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INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016-2019
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
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MINUTES OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CIM 2016-2019

On September 8th 2017, Ana María Choquehuanca, President of the CIM 2016-2019, opened the Second Regular Session of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women 2016-2019 in Lima, Peru.

The Committee was attended by eight of the nine states that comprise it: Peru (Presidency), Costa Rica, Mexico and Paraguay (Vice Presidencies), Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia and Panama, constituting the necessary quorum for meeting (5 States). Belize was not present.

The President of the CIM opened the session expressing her solidarity with the Delegation and with the People of Mexico in light of the earthquake that occurred the previous day (September 7th). She welcomed the Delegates to the CIM and thanked them for their participation in this session of the Executive Committee, as well as their contributions to the Hemispheric Forum on Women and Political Participation in the Americas, held the previous day (September 7th in Lima, Peru).¹ She emphasized the importance of the joint work that the CIM represented, as well as the need to strengthen the CIM as a space for dialogue and debate. She highlighted the fundamental role of the National Machineryes for Women, as well as the importance of social innovation.

As Item 1 of the meeting agenda, the President proceeded with the adoption of the Agenda (CIM/CD/doc.7/17 Rev.1) and the Organization of Work (CIM/CD/doc.8/17 Rev.1).

The President then proceeded with the presentation of the Report of the President and the Executive Secretariat of the CIM (Item 2 of the Agenda, document CIM/CD/doc.9/17). The Executive Secretary of the CIM took the floor to refer to the main developments of the CIM in the period between the First Regular Session of the Executive Committee 2016-2019 (March 14th 2017) and August 31st 2017, as well as the budgetary execution during the same period. In particular, the

1. For more information on the Hemispheric Forum on Women and Political Participation in the Americas (in Spanish), see:

- Video: <https://www.mimp.gob.pe/cim/streaming.php>
- Photo Gallery: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ministerio_de_la_mujer/albums/72157686270716314

Executive Secretary emphasized:

- The adoption by the OAS General Assembly of resolution AG/RES. 2912 (XLVII-O/17) "Financing of the Program-Budget of the Organization 2018," in particular operative paragraph 3b, which grants a 26% increase to the regular budget of the CIM for 2018;
- The adoption by the OAS General Assembly of resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17), "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights," which, among other mandates, entrusts the CIM to continue its treatment of issues of special concern, including: (i) women's participation and leadership in the political sphere; (ii) the eradication of gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriages; (iii) promoting the economic empowerment and autonomy of women and girls; and (iv) communication that promotes gender equality and human rights;
- The publication of the study on *Democratic Parity in Latin America: The cases of Mexico and Nicaragua* (CIM, IDEA, 2017, with the support of the Mexican Electoral Tribunal),² which analyzes and documents key aspects of the processes for the adoption and implementation of parity;
- The signing of a specific interinstitutional collaboration agreement with the Electoral Tribunal of the Judiciary of Mexico (TEPJF), through which the CIM will receive funds to work on a joint program to strengthen the capacity of the TEPJF to protect the political and electoral rights of women;
- Development, in collaboration with the Department for Effective Public Management (DGPE), through the OAS School of Government and with the support of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), of the "'Elvia Carrillo" Inter-American Program of Public Leadership for Women Candidates,"³ with a view to strengthening the capacities of women who have decided to run as candidates for elected office;
- The organization, within the framework of the 47th OAS General Assembly (June 20th 2017, Cancun), of the thematic panel "Opportunities and Challenges for Women's Leadership in the Americas," with a view to identifying the challenges for the exercise of women's leadership and their full and equal participation in decision-making in the Hemisphere;
- The development of the Model Law on Political Violence against Women and, with the financial support of AMEXCID, the development of concrete tools to support the implementation of this Law, with emphasis on the actions of political parties and electoral institutions
- The CIM's work on theoretical and technical assistance to other OAS Secretariats and Departments, including other organs of the inter-American system, to support the institutionalization of a human rights and gender equality approach in the work of the Organization; and
- The CIM ongoing offer of on-line training to OAS staff, State officials and other stakeholders, particularly in the areas of: gender mainstreaming; strategic planning with a gender perspective; communication, gender and human rights; and gender justice and violence.

The Executive Secretary also took the opportunity to comment on the political and financial challenges facing the CIM, including cuts to the regular budget of the Secretariat and the uncertainty of political support for an increase in its human and financial resources.

2. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/DemocraciaParitaria-MexNic-ES.pdf> (in Spanish, English translation is forthcoming)

3. Elvia Carrillo was a Mexican feminist and suffraganist leader, born in Motul de Carrillo Puerto, Yucatan, in 1881. She dedicated her life to women's suffrage and to fighting for birth control, sexual freedom and divorce, among other rights. She was elected deputy in the Congress of Yucatán in the year 1923, being the first Mexican woman to assume that position of popular representation, when women in Mexico still did not have the right to vote. More information (in Spanish): https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvia_Carrillo_Puerto

At the end of the presentation, the President invited delegations to give their views. The delegates from Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Paraguay and Panama spoke to express their thanks for the report and highlight the value of the CIM as a strategic forum for advancing the gender agenda in the countries of the hemisphere, as well as its centrality to the work of the OAS in addition to the jurisdictional roles of the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights. In addition:

The Delegate of **Mexico**:

- Made available to all the platform "POLICIES: Politics and Public Policies with a Gender Perspective,"⁴ developed by INMUJERES with other partners, which seeks to contribute to the identification and leadership training of women interested in participating in decision-making. The online learning platform, with permanent open registration, is composed of six modules: Gender Focus; Indicators with a gender perspective; Public policies; Management and Direction; Public Opinion, Political Communication and Campaigns; and Legislative Negotiation;
- Also referred to the problem of adolescent pregnancy and the subsumed problem of sexual violence against girls and highlighted the National Strategy for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy (ENAPEA)⁵ in Mexico. She referred in particular to the role of parents, teachers and tutors in the implementation of this strategy, for which the "Families and sexualities"⁶ page had been developed as a set of capsules on topics such as: Equality, Sexual Rights, Sexualities, Contraceptive Methods, Gender Violence, Pregnancy, Relationships and Affection, and Life Project.

The Delegate of **Costa Rica**:

- Also emphasized the importance of the topic of child pregnancy and the need to inform and raise awareness about sexual and reproductive rights. She reported that the country was finalizing a draft law on the prohibition of child marriage in persons under 18, which had been a very interesting multi-sectoral and participatory process, with the result of obviating the issue of decision-making by girls and placing responsibility on the adult, which has had important implications for criminal law;
- Stressed that INAMU also has an online training program and that it would be useful to have a hemispheric mapping of these training offers from the National Machineries.

The Delegate of **Peru**:

- Stressed the importance of circulating the Inter-American Model Law on Political Violence against Women, in support of ongoing processes and projects at the national level, including in Peru;
- Made reference to the problem of adolescent pregnancy, and highlighted in particular the need for greater visibility and approach to child pregnancy (in girls aged 9 to 12 years), apart from the response to adolescent pregnancy, which is addressed in Peru through a Multi-sectoral Plan for the Prevention of Pregnancy in Adolescents.⁷ She requested that the proposed Model Law on Child Marriage and Early Union should include the issue of child pregnancy

4. Available at: <http://politicas.mx/>

5. The ENAPEA and related documents are available (in Spanish) at: <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/acciones-y-programas/estrategia-nacional-para-la-prevencion-del-embarazo-en-adolescentes-33454>

6. Available at: <http://familiasysexualidades.educarcontics.com/>

7. Available at: <http://www.minsa.gob.pe/portada/Especiales/2014/adolescentes/cont.asp?pg=2>

- Also referred to the importance of information on work in political matters. She stressed that the National Electoral Court of Peru had live streamed the Hemispheric Forum "Women and Political Participation in the Americas" on September 7th to its entire network, in the context of the 2018 electoral process at the level of regional and local governments, where many women participate as regulators and councillors. She also mentioned the value of multiple training initiatives and joined Costa Rica's request to map them and establish the platform.

The Delegate of **Paraguay**:

- Proposed the creation of an informal communication mechanism between the Delegates in order to have a mechanism for rapid response to situations of concern around the CIM, or in the region in general;
- Stressed the importance of separating the approach to child pregnancy from adolescent pregnancy, since the former is considered an act of violence, and drew attention to the issue of impunity for perpetrators. She also mentioned adolescent pregnancy in cases where there is a great difference in age between the girl and the man, and the need to also treat these cases separately;
- Lastly, made reference to the prevention of violence against women and to the fact that, despite having had for the last 20 years the only Convention specifically dealing with prevention, the results on this issue are few in the region. She stressed the importance of identifying and socializing good practices in prevention

The Delegate of **Panama**:

- Proposed the organization of a formal dialogue between the CIM and the Inter-American Commission/Court of Human Rights on their different but complementary contributions to the same political space, within the framework of the 90th anniversary of the CIM and its importance as a hemispheric policy forum
- Regarding child marriage, she emphasized that formal regulations were not sufficient and that they had to be reinforced with a greater focus on implementation. She proposed in this regard the development of an Implementation Guide to accompany the Model Law on Child Marriage and Early Union.

At the conclusion of the round of interventions, the President summarized and requested the preparation of draft agreements of the Committee that included the main points proposed by the Delegates.

Subsequently, the President introduced Item 3 of the Agenda "Compliance with the CIM Work Plan 2017" and gave the floor to Line Bareiro to present the document "Inter-American Guidelines on Gender Equality for the Good of Humanity" (document CIM /CD/doc.10/17). Ms. Bareiro presented the process for the preparation of the document, which included a process of gathering information by country on the main discourses against gender equality, who issues them, what their effects are and what resources are available to respond in an effective manner. With these inputs, the document was developed with the objective of "Having inter-American guidelines to strengthen the positioning of gender equality as a good of humanity, effectively, but not necessarily directly, addressing the discourse against gender equality and women's rights."

Following the presentation of Ms. Bareiro, the President offered the floor to the Delegations for questions or comments. In summary, the Delegates requested a series of revisions to the document to:

- Further develop the concepts of gender equality for the good of humanity, as well as the contextualization of the concept of *post-truth* within the debate on gender equality;
- Deepen the discussion of the proponents of discourses against gender equality, the culture of intolerance and the effects on the State of these discourses, particularly in terms of strengthening of the National Machineries for Women;
- Explore how women themselves, including women's groups, participate in promoting and replicating discourses against gender equality;
- Strengthen the emphasis on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular the fact that the gender approach is mainstreamed in most of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals; and
- Propose the possibility, in the context of the implementation of the guidelines, to create spaces for consultation and dialogue with the main actors that emit discourses against gender equality.

The President then requested that the CIM Secretariat incorporate these comments into a revised version of the guidelines that could be circulated and approved by the Delegates electronically.

The President then offered the floor to the Delegates on the second topic under consideration in Item 3 of the Agenda, the "Strategy to close the wage gap between men and women." The Delegate of Mexico offered to act as a focal point in the preparation of this strategy, with the support of the Secretariat, and specifically proposed working with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) salary discrimination indexes to: i) identify existing laws in each country that prohibit wage inequality; (ii) determine the magnitude of the gaps in each country; and iii) identify concrete public policy and budget recommendations, with emphasis on compensation policies from the Ministries of Finance. In response to this offer, the President offered Peru's support in the development of the Strategy and concluded consideration of this topic.

Finally, the President introduced Item 4 of the Agenda, the "Proposal for the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (February 18th 2018)," contained in document CIM/ CD/doc.11/17. She gave the floor to the Executive Secretary of the CIM to present the document, and then to the Delegates for pertinent questions or comments. In summary:

- The Delegate of Mexico offered support for the design of a logo and other corporate materials around the 90th anniversary;
- The Delegates requested a set of questions to guide the preparation of the national chapters of the publication, highlighting progress but accompanied by a reflection on persistent challenges;
- The Delegates recommended a strategic and long-term approach to reviewing the progress of the CIM;
- The Delegates proposed the creation of a promotional video about the CIM, with the members of the Executive Committee and also with some Foreign Ministers, highlighting the importance of the CIM as a hemispheric political forum; and
- The Delegates requested to invite the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the region to the event of the 90th anniversary, as well as the judges of the Inter-American Court and the Commissioners of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The President requested that the CIM Secretariat incorporate these observations into a revised version of the proposal for the celebration of the 90th anniversary and to begin as soon as possible the necessary preparations for the commemoration event to be held in Washington, DC, on February 20th 2018.

With no further comments, the President closed the debate and proceeded to the adoption of agreements, proposing the adoption of 7 agreements. She requested the Secretariat to read the draft agreements, which were then discussed, revised and adopted by the Delegations as follows:

Agreement 1

Having considered the Report on the Activities of the President and the Executive Secretariat of the CIM, contained in document CIM/CD/doc.9/17, the Executive Committee agrees to:

- a. Establish an informal communication mechanism between the members of the Executive Committee and the Executive Secretariat of the CIM;
- b. In the framework of the 7th Conference of States Party to the Belem do Para Convention, to be held on Executive Committee and the Secretary General of the OAS;
- c. Request that the Executive Secretariat of the CIM carry out a mapping of the training available in the region, both from the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women and from international organizations, and make it available to the general public; and
- d. Request that the Executive Secretariat of the CIM develop the Inter-American Model Law against Child Marriage and Early Union, and accompany it with a Guide for its implementation, to be considered at a later session of the Executive Committee.

Agreement 2

Having seen the progress made by the CIM in the development of the "Inter-American Guidelines on Gender Equality for the Good of Humanity," contained in document CIM/CD/doc.10/17, the Executive Committee agrees to:

- a. Request that the Executive Secretariat of the CIM incorporate the revisions indicated by the Delegates and circulate a new version of the document for its approval virtually, giving follow-up to the States that have not yet provided inputs to the preparation of the guidelines;
- b. Request that the Executive Secretariat present a progress report on the implementation of these guidelines during the Third Regular Session of the Executive Committee of the CIM 2016-2019; and
- c. Request that the Executive Secretariat prepare a brochure with key messages to make gender equality known as a good of humanity and to disseminate it to the Delegates.

Agreement 3

Having considered the Draft Proposal for the Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the CIM, contained in document CIM/CD/doc.11/17, the Executive Committee agrees to:

- a. Request that the Executive Secretariat incorporate the revisions indicated by the Delegates circulate a new version of the document;
- b. Request that the Executive Secretariat take the necessary steps to hold:
 - a. The Third Regular Session of the Executive Committee of the CIM 2016-2019 on Monday February 19th 2018 in Washington, DC; and
 - b. The public event commemorating the 90th anniversary of the CI, on Tuesday February 20th 2018 in Washington, DC.
- c. Invite the Secretary General of the OAS and the Permanent Representatives of the Member States to attend the event commemorating the 90th anniversary of the CIM.

Agreement 4

Having seen the document "Model Inter-American Law on Political Violence against Women," the Executive Committee agrees to:

- a. Request that the Executive Secretariat initiate the dissemination of this document; and
- b. Request that the Executive Secretariat circulate a questionnaire to the Delegates on opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the Model Law, as well as the support tools they need to promote the approach to this topic at the national level.

Agreement 5

Following the debate between the Delegates on the issue of the Gender Pay Gap, the Executive Committee agrees:

- a. That the delegates of Mexico and Peru will work, in collaboration with the Gender Affairs Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in three areas: (i) a mapping of existing laws in each country that prohibit gender-based wage gaps; (ii) a determination of the magnitude of wage gaps in each country, based on ECLAC wage discrimination rates; and (iii) an identification of public policy recommendations, with emphasis on compensation policies from the Ministries of Finance; and
- b. To circulate a draft of this document before the end of 2017, for its consideration during the Third Regular Session of the Steering Committee of the CIM 2016-2019.

Agreement 6

The Executive Committee agrees to express its solidarity with those affected by the natural disasters in the hemisphere over the last two weeks and its condolences for the loss of human life as a result.

Agreement 7

The Executive Committee agrees to thank the Government and the People of Peru for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of the Second Regular Session of the Executive Committee of the CIM 2016-2019.

Following the debate on the agreements, the President closed the Second Regular Session of the Executive Committee of the CIM 2016-2019.