

PERMANENT COUNCIL



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THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN
ON FULFILLMENT OF 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’”

This document is being distributed to the permanent missions
and will be presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization.

No.018-03/03

March 26, 2003

Excellency:

On instructions from the President of the CIM, Dr. Yadira Henriquez, I have the honor to address Your Excellency, in your capacity as Chair of the Permanent Council, to transmit the documents listed below for consideration by the Committee you chair:

1. Third Biennial Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) on Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'" (AG/CP/doc.653/03).
2. Draft resolution on this matter.

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

Carmen Lomellin
Executive Secretary

His Excellency Víctor Hugo Godoy Morales
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Guatemala
to the Organization of American States
Chair of the Permanent Council
Washington, D.C.

**PROMOTION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION,
PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
“CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ”
[AG/RES.1456 (XXVII-O/97)]**

A. CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARA – BACKGROUND – STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS

1. Background

The Inter-American Commission of Women, since the end of the 1980s, had devoted special attention to the issue of violence against women and begun to draft a convention to address it. Within the Commission, that process led to the convocation of the sixth special meeting of the Assembly of Delegates, held on April 18 and 19, 1994, at which the text of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, or "Convention of Belém do Pará," was approved.

On June 9, 1994, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, at its twenty-fourth regular session, held in Belém do Pará, Brazil, adopted the Convention by acclamation.

2. Status of signatures and ratifications

Once the Convention had been adopted, the CIM adopted the goal of securing ratification of this international legal instrument by all the member states in the Hemisphere and its entry into force. In pursuit of those objectives, the Commission carried out both educational and outreach activities. The Convention of Belém do Pará entered into force on March 5, 1995, having been ratified by the required number of countries, as specified in its Article 21. To date, 31 member states have ratified the Convention (Appendix I).

3. National law - Upgrades

Prior to the Convention of Belém do Pará, few countries had laws on domestic violence. Immediately after its entry into force, and in conjunction with the signature and ratification process, many member states adopted laws on domestic violence or established that such violence constituted a legal offense. A complete list of domestic violence laws is published on the CIM web page (<http://www.oas.org/cim>).

B. MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE AIMS OF THE CONVENTION

Policy instruments and mandates

1.1. The Inter-American Commission of Women

1.1.1. The Strategic Plan of Action of the CIM

At its twenty-seventh meeting, held from November 7 to 11, 1994, a few months after the Convention of Belém do Pará was adopted, the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM adopted its Strategic Plan of Action. It was to be in force until 2000, but was renewed recently until 2005, by the Assembly of Delegates at its thirtieth regular meeting, held in November 2001, by the adoption of resolution CIM/RES. 211 (XXX-O/00).

In its introduction, the Plan points to violence against women as an area of priority interest. Its chapter on this issue establishes the objective of promoting programs for the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women and proposes certain strategies to that end.

1.1.2. Thirty-first meeting of the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, October 29-31, 2002

Biennial Work Program of the CIM

The Assembly adopted resolution CIM/RES. 222 (XXXI-O/02), thus adopting the Biennial Work Program for the 2002-2004 period, which reiterates that eliminating violence against women is a priority action area.

The Assembly also adopted resolution **CIM/RES. 224 (XXXI-O/02), “Follow Up of the Convention of Belém do Pará,”** (Appendix II), which pointed to the interest expressed in studying the most appropriate ways to follow up on the Convention of Belém do Pará to ensure systematic and ongoing evaluation of progress made in the fulfillment of its objectives, establishing a procedure for that purpose. It requested the OAS Secretary General to convene a meeting of states parties to the Convention to adopt a decision on the most appropriate way to follow up on the Convention.

1.2. Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States

The **First Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States** took place at the CIM headquarters in Washington, D.C., on April 27 and 28, 2000. This ministerial meeting was convened by the OAS General Assembly and coordinated by the CIM, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 1625 (XXIX-O/99), “Status of Women in the Americas and Strengthening and Modernization of the Inter-American Commission of Women.”

With respect to violence against women, a resolution was adopted urging the governments to ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará and to continue to promote measures to eradicate all forms of violence and expressing recognition to the governments that had taken measures to strengthen and adapt their law with a view to eradicating violence against women.

The Second Meeting of Ministers, scheduled for 2004, will take up the topic again. The CIM Executive Committee is studying the draft agenda for the event and intends to include an item on the celebration of the 10 years since the entry into force of the Convention of Belém do Pará.

1.3. Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality

The Meeting of Ministers adopted the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality. The Program was presented, for consideration, to the OAS General Assembly, which adopted it by way of resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00). This is an important document which, in the portion of the operative section pertaining specifically to violence against women, mentions (specific objectives).

- Promotion of women's real and formal legal equality (item 1); and
- Women's right to a life free of any form of abuse or violence, in both the public and private spheres (item 7).

It recommends that member states promote the study and, if appropriate, the revision of national laws, to ensure that they meet the obligations assumed in international conventions and treaties on women's human rights adopted and ratified by the member states, together with the adoption of measures to guarantee their effective enforcement. It also recommends that they seek, by all possible means, legal equality between men and women and, to that end, strive to eliminate laws still in force that discriminate against women and to achieve real and effective application of laws already in force that establish the legal equality of women. It also proposes that they study and, if applicable, review national law in order to encourage compliance with other international commitments adopted by regional and global conferences in which the member states have participated, or which have been approved by their legislatures, with the objective of ensuring gender equality and equity.

1.4. Resolutions adopted by the OAS General Assembly

Since the Convention's adoption, the OAS General Assembly has repeatedly adopted resolutions to promote it: AG/RES. 1432 (XXVI-O/96), "Status of Women in the Americas," and 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.'"

In 1999, the General Assembly adopted resolution AG/RES. 1626 (XXIX-O/99), "First 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.'" Both that resolution and the one adopted the following year, AG/RES. 1740 (XXX-O/00), "Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," urged the governments of those member states that had not yet done so to ratify the Convention and to continue promoting measures to eradicate violence against women in all its forms, in both public and private arenas.

In 2001, the General Assembly adopted resolution AG/RES. 1768 (XXXI-O/01), "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.'" That resolution noted with satisfaction the progress made; encouraged governments that had not yet done so to ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará; and urged the CIM and member states to continue to develop strategies for attaining the objectives of this Convention and to publish the results in the next CIM follow-up report.

1.5. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights -- Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on the Status of Women in the Americas

Following up on the second biennial report of the CIM to the General Assembly, the IACHR and its Special Rapporteur are in contact periodically with the CIM. In the past, this contact has included participation in meetings of the delegates and various meetings of experts and working groups, starting with the drafting of the Convention of Belém do Pará. In the future, the Rapporteur will participate in examining the procedure established for following up on the Convention of Belém do Para in a sustained, continual manner.

1.6. Summit of the Americas

In the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas, under Chapter IV, "Eradication of Poverty and Discrimination," the governments, in the section entitled "Women," undertake to strengthen mechanisms to promote legal equality and equal opportunity for men and women, so as to promote, coordinate, and carry out the commitments undertaken at conferences and international forums. They also undertake to promote, whenever necessary, reforms or new laws to eliminate all forms discrimination and violence against women.

2. Follow-up by the CIM

2.1. The project "Violence in the Americas - A Regional Analysis - Including a Review of the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women"

As reported in the last biennium, the CIM, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), undertook an important project entitled "Violence in the Americas - A Regional Analysis - Including a Review of the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, or 'Convention of Belém do Pará.'" The purpose of the project, completed in 2001, was to evaluate national programs to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women by analyzing replies from the member states to a questionnaire issued by the CIM. The analysis also included on-site studies conducted in certain countries of the Americas by consulting and interviewing representatives of national government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and academic institutions.

The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy of Canada (ICCLR) and the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) joined the CIM in executing the project, preparing a report on the status of implementation of the Convention. The Justice Programme's Network of Institutes also participated in the study, which focused on: (i) the nature and perceived efficiency of mechanisms for implementation and programs adopted by various countries of the Americas; (ii) specific measures adopted in those countries, and their perceived or known impact; and (iii) difficulties and obstacles encountered in the implementation of such measures.

2.2. Subregional meetings of experts

Before the initial launch of the project, the CIM proposed to hold four subregional meetings of experts, with the participation of the CIM delegates and civil society organizations with experience in this area, in order to obtain their comments and contributions to the development of regional strategies to expedite attainment of the Convention's objectives. An additional aim was to improve the indicators for measuring gender-based violence, with a view to continuing the review process.

The first subregional meeting was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on December 7 and 8, 2000, and attended by the four member countries of MERCOSUR, in addition to Bolivia and Chile. The second meeting took place in Quito, on June 21 and 22, 2001, and was attended by Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, the Andean subregion members. The third meeting was held in Panama City on August 27 and 28, 2001, and attended by experts from Central America, Mexico, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. The most recent meeting, for the Caribbean subregion, was held on June 20 and 21, 2002, in Georgetown, Guyana.

Both the project and the outcome of each of these meetings are published on the CIM web page, <http://www.oas.org/cim>. Therefore, we present below, as a report on and assessment of the status of this issue in the Hemisphere during the 2001-2003 biennium, a comparative analysis of the outcomes of the four subregional meetings.

a. COMMON OBSTACLES

Obstacles remain to successful implementation of the objectives outlined by the Convention of *Belém do Pará*. While some subregions identified specific challenges, the four subregions also share obstacles in the areas of information and records, state involvement/commitment, budget allocations/scarcity of resources, access to justice, coordination with civil society, systematic discrimination, access to victim care and protection, and training of justice sector personnel. A detailed analysis of each follows and a comparative table is available in Appendix III.

Information and records

The difficulty in obtaining information and statistical records on violence against women hinders data measurement by established indicators. In the meetings, it was noted that a system of indicators was needed to measure the impact of policies, for eventual use in amending them. Also cited was the lack of national records on violence broken down by gender, and of statistical information on violence against women by government officials. Also highlighted was a lack of research into the causes, prevalence, and consequences of violence against women.

State involvement

Lack of state involvement remains an obstacle to implementation of the Convention's objectives in many subregions. In the various subregional reports, lack of commitment to the issue and to the duty of safeguarding women's rights is repeatedly cited as impeding the process of change. The lack of sustainable state programs and policy reflects a low political commitment to addressing violence against women as an important issue. The Georgetown meeting pointed especially to the absence of a comprehensive and integrated policy on gender-based violence.

Budgetary allocations

Insufficient budgetary allocations and a scarcity of resources are two other obstacles common to the four subregions. Limited funds translate into budgetary allocations insufficient to meet strategy implementation requirements. Also mentioned was a scarcity of resources to combat violence against women from international organizations and cooperation agencies.

Access to justice

In most of the subregions, concern was expressed over the lack of access to justice and over discriminatory concepts within legal provisions dealing with violence against women. Mention was made of insufficient awareness of and information on the judicial system and the lack of legislative measures to protect women as fundamental obstacles. Also cited was victims' reluctance to seek judicial assistance, often for reasons of fear or economic dependence. It was noted that the application of laws enacted as a consequence of the Convention's ratification was not given priority. Adaptation of national law to the provisions of the Convention is a challenge shared by the member states.

Civil society

State efforts must be strengthened through increased private sector participation in cofunding policies, programs, and activities connected with gender issues. The valuable participation of NGOs in meetings, delegations, and consultations was mentioned. Ongoing, structured work with civil society in activity planning, decision-making, and public policy design to prevent and treat violence against women is needed.

Systemic discrimination

Discriminatory cultural patterns persist throughout the region. Systemic gender inequity is maintained at the sociocultural level by the values of male power and female subordination, a problem of all the subregions. Insensitivity to problems of gender-based violence on the part of the media can reinforce rather than prevent and eliminate it.

Care for victims

One of the greatest obstacles is the limited scope of efforts to care for and protect victims of violence and the limited capacity to protect women at risk of violence. Public policy on migrant and indigenous women, women in remote rural areas, and extreme cases of social exclusion is inadequate.

Education and training

It was noted that very little effort is made to promote women's rights in the school system and that the problem of violence against women has not been integrated into higher learning curricula and technical institution programs. The justice system and its personnel were found in general to lack sensitivity to and awareness of national and international laws on violence against women.

Moreover, in all sectors (judges, experts, justice officials, police, health specialists, teachers, and communicators) few professionals have been trained to treat women victims of violence.

b. COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the subregional experts are aimed at improvement of the present status of women facing violence in their communities and, therefore, attach regional priority to these areas: systematization of information, state commitment, coordination between state and civil society, budgetary allocations, access to justice, social and cultural patterns of behavior, training and education, and access to care and protection for victims of violence (see table of recommendations in Appendix IV).

Systematization of information

Systematization of information in the form of data collection and evaluation would provide a basis of comparison for future monitoring efforts. It was suggested that a system of indicators, both qualitative and quantitative, be designed for evaluation of the Convention's implementation. It was also suggested that the states adopt a system to record and compile statistical information on gender-related violence at all levels. The design of an interregional web page was also recommended.

State commitment

State commitment to eradicating violence against women was cited as a priority. Therefore, it should be integrated into the state agenda, and measures should be adopted to fight sexual violence and all other forms of violence against women in the community. It was recommended that gender equity and equality goals be reaffirmed within the public sector. This would specifically include institution-building at national agencies on women and mainstreaming of the gender perspective in policies and programs. A policy context should be defined to make the connection between violence against women and the culture of violence. Members of parliament, political leaders, and public servants should be targeted for awareness-building and training on issues of gender and violence against women.

Budgetary allocations

Governments should increase budgetary allocations in support of existing public policies to combat violence against women. The economic cost of gender discrimination and violence against women should be assessed. Gender-based budgetary analysis should be performed to support demands for a more equitable and responsible allocation of resources. Stronger corporate social responsibility in providing valuable partnerships and networks was also called for. Such resources can serve and sustain policies, programs, and activities on gender-based violence.

Access to justice

The legal system needs sensitivity to the question of an equal balance of power between women and men and awareness of the potential misuse of the system as a weapon to deny or impede justice under the domestic violence law. The justice system needs to be evaluated with a view to redressing the systemic inequity it perpetuates, with particular attention to gender, class, ethnicity,

and race considerations. It is important to assess the application of laws on violence against women and present to the state recommended reforms to better ensure respect for human rights and justice for women. National laws, policies, plans, and programs to identify discriminatory concepts and practices should be examined. Legal aid and advisory services should be improved. A system of free legal representation for victims of violence should be established.

Social and cultural patterns of behavior

The subregional groups called for eradication of discriminatory patterns of social and cultural behavior that perpetuate inequity between women and men. It was suggested that the media, as an influential sector, could be targeted to help eliminate the sexist attitudes and messages that persist in society. Additionally, it was suggested that public information on women's right to a life free from violence be incorporated into educational curricula.

Training and education

Emphasis was placed on the development of awareness-building campaigns at all levels, especially programs targeting adolescents, children, and adults. It was suggested to continue or begin to train men and women to incorporate a gender perspective in the administration of justice. Strategies for assessing long-term impact should be implemented.

Access to care and protection for victims

Access to care and the physical and psychological protection of victims was cited by all four subregions. Establishing a standard protocol for health care services could increase the quality of service to victims. The need for decentralization and broader geographic coverage was mentioned, and it was suggested that comprehensive programs assisting victims throughout their lives be developed. Special attention should be paid to adolescent sex offenders, to make early intervention and rehabilitation possible. Particular attention should also be given to the psychological dimension of violence and its effects on victims and service providers.

Civil society

All the subregional meetings recommended strengthening ties with civil society organizations that work regularly on the issue of violence, so as to improve the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policy in this area. NGO representation in delegations, consultations, and formal processes was recommended, in order to strengthen partnerships and collaborative efforts.

2.3. CONCLUSIONS OF THE CIM PROJECT

The findings of the subregional meetings coincide, to a great extent, with the findings of the "Violence in the Americas" project, which outlines the following areas as central obstacles impeding the successful implementation of the Convention (see Appendixes III and IV).

Political conditions

A degree of political instability has weakened the efforts of states parties to proceed with the reforms they had undertaken to achieve. Political leadership has sometimes been missing or has not been consistently offered. Several proposed reforms have died a “natural death” for lack of effective political leadership and political will to pursue them.

Economic conditions

Economic disparities among and within countries, economic instability, and underdevelopment have all had a heavy impact on the lives of women. They also affect the ability of states to provide social protection and social security, as well as funding for essential services and for programs to prevent and punish violence against women or provide assistance to victims of violence. Natural disasters and social unrest have also sometimes compounded the problem.

Lack of financial and technical resources

Financial resources are often not available for effective implementation of programs mandated by legislation or official policies. Programs which exist only on paper and are only a shadow of what they were initially meant to be are encountered surprisingly often in the region. Sometimes it is only by the sheer determination of a small group of volunteers that essential assistance programs continue to be offered long after they would normally have disappeared due to lack of funding. In the majority of countries of the region, the need for services and programs is totally out of proportion to the amount of services offered.

Sociocultural factors and systemic discrimination

Sexist attitudes, beliefs, and stereotypes persist and continue to be widely held by both men and women. They impede efforts to translate women’s rights into a reality for women. Attitudes and norms still prevalent in many parts of the region often devalue the work of women, discourage their participation in political life or the assertion of their legal rights through the legal and political process, and discourage and sometimes prevent the participation of fathers in family life, child care, and the equal sharing of family responsibilities.

Presence of a culture of violence

All countries in the region are subject to the pernicious effects of a prevailing culture of violence, which trivializes all forms of violence and treats them as unavoidable. In the process, gender-based violence is also trivialized.

New perils

New problems are arising from the use of information and communication technologies. They facilitate certain types of violence against women, such as child pornography, sex tourism, or trafficking in women and children for all types of economic and sexual exploitation. They also make the prosecution of such crimes more difficult.

Poor planning

In far too many jurisdictions, efforts to combat violence against women are fragmented and poorly coordinated. These plans too often focus on attempting to alleviate the symptoms and consequences of violence against women. They do not specifically address the root causes of gender-based violence. Coordination between intervention sectors is rarely efficient and there often is a counterproductive level of competition between service providers and other agencies active in fighting violence against women, particularly when financial resources are scarce.

Lack of effective monitoring mechanisms

It seems, too often, that progress is simply assumed to have been made. The lack of monitoring mechanisms and accountability measures to ensure the effective implementation of national policies is a major issue in most countries. This is particularly important when policies or measures are not well received, or are even resisted, by some institutions concerned or some departments within them. This is also crucial in the case of policies that may be at odds with the prevailing subculture in a particular agency or institution.

Lack of data

The absence of data is cited as a problem in most countries of the region. In particular, victimization surveys and standardized data on the experience of women personally affected by violence are lacking. Planning and monitoring social and institutional change and evaluating its impact is not possible without such information.

Lack of understanding of violence against women and its causes

Although a significant amount of new research has been conducted in the region, most of it was conducted in about half a dozen countries. The research and evaluation needs of most other countries with respect to the problem of violence against women remain largely unmet. In particular, research on the effectiveness of various legislative initiatives, procedural reforms, and institutional programs continues to be sparse. Research on the links between gender-based violence and various cultural beliefs and attitudes must be expanded, as must be research on effective means to promote change in these cultural patterns.

The implementation process depends largely on the quality of leadership and the ability to mobilize people and resources. Creating focal points within government agencies and departments has been very successful in promoting change, instituting viable partnerships, and mobilizing various sectors to contribute to a national effort. Links have been established at the subregional level as well to encourage the exchange of information and resources. Despite what has been accomplished, much remains to be done in order to successfully implement the Convention. The CIM project "Violence in the Americas" offers several recommendations in this regard.

Recommended mechanisms

- Promoting awareness of the problem and respect for the right of women to live free of violence
- Mobilizing the community
- Encouraging communications media to help to eradicate violence against women

- Eliminating customs and legal practices which tolerate or contribute to violence against women
- Legislative and administrative measures to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women
- Measures encouraging victims to report abuse and to seek protection
- Preventing institutional violence against women
- Due diligence in preventing, investigating, and punishing violence against women
- Access to justice
- Elimination of violence against girls
- International cooperation

A more detailed analysis of these recommendations can be found in the original report, but this list provides a clear picture of pending issues in the implementation of the Convention. Although the findings of the report point to additional work needed in order to successfully combat violence against women, the existence of the project itself is a major accomplishment. In many ways, the CIM project was very innovative. The project was written in November 2000, yet successfully outlined many of the obstacles and recommendations that were later identified by the four subregional meetings coordinated by the CIM.

STRATEGIES

1. Since no mechanisms yet exist in the countries for follow-up on the implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, **the Secretariats pro tempore should be in charge of coordinating and facilitating follow-up in their subregions**, until a mechanism for the Hemisphere is developed.

2. As was recommended at one of the subregional meetings, **the problem of violence against women must be reclassified**. Violence against women has been approached primarily as domestic violence and legislation adopted to date does not specifically and fully protect women's right to live free of all aspects of violence. The application of the Convention of Belém do Pará has been limited, and the spirit of the Convention, which is to protect women's human rights, has been altered.

Appendix I

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND
ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
"CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ"**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| PLACE AND DATE OF ADOPTION | Belém do Pará, Brazil June 9, 1994 |
| ENTRY INTO FORCE | March 5, 1995, 30 days after the date of deposit of the second instrument of ratification |

STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS OR ACCESSIONS

| STATE | Signatures | Deposit of instruments of ratification or accession |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | (25) | (31) |
| Antigua and Barbuda | | * |
| Argentina | * | * |
| Bahamas, Commonwealth of | * | * |
| Barbados | * | * |
| Belize | * | * |
| Bolivia | * | * |
| Brazil | * | * |
| Chile | * | * |
| Colombia | | * |
| Costa Rica | * | * |
| Dominica, Commonwealth of | | * |
| Ecuador | * | * |
| El Salvador | * | * |
| Grenada | | * |
| Guatemala | * | * |
| Guyana | * | * |
| Haiti | | * |
| Honduras | * | * |
| Mexico | * | * |
| Nicaragua | * | * |
| Panama | * | * |
| Paraguay | * | * |
| Peru | * | * |
| Dominican Republic | * | * |
| Saint Lucia | * | * |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | * | * |

| STATE | Signatures | Deposit of instruments of ratification or accession |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | * | * |
| Suriname | | * |
| Trinidad and Tobago | * | * |
| Uruguay | * | * |
| Venezuela | * | * |

Appendix II

CIM/RES. 224 (XXXI-O/02)

FOLLOW-UP OF THE CONVENTION OF *BELÉM DO PARÁ*

(Resolution adopted at the sixth plenary session of October 31, 2002)

THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) promoted the movement that culminated in 1994 with the adoption by the OAS General Assembly, at its twenty-fourth regular session, of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará";

CONSIDERING ALSO that, to date, 31 countries have ratified this Convention, thereby demonstrating their commitment to the fulfillment of the Convention's objectives for the elimination of violence against women, and that the states are duty bound to respect and fulfill the obligations that they have taken on;

BEARING IN MIND that the Strategic Plan of Action of the CIM, the Biennial Work Programs of the CIM adopted by the Assemblies of Delegates, and the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality have expressly stated that violence against women is a priority area for action;

RECALLING that once the Convention had been adopted and entered into force, the OAS General Assembly adopted a series of measures on the subject, including 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,'" in which it instructed the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM to report to the General Assembly every two years on progress made in applying the Convention in member states and on experiences and results achieved through the initiatives and programs pursued to combat violence against women[JC1];

RECALLING FURTHER that the Declarations and Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas and the reports of the Special Rapporteur for the Status of Women in the Americas of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have shown marked interest in the subject and especially in implementation and follow-up of the Convention;

BEARING IN MIND the results of the project "Violence Against Women: A Regional Analysis, Including a Review of the Implementation of the "Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'" (CIM/doc.7/02), undertaken by CIM in 2000, to evaluate the progress made in the Hemisphere in meeting the Convention's objectives five years after its entry into force;

NOTING that four sub-regional meetings of experts were held to analyze the said results and to obtain recommendations for the development of regional strategies to help accelerate implementation of the Convention's objectives; and

That four sub-regional secretariats *pro tempore* were created to implement the recommendations of the meetings of experts;

CONCERNED that violence against women remains a social problem in the Hemisphere; and

UNDERSCORING that, in the framework of the CIM, an interest has been expressed in studying the most appropriate ways to follow-up on the Convention of Belém do Pará to ensure systematic and ongoing evaluation of progress made in the fulfillment of its objectives,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider acceding to or ratifying, as the case may be, the Convention of Belém do Pará.

2. To urge member states to promote initiatives aimed at raising public awareness of the fact that all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, are violations of human rights.

3. To recommend member states that have not yet done so to:

- a. develop policies designed to prevent and address all forms of violence against women through their domestic legislation, training and treatment programs for victims and offenders, training of the personnel working with victims;
- b. allocate the resources needed to prevent, expose, address, punish, and eradicate said violence; and,
- c. appropriate data on acts of violence against women.

4. To entrust the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), in consultation with other organs, agencies, entities, and areas of the OAS and of the United Nations, to prepare a working document on the follow-up mechanisms of international legal instruments.

5. To create a working group including experts identified by member states to analyze the document prepared by the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, consider the proposals made by civil society organizations, and make recommendations on the most appropriate way to follow up on the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women.

6. To request the OAS Secretary General to convoke a meeting of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against

Women, so that, taking into account the recommendations of the working group, it adopts a decision on the most appropriate way to follow-up on the Convention. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) as well as those member states that are not States Parties to the Convention would be invited to participate in this meeting.

7. To report to the General Assembly of the OAS and to the Assembly of Delegates at its thirty-second meeting on the results of this process.

8. To urge the delegates in charge of the pro-tempore sub-regional secretariat to continue coordinating and facilitating follow-up of the Convention of Belém do Pará.

Appendix III

| OBSTACLES | Montevideo | Quito | Panama City | Georgetown | CIM Project |
|--|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Insufficient information (data, records, indicators) | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Inadequate state commitment | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Inadequate budgetary allocations | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Inadequate adaptation of law and access to justice | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Inadequate coordination with civil society | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Systemic inequality, media insensitivity, sociocultural discrimination | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Lack of access to care and protection for victims | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Inadequate training and education | √ | √ | | √ | |
| Lack of protection for women at risk (minority, rural, indigenous, minors) | √ | √ | | | √ |
| Lack of national committees in all member states | | | √ | | |
| Political instability | | | | | √ |
| Economic instability | | | | | √ |
| Presence of a culture of violence | | | | | √ |
| New perils (information technology) | | | | | √ |
| Poor planning | | | | | √ |

Appendix IV

| RECOMMENDATIONS | Montevideo | Quito | Panama City | Georgetown | CIM Project |
|--|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| Compilation, study, and evaluation of data | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Reaffirmation of state commitment | | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Increase in budgetary allocations and international cooperation | √ | √ | √ | | √ |
| Adaptation of laws/access to justice/enforcement of legislation | | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Eradicate systematic inequality/discriminatory social and cultural patterns of behavior | | √ | | √ | √ |
| Education, training, and advocacy | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Access to and quality of care and protection for victims | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Coordination with civil society | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Institute media campaigns/promote awareness of causes, consequences, and costs of violence against women | | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Increase networking among national machineries/international cooperation | | | | √ | √ |
| Institute intervention models for victims | | | √ | | √ |
| Prevention of institutional violence and establishment of penalties | | | √ | | √ Health professionals can be educators |
| Inclusion of men and youths in the process of change | | | | | √ |
| Violence against girls | | √ | | | √ |

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT ON FULFILLMENT OF 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' "

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING 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,'" which instructed the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women, in order to ensure follow-up of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, to report to the General Assembly every two years on progress made in its application and on experiences and results achieved through the initiatives and programs pursued in the member states to combat violence against women;

RECALLING ALSO resolutions AG/RES. 1626 (XXIX-O/99) and AG/RES. 1768 (XXXI-O/01), concerning the first and second biennial reports on fulfillment of 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'";

CONSIDERING that, to date, 31 countries have ratified the Convention of Belém do Pará, thereby demonstrating their commitment to the fulfillment of the Convention's objectives for the elimination of violence against women, and that the states are duty-bound to respect and fulfill the obligations they have assumed;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas, the CIM's Strategic Plan of Action, and the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality have treated violence against women as an area for priority attention;

RECOGNIZING that, despite efforts to implement the objectives of the Convention of Belém do Pará, violence persists and is of such magnitude that it is imperative that efforts continue unabated to implement strategies to rid women of this scourge;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the project "Violence in the Americas," the recommendations of the four subregional meetings held by the CIM, and the report submitted by that specialized organization; and

BEARING IN MIND that the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, at its thirty-first regular meeting, adopted resolution CIM/RES. 224 (XXXI-O/02), "Follow-up of the Convention of Belém do Pará,"

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the third biennial report of the CIM on fulfillment of 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,'" and to express concern regarding the conclusions thereof.

2. To express its support for the work of the CIM and the member states in promoting the Convention and in pursuing its objectives, in keeping with the priorities established in the Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas, the Strategic Plan of Action of the CIM, and the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality.

3. To urge the Secretary General to convene, in coordination with the CIM, a conference of states parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará, to which those member states that are not parties to the Convention and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) would be invited, and which would take a decision on the most appropriate way to follow up on the Convention.

4. To urge all member states to continue to promote measures to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women in the Hemisphere, in particular, by adapting their law in pursuit of this objective.

5. To encourage those member states that have not yet done so to consider, as appropriate, ratifying or acceding to the Convention of Belém do Pará.