



Organization of  
American States



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

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

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## INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions contained in Articles 91.f and 126 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) hereby presents its Annual Report to the General Committee of the Permanent Council for subsequent submission to the General Assembly at its forty-third regular session with the observations and recommendations the Council may deem appropriate.

This report provides a summary of activities carried out by the CIM between March 2012 and February 2013. To better coordinate its work with its existing mandates, in particular that of the *Inter-American Program on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality* (IAP), the CIM formulated its Strategic Plan 2011-2016. This Plan, adopted by the CIM Executive Committee for 2011-2012 at its first regular meeting (April 7 and 8, 2011), seeks to strengthen the CIM's core role as the Hemisphere's political forum for women's human rights and gender equality, as well as its coordination with the other the organs and agencies of the OAS, international organizations, civil society, and other key sectors.

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

In July 2012, the CIM held its Second Hemispheric Forum, "Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy" (July 18 to 21, 2012, Santo Domingo). The Forum brought together political leaders, government representatives, activists, academics, and representatives of international organizations to analyze and discuss the challenges democratic systems face today in ensuring women's full exercise of human rights and political citizenship.

The Forum considered the findings of the Regional Working Group on Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy, which was established in September 2011 to follow up on the results of the First Hemispheric Forum (April 2011). The analytical frame of reference devised by the Regional Working Group makes it possible to reflect critically on democracy according to various perspectives, visions, concerns, and proposals. This effort will help to enlarge upon recent OAS democracy studies to improve understanding of the implications and challenges of women's citizenship rights and the gender perspective for the democratic system and its policy and institutions.

In October 2012, the CIM held its Thirty-sixth Assembly of Delegates in San José, Costa Rica. The results of that Assembly include amendment and modernization of the CIM's juridical instruments, election of a new Executive Committee, and adoption of a three-year work program for the 2013-2015 term.

In November 2011, the CIM organized the Fourth Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM IV), in San Salvador. The aim of this meeting was to study and discuss the main topics of the Sixth Summit of the Americas (April 14 and 15, 2012) from the perspective of women's rights and gender equality. In this context, REMIM IV adopted a resolution (CAM/REMIM-IV/doc.6/11 rev.1) that recommends specific language for inclusion in the document resulting from the Summit, to ensure that the needs and demands of women are considered in the final conclusions of the event. The REMIM resolution was conveyed to the Chair of the Summits Implementation Review Group (SIRG) and to the national coordinators in each member state.

The CIM will continue to work to fulfill the mandates received, and to strengthen itself, addressing the demands of women and seeking to make respect for human rights and gender equality a reality throughout the Hemisphere.

Maureen Clarke Clarke  
President, 2013-2015  
Inter-American Commission of Women

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the activities carried out by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in compliance with its mandates between March 2012 and February 2013, stemming from the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), the CIM's Strategic Plan 2011-2016, specific OAS General Assembly resolutions, decisions by the CIM Executive Committee for 2011-2012 at its third regular meeting (April 17 and 18, 2012, Washington, D.C.), and the declaration and resolutions adopted by the Thirty-sixth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (October 29 and 30, 2012, San José, Costa Rica).

In compliance with the different mandates entrusted by the OAS General Assembly to the General Secretariat in terms of strengthening the CIM,<sup>1/</sup> during this period the Secretary General lent important political support to the CIM through his participation, and that of the Assistant Secretary General, in various events organized by the Commission. The CIM also received support in seeking resources for existing or new projects.

Fulfillment of the mandate to strengthen the CIM involves improving internal coordination with all the areas of the Organization and ongoing participation in their activities to ensure inclusion of the rights and gender equality perspective. It also includes implementation of a Gender Program for the OAS General Secretariat, as well as technical support to the different Secretariats and member countries of the Organization.<sup>2/</sup>

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

In this period, the CIM received three mandates from the General Assembly and 11 specific mandates from its Executive Committee. Of these, the three General Assembly mandates are permanent, that is, their execution is ongoing. Of the Executive Committee decisions, nine have been fulfilled totally and two are in progress.

A series of activities were conducted under those mandates. They are presented in the report in accordance with the areas identified as “pillars” of the Organization of American States: (i) democracy and governance, (ii) human rights, (iii) multidimensional security, and (iv) integral development.

Finally, the report contains some recommendations which the CIM presents for consideration by the OAS General Assembly.

1. Promote harmonization of national legislation and public policies with the provisions of inter-American treaties and conventions that promote women's human rights, especially the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), in order to advance toward the full exercise of women's rights and gender equality.

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

2. For more information on progress at the OAS General Secretariat in mainstreaming the rights and gender equality perspective, see the Report by the Secretary General on the Implementation of the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality” Pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2561 (XL-O/10), document CIM/doc.12113.

2. Support the member states, the General Secretariat, and the other countries cooperating with the OAS in implementing the IAP, through CIM/OAS efforts to mainstream the rights and gender equality perspective in the work of the Organization.
3. Support the member states, the General Secretariat, and the other countries cooperating with the OAS in strengthening the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention (MESECVI), in the context of its 2013-2017 Strategic Plan, to support full implementation of the Convention in its states parties.

## **I. ORIGIN, LEGAL BASES, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECTIVES**

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

The CIM Statute authorizes governments with a permanent observer accredited to the OAS to have permanent observer status with the Inter-American Commission of Women as well.

## **II. THIRTY-SIXTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE CIM**

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

The Assembly elected the Executive Committee of the CIM for the 2013-2015 term, as follows:

President:	Costa Rica (Maureen Clarke Clarke)
Vice Presidents:	Haiti (Marie Yanick Mézile) Panama (Markelda Montenegro de Herrera) Uruguay (Beatriz Ramírez Abella)
Members:	Barbados, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and the United States

The President of the CIM, Rocío García Gaytán, presented a report on the execution of the 2011-2012 Biennial Work Program, on the basis of which the Assembly of Delegates considered and adopted the 2013-2015 Triennial Work Program [CIM/RES. 262 (XXXVI-O/12)], which continues the areas of work already established and sets out new activities, within the context of the CIM's 2011-2016 Strategic Plan.

The Assembly also considered and adopted a number of reforms to the Commission's legal instruments [CIM/RES. 266 (XXXVI-O/12)], which formalized the representation of the member states on the CIM's Executive Committee, lay the foundations for holding the Assemblies and executing triennial rather than biennial work plans, and clarified the process for electing new officers of the CIM in the periods between Assemblies.

It also adopted a resolution on the celebration of the 85th anniversary of the CIM [CIM/RES. 264 (XXXVI-O/12)], which will both call greater attention to the issue of women's rights and gender equality in the region and highlight the results of the process of strengthening the CIM as a hemispheric policy forum.

The Assembly adopted the Declaration of San José on the Economic and Political Empowerment of the Women of the Americas [CIM/DEC. 14 (XXXVI-O/12)], which reaffirms the commitment of the CIM Delegates to fight for women's access to justice and the full implementation of the Convention of Belem do Pará, to incorporate the gender perspective in all policies on public and human security, to promote the creation and improvement of national and regional information systems, to promote respect for and monitoring of the full exercise of women's human rights, to promote the adoption of the necessary mechanisms to bring about full representation and participation by women in political, social, and economic decision-making at the national and local levels, to promote improved coverage and quality in the care infrastructure, and to strengthen ties between the CIM and civil society organizations that work for women's human rights and gender equality.

### III. ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE CIM

During this period, the post of President of the CIM was occupied by María del Rocío García Gaytán (Mexico, November 2010 to October 2012) and by Maureen Clarke Clarke (Costa Rica, November 2012 to date). From November 2010 to October 2012, the Vice Presidents were Argentina,<sup>3/</sup> Barbados, and Guatemala,<sup>4</sup> and from November 2012 to date, they are Haiti, Panama, and Uruguay.

3. In January 2011, the Government of Argentina informed the CIM that Magdalena Faillace had resigned her post as Principal Delegate of Argentina and Vice President of the CIM. At that time, the Statute of the CIM did not provide a formal way to replace a vice president who resigned, so the post remained vacant.

4. In January 2012, Sonia Escobedo resigned her post as Secretary of the Presidential Secretariat on Women (SEPREM) of Guatemala. At that time, the Statute of the CIM did not provide a formal way to replace a vice president who resigned, so the post remained vacant.

In this period, the president and vice presidents of the CIM actively participated in conferences, meetings, and other events to highlight and promote the work of the Commission.

### ***The President of the CIM***

The President of the CIM, Rocío García Gaytán, participated in the following events:

- The 56th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (February 27 to March 9, 2012, New York).
- The Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará (April 16, 2012, Washington, D.C.), at which the states considered and adopted 27 national reports and the Second Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará.<sup>5</sup>
- The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) (June 20 to 22, 2012, Rio de Janeiro).

The President of the CIM, Maureen Clarke Clarke, participated in the 52nd regular session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), in November 2012, with a statement on the gender dimensions of the drug problem in the Americas. The President urged states to improve the data and statistics available on women and drugs to improve understanding of the problem, and offered states the CIM's technical assistance, including training, in formulating and implementing policies, programs, and other measures with a gender perspective.

In the period covered by this report, the Presidents of the CIM issued the following commemorative messages:

- International Women's Day (March 8, 2012). On International Women's Day, the President of the CIM, Rocío García Gaytán, issued a message to the ministers of women's affairs and to the member states' principal delegates to the CIM. In line with the topic established by the United Nations, "Empower rural women--End hunger and poverty," the President emphasized that the work of rural women and girls contributes to farm production, food security, and sustainable rural development, and that therefore rural women should play a central role in decision-making at all levels.
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25, 2012). In this message, the President of the CIM, Maureen Clarke Clarke, expressed profound concern over the rates of violence against women, in particular femicide/feminicide in the region, and reaffirmed the central role of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) in providing an appropriate and effective response to the pandemic of gender-based violence.

### ***The Vice Presidents of the CIM***

The Vice President of the CIM, Irene Sandiford-Garner, was designated by the President to attend:

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5. For further information on the work of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) and the results of the Fourth Conference of States Parties, see the Report on the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) in Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2711 (XLII-O/12) (CIM/doc.122/13).

- The Consultation with Parliamentarians of the Americas (July 18, 2012, Santo Domingo);
- The Second Hemispheric Forum, “Women’s Full Citizenship for Democracy” (July 19 to 21, 2012, Santo Domingo);
- The forty-second regular session of the OAS General Assembly (June 3 to 5, 2012, Cochabamba), where she presented the Annual Reports of the CIM and emphasized the importance of integrating the perspective of gender and women’s rights into all matters related to sustainable human development.

At its forty-second regular session, the OAS General Assembly adopted three resolutions giving specific mandates to the CIM:

- AG/RES. 2710 (XLII-O/12), “Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women”;
- AG/RES. 2709 (XLII-O/12), “Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality”; and
- AG/RES. 2711 (XLII-O/12), “Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, ‘Convention of Belém do Pará’ (MESECVI).”

#### IV. FULFILLMENT OF THE MANDATES ISSUED BY THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Mandate	Implementation status	Remarks
AG/RES. 2710 (XLII-O/12), “Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women”	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued implementation of the CIM Strategic Plan for 2011-2016;</li> <li>- Concluded implementation of the Biennial Work Program for 2011-2012;</li> <li>- Prepared and adopted the Triennial Work Program for 2013-2015;</li> <li>- Initiated agreements and activities in collaboration with international organizations, civil society groups, and academic and research institutions;</li> <li>- Strengthened the profile of the CIM in the region through communications and dissemination initiatives.</li> </ul>
AG/RES. 2709 (XLII-O/12), “Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality”	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CIM continues to follow up on and implement the IAP.<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
AG/RES. 2711 (XLII-O/12), “Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CIM serves in a permanent capacity as Secretariat of the MESECVI.<sup>7</sup></li> <li>- Concluded the Second Multilateral Evaluation</li> </ul>

6. For further information on progress in the OAS General Secretariat in mainstreaming the rights and gender equality perspective, see the Report by the Secretary General on the Implementation of the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality” in Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2709 (XLII-O/12), document CIM/doc.121/13.

7. For further information on the work of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) and the results of the Fourth Conference of States Parties, see the Report on the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) in Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2711 (XLII-O/12) (CIM/doc.122 /13).

American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará' (MESECVI)"		Round and began the Second Round of Follow-up on the Recommendations; - Held the Fourth Conference of States Parties (April 16, 2012, Washington, D.C.); - Held the 8th and 9th meetings of the Committee of Experts (May 2012, Panama City, and November 12-14, 2012, Mexico City).
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## V. FULFILLMENT OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2011-2012

At its first regular meeting (April 2011), the CIM Executive Committee for 2011-2012 adopted the CIM Strategic Plan for 2011-2016, the main strategies of which are:

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

*Third regular meeting of the CIM Executive Committee*  
(April 17 and 18, 2012, Washington, D.C.)

Agreement		Implementation status
2	<p>(a) Expresses its thanks to the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic for his presentation, and for the commitment of his Government to hosting the Second Hemispheric Forum, "Women's Political Citizenship for Democracy;"</p> <p>(b) Requests that the Executive Secretariat of the CIM make the necessary preparations to ensure the participation of the President of the CIM in the entire event; and</p> <p>(c) In follow-up to Agreement 4, paragraph b), of the Second Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2011-2012, requests that the Executive Secretariat of the CIM circulate the draft agenda of the Second Hemispheric Forum in order to incorporate the inputs of the Delegates, within a 15-day period.</p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p>The Second Hemispheric Forum was held from June 18 to 21, 2012, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic</p>
3	<p>Requests that the Executive Secretariat of the CIM circulate the project proposal on <i>Mainstreaming a gender and rights perspective in integrated disaster risk management in the Americas</i>, contained in document CIM/CD/doc.33/12, for the consideration of the President and Executive Committee of the CIM, in order to receive comments within a 30-day period and prepare a revised draft for the consideration of the Executive Committee in the following 30 days.</p>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p>The project proposal was circulated by the CIM Secretariat on April 23, 2012.</p> <p>To date, remarks have not been received from the states.</p>

	<b>Agreement</b>	<b>Implementation status</b>
<b>5</b>	<p>(a) Expresses its thanks to the Permanent Missions of the OAS that negotiated the Draft Proposal for the Modification of the CIM Statute;</p> <p>(b) Requests that the Executive Secretariat of the CIM:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Circulate the Draft Proposal for the Modification of the CIM Statute, contained in document CIM/CD/doc.36/12 rev.1, for comments by the Delegates within a 30-day period</li> <li>ii. Formulates, in collaboration with the OAS' Department of Legal Services, Draft Modifications of the CIM Regulation and of the Rules of Procedure for the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, for their circulation to the CIM Delegates;</li> <li>iii. Coordinates the convening of a Working Group for the consideration of these draft modifications;</li> <li>iv. Circulates a timeline for the completion of these documents that will allow their elevation to the XXXVI Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Fulfilled</b></p> <p>The draft amendments to the CIM Statute (CIM/doc.48/12), to the Regulations of the CIM (CIM/doc.49/12), and to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (CIM/doc.50/12) were adopted by the XXXVI Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (October 2012).</p>
<b>6</b>	<p>Requests that the Executive Secretariat of the CIM:</p> <p>(a) Formulates a proposal for a formal mechanism to support the participation of civil society organizations that work on women's rights and gender issues in the work of the CIM, which should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The participation of civil society in the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM;</li> <li>ii. The respective modifications to the Rules of Procedure for the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM;</li> <li>iii. A consultancy in order to prepare a proposal for the mechanism; and</li> <li>iv. A resource mobilization plan for the implementation of the proposal.</li> </ol> <p>Circulates the proposal for the comments of the Delegates.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>The proposal has been drafted and will be considered by the CIM Executive Committee for 2013-2015 at its first regular meeting (February 28 to March 1, 2013).</p>
<b>8</b>	<p>(a) In follow-up to Agreement 11 of the First Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2011-2012, requests that the Executive Secretariat of the CIM prepare a proposal for the organization of the CIM donors meeting, which incorporates the results of the dialogue between the Executive Committee and the Secretary for External Relations of the OAS, and informs the Executive Committee in a timely manner once the date of this meeting has been decided.</p> <p>(b) Commits to following-up on the proposals discussed during the dialogue between the Executive Committee and the Secretary for External Relations of the OAS, in the context of the CIM Strategic Plan 2011-2016, in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The need to incorporate the experiences of the national mechanisms for women of the region with respect to strategies for development and security implemented by the OAS; and</li> <li>ii. Strengthening the role of the CIM in relation to women's</li> </ol>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Program proposals were drafted for the donors meeting and circulated to the delegates on September 11, 2012.</p> <p>To date, remarks have not been received from the states.</p>

Agreement		Implementation status
	vision of a citizens' democracy and in gender mainstreaming processes with the OAS.	
9	Requests that the Executive Secretariat prepare and circulate a summary of the issues that could not be addressed in an in-depth manner during the meeting of the Executive Committee, as a result of the prioritization of the agenda.	<b>Fulfilled</b>  The summary (CIM/CD/doc.39/12) was circulated by the CIM Secretariat to the delegates on April 23, 2012.

## VI. ACTIVITIES OF THE CIM SECRETARIAT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CIM'S BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAM FOR 2011-2012

### A. Women's Substantive Political Citizenship for Democracy and Governance

#### *Capacity-Building for Leadership and Impact on Public Policies for Gender Equality*

In the past five years, the Organization of American States and the United Nations Development Programme have been promoting consensus-building on the main challenges the countries encounter in seeking to strengthen democracy and governance in Latin America and the Caribbean, through national dialogues and consultations. This process is intended to help build a shared perspective on democracy to which the region's citizens aspire, as well as fresh thinking on the democratic system and new forms of political participation.

In this process, the visions, rights, and aspirations of women and the gender perspective need to be addressed in greater depth. The present framework should be broadened to encompass women's exercise of their human rights and fulfillment of the binding commitments assumed by the countries in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará).

The CIM, in that connection, has a project entitled "Development of Capacities for Leadership and Incidence in Public Policies for Gender Equality," financed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, UN Women, and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). Because of the change in cooperation priorities at the AECID, this project, originally planned to last three years, ended in July 2012, at the conclusion of the second year.

In June 2012, the CIM published the book *La democracia de ciudadanía: Visiones y debates desde los derechos de las mujeres en las Américas* (CIM, 2012),<sup>8</sup> which organizes the findings of the First Hemispheric Forum, "Women's Leadership for a Citizens' Democracy," held from April 4 to 6, 2011, in Washington, D.C.

As a result of this First Hemispheric Forum, and of the work of the Regional Working Group: Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy, begun in September 2011 in collaboration with IDEA International and UN Women, the Second Hemispheric Forum, "Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy," was held from July 18 to 21, 2012, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

8. CIM. *La democracia de ciudadanía: Visiones y debates desde los derechos de las mujeres en las Américas*. Washington, D.C.: Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States, 2012. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/cim/democracia.asp>.

The objective of this Second Hemispheric Forum was to study and discuss in greater depth the topics set forth at the First Hemispheric Forum, particularly as they related to the necessary policy and government reforms to accelerate women's full exercise of their citizenship in the countries of the Americas. The results of this Second Hemispheric Forum and the findings of the Regional Working Group will be published in the first quarter of 2013.

This hemispheric dialogue allowed participation by a broad and diverse selection of women working in the areas of democracy, policy, and women's rights in the region, including ministers, members of parliament, ambassadors, local government officials, human rights organizations, women's organizations and networks, activists, academics, and intergovernmental organizations.

The event was also part of the CIM's activities in pursuit of the commitments assumed by the OAS member states in the Declaration of the Inter-American Year of Women, "Women and Power: For a World of Equality," (CIM/DEC. 10 (XXXV-O/10), and the mandates received in terms of strengthening the CIM as the hemispheric policy forum for promoting women's full rights and citizenship in the Americas.

### ***True equality between women and men in electoral programs***

At the invitation of the Congress and Senate of the Dominican Republic, and in collaboration with UN Women, IDEA International, and the UNDP, the CIM organized the event "Presidential Elections 2012: Real Equality between Women and Men in Electoral Programs," which was held on March 7 and 8, 2012, in Santo Domingo. This meeting was attended by all the candidates for president of the Republic, except Hipólito Mejía, who sent the candidate for vice president.

Women's issues reached the top of the political agenda. For the first time in Dominican history, candidates spoke with female legislators, academics, and members of civil society on proposed policies for advancing women's rights and gender equality in the country, including:

- women's political participation and implementation of quota systems in all political institutions (including parties);
- violence against women and its prevention, treatment, and punishment;
- increased femicide in the country;
- rape of young girls;
- women's precarious share of the Dominican economy and lack of access to benefits, including social security;
- the need to regulate domestic work in the context of the commitments assumed in the ILO Conventions on the matter;
- women's lack of access to credit, land ownership, and decision-making positions in business, and the importance of their economic empowerment to the Dominican economy;
- the concentration of women in the informal economy;
- the position of single mothers/heads of household, particularly in terms of societal support in caring for children, the infirm, and the elderly;
- women's health, particularly in terms of maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, unsafe abortion, and gender-based violence;
- teenage pregnancy and lack of access to, and information on, methods of contraception;
- the position of the Ministry of Women within the Government and the need to give it increased resources (human and financial);
- the importance of respect for sexual diversity and the rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation.

In their statements, various candidates pledged to form a gender-equal cabinet. Others said they would do so gradually. All committed to increasing women's participation at decision-making levels and to strengthening the Ministry of Women.

The event was shown on national television and streamed live on the OAS website (<http://www.livestream.com/OASLive2>). It is available on the OAS website ([http://www.oas.org/en/media\\_center/videos.asp?sCodigo=12-0039&videotype=](http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/videos.asp?sCodigo=12-0039&videotype=)).

The event had a significant impact in the national media. The Open University of Santo Domingo (UASD), as a follow-up to the event, convened another meeting of presidential candidates to delve more deeply into the issue of violence against women and femicide.

### ***Consultation of Women Members of Parliament of the Americas***

Concurrently with the Second Hemispheric Forum, the first consultation of female members of parliament of the Americas was held on June 18, 2012, in Santo Domingo, in collaboration with the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) and the Committee on Gender Equity of the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic.

Participants in the consultation included the chairs of the gender equity committees of the legislative and parliamentary bodies of the American nations.

The purpose was to identify the main problems, priorities, and strategies in terms of: (a) promoting equality between men and women on the legislative agenda, in fulfillment of the binding international treaties on the matter ratified by the states; and (b) developing a hemispheric program to strengthen the ability of parliamentary committees and blocs to monitor gender equality and exert influence in that regard. This program will be prepared in cooperation with the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas of COPA, for subsequent financing by appropriate donors.

### ***Gender and Women's Participation in Local Budgeting***

The municipality offers a key opportunity to promote women's rights. To contribute to a substantive change in these arenas in terms of government policy, the project has implemented a specific tool by which the municipality can assess its own ability to promote gender equity, the *Autodiagnóstico del Municipio Promotor de la Equidad de Género*, in four municipalities in Latin America.

To date, workshops providing guidance in the use of the *Autodiagnóstico del Municipio Promotor de la Equidad de Género* have been held in Heredia, Costa Rica (January 25, 2012), in Lima, Peru (February 17, 2012), in Cuzco, Peru (February 20, 2012), and in San José, Costa Rica (February 25, 2012).<sup>9</sup> A report prepared on the basis of these workshops sets out, in organized fashion, the results of the self-diagnostic exercise, along with specific recommendations that identify individuals to strengthen the municipal response to matters of women's rights and gender equality.

9. The supporting documents for the workshops are available on the CIM website: <http://www.oas.org/es/cim/presupuestos.asp>.

## **B. Women's Human Rights and Gender Violence <sup>10/</sup>**

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

In pursuance of the Declaration of San Salvador, adopted by the CIM in November 2007, the CIM began to execute this project in September 2008, with funding from AECID. Although the project formally ended in January 2012, in response to requests from the project partners the CIM has continued various activities to raise awareness of and promote the human rights of women living with HIV in the Americas.

In collaboration with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Art Museum of the Americas, and the United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the CIM held an event on "Promotion of the Rights of People Living with HIV/AIDS," on July 23, 2012, in Washington, D.C.. Organized in the context of the XIX International AIDS Conference (July 22 to 27, 2012, Washington, D.C.), the event was designed to highlight the obstacles facing persons living with HIV in exercising their human rights. It included statements by the organizers, as well as by Patricia Pérez, Chair of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW Global), and an exhibit of the AIDS Quilt.

Also in the context of the XIX International AIDS Conference, the CIM participated in a parallel event on "Addressing the needs and rights of women and girls in the context of HIV/AIDS in Latin America: Where are we now?" (July 26, 2012), to present the findings of the project and stress the importance of an integrated approach to the matter.

On November 28, 2012, in connection with World AIDS Day (December 1), the CIM held a policy roundtable on "Challenges in the Protection of Human Rights of Women Living with HIV and AIDS." The event brought together representatives of governments, civil society, and international organizations to study the situation of the human rights of persons living with HIV and AIDS, in particular women, and to issue specific recommendations on government policy to strengthen the international and national response to this issue.

## **C. Women's Security and Economic Citizenship**

### ***Advancing gender equality in the context of decent work***

With funds from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the CIM Secretariat executed the project "Advancing gender equality in the context of decent work" between 2009 and 2011, in collaboration with the Department of Social Development and Employment (DSDE). In the context of the strategic lines of action for advancing gender equality and nondiscrimination in the context of decent work, adopted at the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (XV IACML, Trinidad and Tobago, 2007), and on the basis of the findings of the study on "Institutionalization of a gender perspective in the Ministries of Labor of the Americas," a series of sub-regional workshops on strategic planning with a gender perspective was held (Georgetown/April 2010, San Salvador/May 2010, Asunción/September 2010, and Quito/October 2010). The project ended in November 2011 with the organization of the first high-level dialogue among ministries of labor and the national mechanisms for the advancement of women in the OAS member states (November 1, San Salvador). This was an

10. For further information on the work of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) and the results of the Fourth Conference of States Parties, see the Report on the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) in Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2711 (XLII-O/12) (CIM/doc.122 /13).

opportunity to discuss the experiences, recommendations, and perspectives of both government sectors, workers, and employers on achieving greater equality between men and women in the working world.

Considering that this project has been part of a larger collaboration among the CIM, the DSDE/SEDI, and the ILO on gender and work, joint efforts have continued beyond the conclusion of the project. In 2012 these were: (i) documented follow-up to the subregional workshops, in collaboration with the ministries of labor and women's agencies; interesting experiences were addressed in the document *Institutionalization of a Gender Approach in the Ministries of Labor of the Americas: Follow-up to the Workshops on Strategic Planning with a Gender Perspective*;<sup>11</sup> (ii) participation in a planning meeting for the IACML in February 2012, in Washington, D.C.; and (iii) continued cooperation in implementing the OAS project on gender audits at the ministries of labor (two have been performed date). On the basis of the OAS gender audits project, the CIM is drafting a project proposal for training of national women's agencies in conducting gender audits with a view to the cross-cutting integration of this perspective in ministries of labor and other public institutions.

#### **D. Institutionalization of the Human Rights and Gender Equality Approach in the Work the OAS<sup>12/</sup>**

To conclude the project “Incorporation of Gender Analysis and Gender Equity and Equality as Crosscutting Topics and Objectives in All OAS Programs,” executed as part of the OAS/CIDA 2008-2011 program, an online course on the “Rights and Gender Equality Perspective in Policies, Programs, and Projects” was launched on January 10, 2013. The course, the first edition of which targets OAS staff, is built on previous on-site gender training offered by the OAS to its staff, and in response to the Organization's need to make more systematic and meaningful progress in mainstreaming the gender and rights perspective into its work and into the inter-American system. At the conclusion of the course (March 13, 2013), participants are expected to be able to apply the gender and rights perspective in formulating, implementing, and monitoring various policies, programs, projects, and statements, considering a specific frame of reference for detecting gender inequity and pursuing activities to overcome it through the use of conceptual and methodological resources, such as diagnostic techniques and gender indicators.

As part of the online course, on December 12, 2012, the CIM also launched the OAS Gender Practice Community (CoP). The CoP is a forum for learning and collective skill-building; discussion of experiences, lessons learned, and good practices; and exerting influence, both in institutional settings and in work with counterparts, the main objective being to make the Organization responsive to demands for gender equality and the promotion and protection of women's rights. Additionally, the CoP will promote, support, and strengthen capacity-building within the Organization to institutionalize the gender and women's human rights perspective in its internal and external work.

At the invitation of the organizers, the CIM Secretariat participated in a Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Symposium, organized by the Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP) of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat (OECSSSEC)], on May 23 and 24, 2012, in Saint Lucia. The CIM gave a presentation and study on institutional efforts to mainstream the gender perspective over the preceding decade (2000-2011), including identification of good practices and projects and lessons learned.

11. CIM. *Institutionalization of a Gender Approach in the Ministries of Labor of the Americas: Follow-up to the Workshops on Strategic Planning with a Gender Perspective*. Washington, D.C.: Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States, 2013. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/cim/desarrollo.asp>

12. For further information on progress in the OAS General Secretariat in mainstreaming the rights and gender equality perspective, see the Report by the Secretary General on the Implementation of the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality” in Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2709 (XLII-O/12), document CIM/doc.121/13.

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

- Ongoing cooperation with the Department of Planning and Evaluation (DPE) of the Secretariat for Administration and Finance (SAF), through active CIM participation in the OAS Project Evaluation Committee and its working group to ensure that the human rights and gender equality perspective is mainstreamed into the Organization's projects and their evaluation, as well as into the classification of, and accountability for, OAS mandates. There is a growing tendency in the various areas to integrate the gender perspective into project formulation and to design projects specifically to empower women and increase their participation in various sectors.
- *With the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA)*, the CIM has been working with the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators (PIFJ). This includes technical assistance to their meetings and other activities, as well as the exchange of information, and training and dissemination materials, with the Department of International Law, which has been incorporating the gender perspective in various projects.
- *With the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)*, the CIM continues its cooperation with, and technical assistance to, several departments. In addition to ongoing cooperation with the Department of Social Development and Employment, technical assistance in incorporating the gender perspective was provided to:
  - (i) the Department of Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism, in preparing various projects;
  - (ii) the area that handles OAS scholarships; the CIM Secretariat, through one of its specialists, participated in the Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate OAS Courses in 2012. The members (three total) of this Committee are appointed by the Secretary General; and
- Also, in the first quarter of 2012, in pursuit of the shared mandates, and under Agreement 3 of the second regular meeting of the CIM Executive Committee for 2010-2012, the CIM prepared a document with the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD/OAS) (CIM/CD/doc.33/12) dealing with the gender and rights perspective in disaster risk management, including a project proposal for strengthening institutional capacity, within the bodies that handle integrated disaster risk management and within women's agencies in the Hemisphere, to promote the gender and women's rights perspective in that arena. It has been finalizing the project profile for submission to selected donors.
- *With the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security*, through targeted support in incorporating gender perspectives in projects and reports of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and of the Department of Public Security. It has held informative meetings with staff responsible for the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs and other bodies to explore possible collaborations.
- *With the Secretariat for Political Affairs*, the CIM has continued its ongoing collaboration with the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) in implementing its electoral observation methodology with a gender perspective and analyzing the outcome.
- *With the Secretariat for External Relations*, with the Department of International Affairs, the CIM works with the OAS Model Assembly program, providing a technical assistance professional upon request; and in organizing specialized meetings and roundtables.

With the autonomous specialized organizations, the CIM has continued its cooperation and advisory services at the request of those bodies, including the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) and the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), providing training on gender for all their staff; with PAHO, through participation by the Permanent Secretariat in the meeting of the technical advisory group on gender equality in health (TAG/GEH). These and other autonomous specialized organizations provide yearly inputs to the CIM in the preparation of the Annual Report of the OAS Secretary General in pursuance of the IAP.

## **VII. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The CIM respectfully requests the OAS Permanent Council to present this report, along with any observations it considers pertinent, to the OAS General Assembly for consideration during the deliberations of its forty-third regular session.

This report contains some recommendations the CIM submits to the OAS General Assembly for consideration.

1. Promote harmonization of national bodies of law and government policies with the inter-American treaties and conventions on women's human rights, particularly the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), to move toward the full exercise of women's rights and the achievement of gender equality.
2. Provide support from the member states, the General Secretariat, and the other countries cooperating with the OAS in implementing the IAP and in CIM/OAS efforts to institutionalize the rights and gender equality perspective in the work of the Organization.
3. Provide support from the member states, the General Secretariat, and the other countries cooperating with the OAS in strengthening the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI), in the context of its Strategic Plan for 2013-2017, to support the full implementation of the Convention in its states parties.

**ANNEX I**

Budgetary execution of the CIM Regular Fund through December 31, 2012 (in US\$)

	<b>Allocation of Funds</b>	<b>Obligations</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Balance Available</b>
<b>23010 - Permanent Secretariat</b>	874,311.48	2,661.27	871,650.21	-
<b>23011 - President / Executive Committee</b>	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	-
<b>23012 - Assembly of Delegates</b>	42,730.00	1,306.84	41,423.16	-
<b>23014 - Horizontal Cooperation</b>	25,000.00	1,400.10	23,599.90	-
<b>23016 - Gender Mainstreaming</b>	24,971.45	520.40	24,451.05	-
<b>23017 - Prevention of Violence Against Women</b>	24,632.57	1,476.16	23,156.41	-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,021,645.50</b>	<b>7,364.77</b>	<b>1,014,280.73</b>	<b>-</b>