIM is currently developing a second online course on "Strategic Planning

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14. For more information on progress in gender and rights mainstreaming at the level of the OAS General Secretariat, see: *Report by the Secretary General on the Implementation of the "Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality" in Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2770 (XLIII-O/13)*, document CIM/doc.124/14.

from a Gender Perspective,” on the basis of a CIM methodology that has already been validated in the region.

The current online course, which also includes the Community of Practice, has graduated professionals from all of the OAS Secretariats, including personnel who coordinate key programs in the region at both the headquarters and field levels from, among others, the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators (PIFJ), the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP-OAS), and the Universalization of Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA). From the first edition (January 10 to March 13, 2013) to the seventh (March 23 to May 25, 2016), the course has graduated more than 500 professionals, including employees from the GS/OAS and from different organizations in the member states.

During the period covered by this report, the CIM continued its theoretical and technical advisory services to the other secretariats and departments of the OAS, including other bodies of the inter-American system, to support the mainstreaming of a human rights and gender equality approach in the work of the Organization. Its activities included:

- With the **Strategic Counsel for Organizational Development and Management for Results** (CEDOGR), there has been ongoing cooperation with the Department of Planning and Evaluation (DPE), via the active participation of the CIM in the OAS’s Project Evaluation Committee and its Working Group to ensure that a gender and human rights approach is integrated into the Organization’s projects and the evaluation thereof, as well as in the classification of and accountability regarding OAS mandates from a gender perspective.

In this area, the growing tendency of different areas to integrate a gender perspective into the formulation and implementation of their projects stands out, including projects designed specifically to advance the empowerment and participation of women in different sectors.

With the **Secretariat for Multidimensional Security** (SMS), specific support has been given to integrating gender issues into the projects and reports of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and the Department of Public Security.

- With the **Secretariat for Political Affairs** (SPA), the CIM has continued its ongoing collaboration with the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) with respect to implementing its electoral observation methodology with a gender perspective and analyzing the outcomes. Similarly, support has been provided to the Department of Effective Public Management in connection with the preparation and implementation of specific projects and programs. In addition, during its course on gender and rights, the CIM has trained personnel at both the headquarters and field levels from the main programs that make up the SPA.
- With the **Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity** (SARE), the CIM is working in close coordination on the implementation of various projects, particularly from the Department of Social Inclusion.

- With the **Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA)**:
  - (i) The CIM has provided technical support and assistance to the Department of International Law in their efforts to promote the adoption of the principles of a Model Inter-American Law on Secured Transactions and its Model Registry Regulation, in particular on issues of financial inclusion. In this context, the CIM Secretariat, along with national and international experts, participated in three seminars, including the “Capacity Building Workshop on Secured Transactions and Asset-Based Lending,” in Kingston, Jamaica, from February 10-12, 2015. Among the international organizations participating in these seminars were the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITL), the International Finance Corporation (CFI), and the Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).
  
- With the autonomous specialized organizations, the CIM has continued its cooperation and advisory services at the request of those bodies. With PAHO, through participation in the meeting of the technical advisory group on gender equality in health (TAG/GEH). These and other autonomous specialized organizations provide yearly inputs to the CIM for the preparation of the Annual Report of the OAS Secretary General in follow-up to the IAP.

**f. Strengthening the visibility of the CIM**

In accordance with the new dynamics of communication, the CIM has devoted its efforts in 2015 to strengthening, via new technologies, its links with civil society, multilateral organizations, foundations, and government institutions, including the justice sector and parliaments, as well as with the media, youth, and citizens of the region, and to bringing greater visibility to the regional agenda for gender issues in order to advance its goals in the areas of democracy, human rights, security, and development. As stated in the *Strategy for strengthening coordination between the CIM and civil society* (CIM/CD/doc.6/13 rev.3), the CIM continues to encourage women’s and human rights organizations from the region to register with the OAS Civil Society Registry.<sup>15/</sup>

In 2015, the CIM signed collaboration agreements with the following entities:

- The PROLAW Program at Loyola University in Chicago;
- The National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence Against Women (CONAVIM) of Mexico’s Secretariat of the Interior; and
- The World Bank’s Global Forum on Law, Justice, and Development.

These efforts were carried out through different tools that have allowed for the promotion of the work of the CIM and enhancement of its relevance in the promotion and protection of women’s rights. The Red CIM (CIM Network), which is an electronic database used for mass emailing, was expanded. To date, the Network includes 3,637 participants, including CIM Delegates, National

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15. The full list of civil society organizations registered with the OAS is available at: [http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/civil\\_society/registry.shtml](http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/civil_society/registry.shtml).

Authorities and Experts of the MESECVI, the permanent missions and offices of the OAS in the member states, civil society organizations dedicated to the promotion of women's rights, the OAS Gender Community of Practice, academic and research centers, the media, and youth networks, among others. In 2015, 2,180 messages were sent via the network to report on the activities of the CIM, present its publications, news, and press releases, and to circulate questionnaires and request information.

The CIM's Twitter feed (@CIMOEA / @CIMOAS) includes more than 2,000 followers and its Facebook page has received more than 4,500 "likes." – in both cases an increase of more than 100% since 2014. It is important to note that these pages are highly visible, that the content is available to anyone, without their having to be accepted as "friends" of the CIM, and that they are highly ranked in Internet searches. These social media have been used to promote CIM events, as a result of which both in-person attendance at such events and followers of the live transmissions have increased markedly.

Similarly, in July 2014, the CIM co-sponsored, for the first time, the Graduate Diploma in Gender and Communications, a virtual learning initiative of the Civic Association Communication for Equality, with a view to eliminating discriminatory stereotypes and sexist content in communications. The second edition of this Diploma co-sponsored by the CIM went from March 16, 2015 to January 2016, and the third edition began on March 14. For this, the CIM granted nine partial scholarships to employees of the OAS and the permanent missions, journalists, attorneys who specialize in gender and violence against women, and officials from member states.

Additionally, in order to foster communication that promotes gender equality, the CIM held an event—"The Right to Gender Transformative Communication"—on November 2, 2015 at the OAS. The objective of the event was to stimulate hemispheric debate to promote communication with a gender focus, based on an exchange of existing best practices and with a view toward making concrete changes in media attitudes and practices. The event was kicked off by the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Ambassador Nestor Mendez, followed by two panels in which renowned figures in journalism, communication, and academia from the region took part. The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR/OAS), Edison Lanza, also spoke in observance of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.

These efforts are a response to the need to advance in the commitments undertaken by Governments in the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women—held in Beijing in 1995—in which they agreed to implement actions to foster balanced and non-stereotyped images of women and to refrain from presenting women as inferior beings and exploiting them as sexual objects and commodities. They further committed to comply with the provisions of the Convention of Belém do Pará as from 1994, in which the States Parties promised to adopt policies to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women and to encourage the media to develop effective journalistic guidelines to help eradicate violence against women in all its forms and to enhance respect for the dignity of women.