

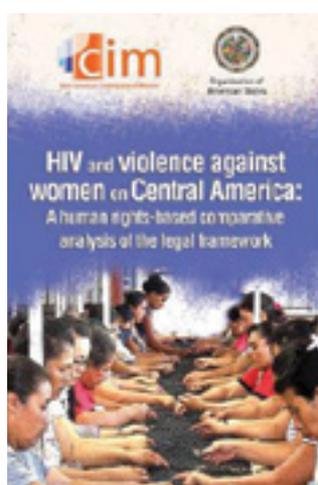
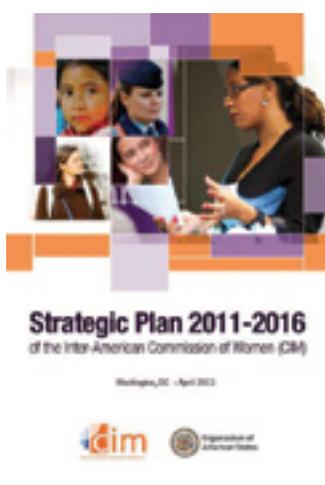
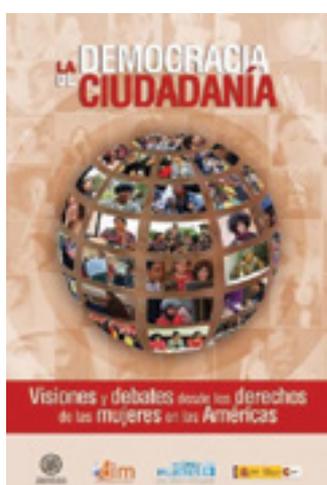
- Human Rights
- Democracy
- Development
- Security

# Inter-American Commission of Women



Organization of American States





## Hemispheric policy forum for women's rights and gender equality

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) is the main hemispheric forum that links public policies with the international legal framework on human rights through dialogue among strategic sectors.

Created in 1928, CIM was the first inter-governmental body created expressly to promote women's rights.

In 1948, CIM became a specialized agency of the OAS.

CIM's mission is to shape the public policy agenda from the perspective of human rights in order to achieve women's full citizenship and the elimination of gender-based violence and discrimination.

In 2004, CIM established the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), a systematic and permanent multi-lateral evaluation methodology that is based on exchange and technical cooperation between the States Party to the Convention and a Committee of Experts.



**Women's full political citizenship for democracy and governance:** support parity in political participation and representation at the national, state and local levels, and women's leadership in policy-formulation and decision-making processes

CIM/OAS

**Full realization of women's human rights:** foster participatory dialogue on public policies to support women's rights and the implementation of the legal instruments of the inter-American system, from a perspective of diversity and inter-culturalism

*See-ming Lee@Flickr*



**Respond to women's security:** prioritize the protection of women's rights and their participation at all levels of the security sector, particularly in the formulation of policy and decision-making on security issues

CIM/OAS

**Women's economic citizenship:** increase women's economic security, as well as their access to the resources and benefits of the economic and social policies adopted by Governments to aid economic recovery and prosperity

*Seattle Municipal Archives @ Flickr*



**Institutionalization of a gender and rights approach in the work of the OAS:** ensure that the planning and implementation of programs and projects, as well as the forums and ministerial meetings of the Organization respond to the rights and demands of women in the hemisphere

OAS



## How does CIM work ?

CIM is made up of 34 Delegates, one for each OAS Member State.

The CIM Assembly of Delegates meets every three years to establish the program of work of the CIM, analyze its achievements and elect its Executive Committee.

The day-to-day operation of the CIM is the responsibility of its Executive Secretariat, located in Washington, D.C.

CIM also functions as the Secretariat of the MESECVI.

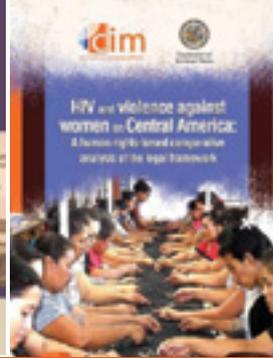
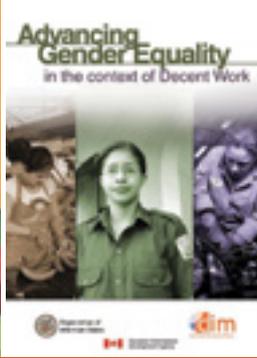
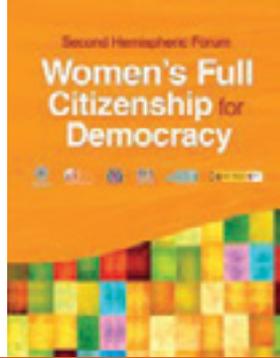
**Alliances and coordination** with international and regional organizations, civil society groups and academia

**Support to cooperation between countries** in order to accelerate the formulation and implementation of public policies for women's rights

**Participatory knowledge management** oriented towards policy dialogue

**Shaping hemispheric debate** and setting an agenda for rights and equality between women and men

**Collaboration and technical support** to the Secretariats and Departments of the OAS



## Women's rights : From law to practice

In 1948, OAS Member States adopted the Inter-American Convention on the Political Rights of Women

CIM has produced a series of studies and has initiated a participatory hemispheric dialogue on women's political citizenship

In 1994, OAS Member States adopted the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention)

CIM has operationalized the MESECVI - a mechanism to monitor its implementation

In 2000, OAS Member States adopted the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP)

CIM has worked to integrate a rights and gender equality approach in ministerial processes on justice, work, education, and science and technology

RECALLING its previous resolutions on promoting women's human rights and gender equity and equality, fighting violence against women, strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and the appointment of women to senior management positions at the Organization of American States (OAS), especially resolutions AG/RES. 2192 (XXXVI-O/06), "Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality"; AG/RES. 2162 (XXXVII-O/06), "Mechanism to Follow

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and Beijing, 1995) and, especially, the commitments undertaken in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the political declaration and the final report of the twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly (June 2000), on the topic "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century," and the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform