

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
AT ITS THIRTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

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INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 91.f and 126 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) presents its annual report to the Permanent Council, so that the Council may then submit it with any observations and recommendations it deems appropriate to the Thirty-second Regular Session of the General Assembly.

This report summarizes the activities carried out by the CIM from February 29, 2001 to February 28, 2002. In that period, and in keeping with the mandates of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), and of the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, the CIM has expanded its sphere of action by undertaking initiatives to promote the incorporation of the gender perspective into ministerial meetings and within the OAS. This year also saw the distribution of the Biennial Seed Fund, the execution of two hemispheric projects on violence and human rights; and the implementation of actions aimed at fostering the full and equal participation by women in economic, social, political, and cultural development.

Indranie Chandarpal
President

I. ORIGIN, LEGAL BASIS, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECTIVES

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

Comment [ejy1]:

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

Comment [ejy2]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy3]: EJYoder

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

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

Comment [ejy4]: EJYoder

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

Comment [ejy5]: Contained in AG/RES. 87 (II-O/72).

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

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

Comment [ejy6]: Source: Statute of the CIM and Regulations of the CIM

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.

Comment [ejy7]: cp08019

II. MANDATES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The following OAS General Assembly resolutions have oriented the work of the CIM:

- AG/RES. 587 (XII-O/82), "Day of the Women of the Americas," which declared February 18th as the DAY OF THE WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS in commemoration of the date in 1928 when the Inter-American Commission of Women was created in Havana, Cuba. Since 1983, the CIM has carried out different commemorative activities both at its headquarters and in member states.

Comment [ejy8]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), "Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000," which established that the Secretary General would present biennial reports to the General Assembly on the status of compliance with this resolution, explaining how the various areas of the General Secretariat had cooperated toward that end.

Comment [ejy9]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy10]: All references in this footnote checked. EJYoder

The Secretary General's last biennial report on compliance with this resolution was presented at the thirtieth regular session of the OAS General Assembly (2000). Resolution AG/RES. 1729/00 (XXX-O/00), "Seventh Biennial Report of the Secretary General on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), 'Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000'" takes note of this last biennial report; urges the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system to continue working to achieve full and equal participation of women in development and in the decision-making process, in coordination with the Inter-American Commission of Women; and instructs the Secretary General of the OAS to increase his efforts to guarantee equal opportunity for women's access to senior executive positions in the OAS, taking into account the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality.

Comment [KFC11]:

Comment [ejy12]: EJYoder

- AG/DEC. 1 (XX-E/94), "Commitment on a Partnership for Development and Struggle to Overcome Extreme Poverty," and AG/RES. 1 (XX-E/94), "General Policy Framework and Priorities: Partnership for Development," which defined the new concept and practice of partnership for development that the OAS would henceforth implement; it also defined the cooperation priorities of the OAS system: among them, to promote greater participation by women and underprivileged groups in political and civic affairs, in full exercise of their rights, and the eradication of extreme poverty.

Comment [ejy14]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 1257 (XXIV-O/94), "Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" by which the Convention was adopted, and which marked the achievement of one of the Commission's principal goals. The Convention came into effect on March 5, 1995. As of this writing, 30 countries had ratified it.

Comment [ejy15]: EJYoder

To follow up on the Convention of Belém do Pará, the following resolutions were adopted:

AG/RES. 1432 (XXVI-O/96), "Status of Women in the Americas," which urged member states that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará. It recommended that member states strengthen existing measures or, if appropriate, create new ones for the advancement of women. It further recommended that they take gender analysis into account when developing and executing public policy. It urged the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to consider the gender perspective in the formulation and execution of development projects; and reiterated the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

Comment [ejy16]: EJYoder

AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" which instructed the CIM Permanent Secretariat to report biennially to the OAS General Assembly on the progress made in its application and on the experiences and results achieved through initiatives and programs pursued in the member states to counter violence against women. It further encouraged member states to take appropriate measures to modify any legislation of a discriminatory nature in their legal systems.

Comment [ejy17]: EJYoder

Through resolution AG/RES. 1626 (XXIX-O/99), the General Assembly received the "First Biennial Report to the General Assembly on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), 'Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará.'"

Comment [KFC18]:

Through resolution AG/RES. 1768 (XXXI-O/01), the General Assembly received the "Second Biennial Report to the General Assembly on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), 'Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará.'" That resolution took note of the progress made, encouraged governments that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention, and urged the CIM and member states to continue to develop strategies to attain the objectives of this Convention, and to publish the results in the next CIM follow-up report.

Comment [KFC19]:

Comment [KFC20]:

AG/RES. 1740 (XXX-O/00), "Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" which urged the governments of those member states of the Organization of American States that had not already done so to ratify or accede to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," and encouraged them to continue promoting measures to eradicate violence against women in all its forms, in the public and private arenas, in keeping with the objectives established in the Strategic Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women, in the plans of action of the First and Second Summits of the Americas, and in the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality.

Comment [KFC21]:

- AG/RES. 1422 (XXVI-O/96), "Cooperation within the Inter-American System to Ensure Full and Equal Participation by Women in the Development Process," which invited the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system to work in cooperation with the CIM by designing joint action programs within their respective spheres. Moreover, it requested that the Secretary General establish the necessary mechanisms required to ensure coordination on women's issues between the different areas of the General Secretariat and the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, as necessary.

Comment [ejy22]: EJYoder

- AG/DEC. 18 (XXVIII-O/98), "Declaration on Equal Rights and Opportunity for Women and Men and Gender Equity in Inter-American Legal Instruments," which declared that all inter-American legal instruments relating to the rights of individuals be applied by the member states of the OAS as well as by its organs, specialized agencies, and departments, so as to ensure equality of women and men before the law, equal opportunity for women and men, and gender equity. It called upon the member states to take concrete steps to promote equality of women and men before the law, equal opportunity for men and women, and gender equity, and further recommended that any relevant inter-American instruments adopted in the future on the rights of individuals expressly ensure the equality of women and men before the law, equal opportunity for men and women, and gender equity.

Comment [KFC23]:

- AG/RES. 1586 (XXVIII-O/98), "Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization," which requested the Permanent Council to consider the possibility of examining these reports with the assistance of the technical areas of the General Secretariat. It instructed the General Secretariat to make every possible effort to improve the financial status of the organs, agencies, and entities, *and in particular, the Inter-American Commission of Women*, within the allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources.
- AG/RES. 1635 (XXIX-O/99), "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man," which extended the mandate given to the Permanent Council in resolution AG/RES. 1591 (XXVIII-O/98) to study and propose, if appropriate, changing the title "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man" to "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Persons," or any other agreed term, and replacing the word "man" in the text with "person," or any other agreed term, where appropriate. It requested the Permanent Council to report on the fulfillment of this mandate to the General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session.
- AG/RES. 1669 (XXIX-O/99), "Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization," which requested that the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization include the draft resolutions they saw fit to transmit to the Assembly in the annual report to be presented to the General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session, *and that they include in their annual reports, if appropriate, consideration of a gender equity approach.*
- AG/RES. 1707 (XXX-O/00), "The Organization of American States and Civil Society," which instructed the General Secretariat to continue to take the necessary steps for the implementation and dissemination of the Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in OAS Activities, and reiterated the mandates assigned to the General Secretariat in resolution AG/RES. 1668 (XXIX-O/99). It also instructed the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly session on CSO participation and on the implementation of that resolution at its next regular session.
- AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), "Adoption and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality," in which the General Assembly adopted that instrument and instructed the CIM to serve as the organ for follow-up, coordination, and evaluation of said Program and the actions taken by the CIM to implement it. It urged the OAS General Secretariat to see that the gender perspective was included in all work, projects, and programs of the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, in fulfillment of the Program. It instructed the Permanent Council to propose to the OAS General Assembly, at its thirty-first regular session, the allocation of technical, human, and financial resources, within the program-budget of the Organization, so that both the General Secretariat and the CIM could implement this Program. Moreover, it requested that the General Secretariat allot the human and financial resources in the program budget for 2001 needed to implement both this Program and resolution AG/RES 1592 (XXVIII-O/98), "Status of Women in the Americas and Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women." It further urged the organs of the OAS and specialized organizations of the inter-American system to provide the support necessary to implement the Inter-American Program.
- AG/RES. 1741 (XXX-O/00), "Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas," which requested that the member states in the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) take concrete action to integrate a gender perspective as a cross-cutting theme in the Proposed Political Declaration and Plan of Action for the Third Summit of the Americas. It requested that

Comment [KFC24]:

Comment [KFC25]:

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Comment [KFC28]:

the SIRG consider including a specific section related to women's issues within the area of "democracy and human rights." It recommended that the Meetings of Ministers or of the Highest-ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States be held every four years in order to contribute to the preparatory and follow-up activities of the Summits of the Americas. It further encouraged the governments to consider the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission of Women in the process of preparing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, and requested that the CIM prepare recommendations and provide technical support for this purpose. It instructed the General Secretariat and the CIM to transmit this resolution to all the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system to ensure that they would take it into account in the preparation and implementation of their work plans and programs. It instructed the OAS General Secretariat to allocate the necessary resources to the CIM for the implementation of these mandates, within the resources allocated in the program-budget and other resources.

Comment [KFC29]:

- AG/RES. 1777 (XXXI-O/01), "Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality," which received the first report on the implementation and promotion of the Inter-American Program; reaffirmed the commitment of the governments to integrate a gender perspective into their national programs and policies; and urged the Secretary General to continue his efforts to implement the objectives of the Inter-American Program and promote the integration of a gender perspective in the Organization's activities, policies, programs, projects, and agendas. It instructed the Secretary General and the Permanent Council to assign to the Inter-American Commission of Women, in the program-budget for 2002, the human and financial resources needed for follow-up, coordination, and evaluation of the Inter-American Program and of actions taken to implement it; it further requested voluntary contributions to accelerate its implementation. It requested that the Secretary General report to the General Assembly, at its thirty-second regular session, on activities undertaken by all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS to implement the Inter-American Program and to present pertinent recommendations.

Comment [KFC30]:

- AG/RES. 1790 (XXXI-O/01), "Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the OAS," which urged the Secretary General to reaffirm the urgent goal that women occupy 50% of posts at each level within the OAS organs, agencies, and entities, particularly at the P-4 level and above by the year 2005; to appoint qualified women as representatives and special envoys; and to actively seek and support the nomination, election, or appointment of qualified women to all vacant positions in the OAS. It also requested that he continue his work to establish policies of gender equality in the workplace, monitor closely the progress made by OAS organs, agencies, and entities in meeting the goal, and report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-second regular session. The resolution also urged all member states to support the efforts of the Secretary General.

Comment [KFC31]:

- AG/RES. 1824 (XXXI-O/01), "Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process," which instructed the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to continue to give top priority to carrying out the initiatives assigned to them by the General Assembly, pursuant to the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, and to report regularly to the Special Committee in this regard.

Comment [KFC32]:

III. MANDATES OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE CIM

A. Assembly of Delegates

The Assembly of Delegates, the highest decision-making organ of the CIM, holds a regular meeting every two years. The Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates was held in Washington, D.C. from November 15 to 16, 2000. The activities conducted by the CIM during the period covered by this report reflect the mandates from that Assembly.

The Dominican Republic has offered to host the Thirty-first Assembly of Delegates, to be held in November 2002.

B. Executive Committee

Meetings of the Executive Committee held during this reporting period:

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
July 19-20, 2001	Second Regular Meeting 2000-2002 Executive Committee	Washington, DC
December 14, 2001	Third Regular Meeting 2000-2002 Executive Committee	Washington, DC
February 21-22, 2002	Fourth Regular Meeting 2000-2002 Executive Committee	Washington, DC

Information on the implementation of Executive Committee decisions adopted by means of agreements at each meeting is included in the different sections of this report.

IV. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

A. Implementation of the 2000-2002 Biennial Work Plan of the CIM

CIM activities during this reporting period were aimed at implementing its 2000-2002 Biennial Work Plan, adopted by the Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, as well as the mandates from the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas.

The following priorities were established: 1) Implementation the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality; 2) Fulfillment of the Mandates of the Summits of the Americas; and 3) Development of the CIM Strategic Plan of Action in four priority areas: Human rights of women and the elimination of violence against women, participation of women in power and decision-making structures, education, and the eradication of poverty and discrimination.

The most relevant initiatives implemented by the CIM in the context of those priorities are presented below.

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

The activities implemented by the CIM, as the follow-up and coordination organ for the Inter-American Program, are outlined below:

a. **Integration of the gender perspective in ministerial meetings (Section 2.1.2 of the IAP)**

i. **SEPIA I – Gender and Labor.** The CIM coordinated the preparation of recommendations on the incorporation of a gender perspective in the programs and policies of the Ministries of Labor. To that end, it collaborated with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the U.S. Department of Labor, the AFL-CIO union, the Office of Summit Follow-up of the OAS and the Unit for Social Development and Education of the OAS. The recommendations were presented in June 2001 at the preparatory meeting for the XII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) and considered by the Ministers of Labor at the Conference, held in October 2001 in Ottawa, Canada. Following the XII IACML, the CIM convened a meeting of experts with government, civil society, and specialized agency representatives to examine the inclusion of a gender perspective in the Declaration and Plan of Action of that ministerial meeting and to make recommendations for its implementation. The lines of action and general recommendations emanating from that meeting (**SEPIA I, Gender and Labor**) were adopted by the Executive Committee of the CIM at its Third Regular Meeting and transmitted to the ministers of labor, the XII IACML Secretariat *pro tempore* and its working group chairs, and the national coordinators, among others. The CIM Permanent Secretariat was invited to the planning meeting of the working groups of the XII IACML and will participate in subsequent meetings.

ii. **SEPIA II – Gender and Justice.** A similar process was undertaken to present recommendations on incorporating the gender perspective in the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Americas (REMJA IV), to be held in March 2002. In February 2002, a meeting was held with representatives of American University's Washington College of Law, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), the International Women Judges Foundation, and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH), to prepare recommendations that would be brought to REMJA IV for consideration. ILANUD collaborated on the preparation of the recommendations.

iii. As a result of the initiatives mentioned above, the CIM has been invited to participate in the Technical Preparatory Meeting of the First Conference of Ministers of Culture (March 2002) and in the Conference (July 2002).

b. **Integration of a gender perspective at the OAS (Section 2.1.4 of the IAP)**

A 2-3 year joint project between the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the OAS and funded by the Government of Canada, was launched to train OAS personnel on the integration of a gender perspective in all programs and policies. In this period, the project steering committee was established, potential participants identified, and the steering committee participated in CIDA's gender training program. It is expected that training for staff will begin in the third quarter of 2002.

2. **Summit of the Americas**

The CIM played an active role in the preparations for the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Canada in April 2001. It promoted gender mainstreaming in the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action by developing and presenting a series of recommendations. Those recommendations were incorporated into the Plan of Action, which also endorsed the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality as a tool for gender mainstreaming. At its Second Regular meeting, the Executive Committee of the CIM adopted the document "Proposals for Implementing the Mandates from the Third Summit" (CIM/CD/doc.23/01), which outlines activities under way and new projects to comply with the mandates on human rights, prevention of violence, and gender equality. Those activities, which are reflected in this report, are being executed to the extent that resources are available.

3. Implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action – Priority Areas of Action

a. Human rights of women and elimination of violence against women

The CIM continued to promote ratification by all OAS member states of the Convention of Belém do Pará and implementation of its objectives. In December 2001, the parliament of Suriname approved ratification of the Convention.

The CIM continued implementation of two important projects on violence:

Project: "Violence against Women: A regional analysis, including a review of the Convention of Belém do Pará"

This project was executed in partnership with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR) of Vancouver, Canada and the Women, Justice, and Gender Program of the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD). In March 2001, the project's research and analysis phases were completed. Continuing with the process begun in Uruguay in December 2000, subregional meetings of experts were held in Ecuador (June 2001) and Panama (August 2001) to examine the research findings, formulate recommendations, and establish agreed upon regional priorities for the implementation of measures aimed at preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women. The conclusions of the experts from the three subregional meetings held to date prioritize the following: the implementation of inter-institutional and inter-sectoral policies, the allocation of adequate resources to counter violence against women; the establishment of statistical registries of indicators disaggregated by gender and age in order to develop the appropriate public policies; the provision of training for all sectors involved in addressing the issue; comprehensive care for women victims of violence and their access to justice. In mid-2002, the Caribbean subregional meeting will be held. Upon completion of these meetings, recommendations will be prepared and presented to member states. The results of the research and the final report of the subregional meetings will be widely disseminated through various channels, including the CIM website.

Comment [KFC33]:

Comment [KFC34]:

The CIM, through the Principal Delegates, formed Secretariats *pro tempore* in the host countries of the subregional meetings for implementation and follow-up on the agreed upon recommendations.

The Permanent Secretariat presented the CIM's Second Biennial Report on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'" to the OAS General Assembly, at its thirty-first regular session, presenting the results of the aforementioned project and underscoring the progress made in the Region on this topic.

Comment [ejy35]: EJYoder

Project: "Trafficking in Women and Children in the Americas for Sexual Exploitation"

In partnership with the International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI) of DePaul University in Chicago and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI), research is being done on the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation in the region. The project will: (1) study and evaluate national legislation, including policies and laws related to trafficking, and its enforcement; (2) study and evaluate international protection mechanisms applicable and/or available to combat trafficking and its effects; and (3) compile and analyze data from all available sources of the patterns and practices of trafficking and exploitation. This year, the research in Central America, the Dominican Republic, and Panama was completed, and the final reports received. In Brazil, where the study has already produced partial findings, meetings have been held with governmental and nongovernmental organizations to coordinate implementation of the project. Contacts were established in Mexico to begin developing the project in 2002, and initial contacts have also been forged in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Jamaica. In mid-2002, a meeting of experts will be held in Washington, D.C. to examine the findings obtained to date. The CIM hopes to raise funding to incorporate all countries in the Americas into the project. When the study is completed, it will provide a broad overview of trafficking in the Americas and offer recommendations for eliminating this phenomenon.

Funding for Phase I of this project was received from the government of the United States (the US Permanent Mission to the OAS and USAID) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

b. Participation of women in power and decision-making structures

The CIM continues to participate as a co-sponsor and member of the Council of the Inter-American Development Bank's Program for the Support of Women's Leadership and Representation (PROLEAD), which finances leadership projects in the Hemisphere. It collaborated on disseminating a request for proposals to Central America's civil society organizations, and participated in the selection process. In this year, with funds contributed by the Government of Holland, nine projects were financed in Central America, one of them co-sponsored by the CIM. The IBD financed one project in the Andean Region, bringing the total number of projects sponsored to date by PROLEAD to 52.

c. Eradication of poverty and discrimination

Business Leadership Training Program

The main objective of this program, developed in conjunction with the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) of the OAS Unit for Social Development and Education, is to provide business leadership training to men and women, with emphasis placed on non-traditional careers. The pilot training program, which was co-sponsored by the Office of the Under Secretary for Equal Opportunity of the Province of Buenos Aires and Israel's Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC), was held in May 2001. The course addressed microenterprise management, job creation, business planning, access to credit, distance education and training, and women's leadership and participation. A total of 40 persons, of which 70% were women, participated in the training. Participants included young microentrepreneurs, representatives of civil society organizations, and municipal officials who work in the areas of production, microenterprise development, and employment.

Comment [KFC36]:

Comment [KFC37]:

4. Promotion and Dissemination of the CIM

“Women of the Americas” Video. With technical support from the OAS Department of Public Information, a 30-minute video was produced in Spanish and English on the status of women in the Hemisphere with special emphasis on violence, leadership, and labor. The video, released during the Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, received very good critical reviews. Over 200 community television stations in the U.S. have expressed interest in the video, which will be broadly distributed in 2002.

Roundtable on Violence against Women and Trafficking in Persons. Within the framework of the *Americas Alive* series, the OAS Department of Public Information organized a roundtable on violence against women, which aired on September 30, 2001. The guest panelists included the Honorable Paula Dobriansky, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs; Ambassador Ivonne A-Baki, Ambassador of Ecuador to the U.S.; Ambassador Laura Elena Núñez, Permanent Representative of Honduras to the OAS; Mrs. Nancy Ely-Raphel, Principal Advisor of the new U.S. Department of State Office on Trafficking in Persons; and Carmen Lomellin, Executive Secretary of the CIM. (See http://www.oas.org/oaspage/challenger/CD/cd_eng.htm)

Investment seminar for women. As part of the CIM's effort to promote women's development, the Secretary-Treasurer of the OAS Retirement and Pension Fund, Mr. Eloy Mestre, presented a seminar at OAS headquarters entitled, “Basic study of investments – Women and their pursuit of financial independence,” on July 18, 2001.

Article in Palestra Internacional (public affairs portal of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú). *Palestra Internacional*, the on-line public affairs journal of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, published a CIM article on the history of human rights in the inter-American system (See <http://palestra.pucp.edu.pe/?file=derechos/lomellin.htm>).

Seminar on nutrition. The CIM organized a seminar on strategies for eating healthy during the holidays, that was held on November 14, 2001 at OAS headquarters.

Web page and publications. The CIM continued to update and enrich its web page (<http://www.oas.org/cim>), and the fourth issue of the CIM's newsletter, *Mujer Interamericana*, was published.

CIM documentation center. The CIM continued efforts to organize, classify, and incorporate reference materials from its Specialized Library on Women into the PROCITE automated system.

B. Seed Fund

The Seed Fund of the CIM was established in 1991 to provide member states with an additional source of funding to support regional or national activities aimed at promoting women in the priority areas established in the CIM Strategic Plan of Action and in the Program Guidelines approved by the Assembly of Delegates. Its funds are distributed in the first year of each biennium.

In accordance with resolution CIM/RES. 212 (XXX-O/00), "2001 Seed Fund Distribution Criteria," the resources of the Fund for the 2000-2002 biennium were earmarked for eight projects aimed at implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality:

- **Argentina:** A.N.A. Training Program for Community Organizations. *Objective:* To increase and develop the capabilities and skills of women leaders in community organizations, to help them strengthen their institutional structures.
- **Chile:** Program for the Vocational Training of Low-Income Rural Women, Preferably Heads of Household. *Objective:* To help low-income women workers to develop skills and conditions that will give them equal opportunity to participate in the labor market and improve their standard of living.
- **El Salvador:** Dissemination of Women's Rights under Salvadorian Law. *Objective:* To promote and disseminate knowledge of women's rights under national law (rights of the child and the family etc.).
- **El Salvador:** Prevention and Care for the Eradication of Violence against Women in the Municipality of Antiguo Cuscatlán. *Objective:* To contribute to the care and rehabilitation of women victims of gender or domestic violence in the town of Antiguo Cuscatlán and to prevent the cycles of violence in its various forms and their effects.
- **Guyana:** Promotion of Entrepreneurship Development for Rural Women in Guyana. *Objective:* To promote women's rights and empower women by providing training and a revolving loan scheme where they can access funds to start microenterprises.
- **Panama:** Gender Training. *Objective:* To achieve women's full and equal participation through gender and human rights training for the integral economic, political, social, and cultural development of women.
- **Paraguay:** Citizen Participation and Leadership Program for Young People. *Objective:* To promote real, ongoing sensitization, particularly among young people, that women's participation in political and social life is needed to achieve a truly democratic system and equitable society (subregional project).
- **Uruguay:** Strengthening the Role of Rural Women in Uruguay: "Development with Equity." *Objective:* To incorporate rural Uruguayan women in a development process that will provide them with supplementary income so that they and their families can remain in the countryside.

Comment [KFC38]: CIM web site

Comment [KFC39]:

Comment [KFC40]:

Comment [KFC41]:

Comment [KFC42]:

Comment [KFC43]: CIM web site

V. RELATIONS WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

A. The Inter-American System

1. Within the OAS

Permanent Council. The Executive Secretary attended several meetings of the Permanent Council to report on different CIM activities and projects.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights and the Principal Specialist of the IACHR worked with the CIM on the development of recommendations to be presented at the Meeting of Ministers of Justice, to be held in March (See section IV.A.1.a of this report).

Office of Summit Follow-up. The CIM maintains close contact with the Office of Summit Follow-up.

Unit for Social Development and Education (USDE) of the OAS. The CIM and the USDE worked together to develop the Business Leadership Training Program, outlined in section IV.A.1.c of this report. The USDE also worked with the CIM on the development of recommendations on integrating the gender perspective in the XII IACML, as indicated in section IV.A.1.a of this report.

Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD). The CIM and the UPD exchange information with a view to enhancing collaboration. During the first quarter of 2002, CIM will participate in a program with UPD and PROLEAD, to train young women leaders in Central America on democracy and good governance.

Department of Public Information. The OAS Department of Public Information produced the video/documentary “Women in the Americas” (See section IV.A.4 of this report).

2. Other inter-American entities

In order to promote a gender perspective at the regional and international levels, the CIM is carrying out cooperation activities with various entities of the inter-American system. Invitations have been extended to the Inter-American Development Bank, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to participate in all regular meetings of the Executive Committee, to enable them to continue exchanging information and exploring joint initiatives.

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The CIM cooperates closely with the IDB, in particular as a member of the Council to the Program for the Support of Women’s Leadership and Representation (PROLEAD) (See section IV.A.3.b of this report). During the first quarter of 2002, CIM will participate in a program with UPD and PROLEAD, to train young women leaders in Central America on democracy and good governance.

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The CIM was a co-sponsor of PAHO’s *Symposium 2001: Gender Violence, Health, and Rights in the Americas*, held in Mexico in June 2001, which the Executive Secretary attended. The CIM also attended the 19th Meeting of the Subcommittee on Women, Health, and Development of the PAHO Executive Committee.

Comment [KFC44]:

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Mrs. Leonor Calderón, an IICA expert in rural sustainable development, met with the Permanent Secretariat to look into possible joint activities and CIM participation at the World Conference on Rural Women, to be held in Spain in October 2002. The CIM President attended the Eleventh Meeting of the *Inter-American Board of Agriculture*, held in the Dominican Republic in November 2001.

Comment [KFC45]:

Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIC). The Inter-American Children’s Institute, together with the CIM and the International Human Rights Law Institute of DePaul University, is participating in the project entitled, “Trafficking in Women and Children in the Americas for Sexual Exploitation,” as described in section IV.A.3.a of this report.

B. United Nations system

The CIM participated in the forty-fifth meeting of the *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)* in New York (March 2001) and attended the thirty-second and thirty-third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Comment [KFC46]:

Comment [KFC47]: ECLAC glossary

held respectively in Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago. The CIM continues to work on the campaign to combat violence against women and promote human rights being carried out by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

UNIFEM co-sponsored the subregional meetings of experts on "Violence in the Americas" described in section IV.A.3.a of this report.

ILANUD is participating with the CIM and Canada's ICCLR in developing the project: "Violence against Women. Regional analysis, including a study of the Convention of Belém do Pará" (See section IV.A.3.a of this report). ILANUD also collaborated on the development of recommendations to be presented at the Meeting of Ministers of Justice in March 2002 (See section IV.a.1.b).

World Bank. The President of the CIM gave a presentation at the meeting, "The Gender Dimension of Human Rights – A Development Perspective," sponsored by the World Bank in Washington, D.C. in June 2001.

Comment [KFC48]:

C. Other regional and international entities and organizations

Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH). The CIM participated in the training workshop held in San Jose, Costa Rica on April 18, 2001 on implementation of the CEDAW Optional Protocol, which was organized by the IIDH as part of the global campaign entitled, "Our rights are not optional." CIM Principal Specialist, Mercedes Kremenetzky, was invited to that event to discuss the CIM and the CEDAW Optional Protocol. The IIDH also worked with the CIM on the development of the recommendations to be presented at the Meeting of Ministers of Justice in March 2002 (see section IV.a.1.a.a).

International Labour Organization (ILO). The ILO worked with the CIM on the development of recommendations on integrating the gender perspective in the XII IACML (See section IV.A.1.a of this report).

D. Civil society organizations

AFL-CIO. The AFL-CIO worked with the CIM on the development of recommendations on integrating the gender perspective in the XII IACML (See section IV.A.1.a of this report).

Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), American University, International Women Judges Foundation. These organizations worked with the CIM on the development of recommendations on integrating the gender perspective in the Meeting of Ministers of Justice, to be held in March 2002 (See section IV.A.1.a of this report).

VI. FINANCIAL SITUATION

The CIM notes, once again, that the human and material resources assigned to it are insufficient if it is to achieve its objectives, carry out its activities, and fulfill its mandates as the principal forum for generating hemispheric policies for the promotion of the human rights of women and gender equality and as the organ for follow-up and coordination of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session. Indeed, the Program urges the General Secretariat to strengthen the Permanent Secretariat of the

CIM by providing it with the necessary human and financial resources and to support it in obtaining private funding (Section 2.1.5).

Moreover, it should be pointed out that operative paragraphs 4 and 6, respectively, of resolutions AG/RES. 1451 (XXVII-O/97) and AG/RES. 1586 (XXVIII-O/98), "Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization," adopted by the OAS General Assembly at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth regular sessions, instructed the General Secretariat to make every possible effort to improve the financial situation of the Inter-American Commission of Women so that it will be better equipped to carry out its essential activities. Also, resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), "Adoption and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality" (operative paragraphs 4 and 6), instructs both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to allot technical, human, and financial resources to the CIM.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The CIM respectfully requests that the Permanent Council transmit the following recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly, through the appropriate entities, and for inclusion in draft resolutions on the topics indicated below.

1. To urge the Secretary General to continue to make every effort possible to implement the mandates of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and, in particular, to support the CIDA/CIM/OAS project to integrate a gender perspective into all activities, projects, and programs of the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS.
2. To implement resolution AG/RES. 1790 (XXXI-O/01), "Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the OAS," also addressed in section 2.1.6 of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, which reiterated the need to implement measures to ensure full and equal access by men and women to all categories of posts in the OAS system, in particular decision-making positions.
3. To improve the financial status of the Inter-American Commission of Women, as provided for in section 2.1.5 of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality; in operative paragraphs 4 and 6 of resolutions AG/RES. 1451 (XXVII-O/97) and AG/RES. 1586 (XXVIII-O/98), "Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization"; and in operative paragraphs 4 and 6 of resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), "Adoption and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality."

