



Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

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October 5 to 6, 2009
Washington, D.C.

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SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008-2010

(Adopted by the Executive Committee at its third regular session
held on February 24, 2010)

Place: Padilha Vidal Room (GSB)

Date: October 6, 2009

Time: 8:30 to 14:00

Participants:

CIM Executive Committee 2008-2010:

Laura Albornoz Pollmann, President (Chile)
Wanda K. Jones, Vice-President (United States)
Loretta Butler-Turner, Principal Delegate (The Bahamas)
Martha Lucía Vásquez Zawadzky, Principal Delegate (Colombia)
Patricia Wohlers Erchiga, Alternate Delegate (México)

Principal Delegates:

Nilcea Freire, Principal Delegate (Brazil)
Sonia Escobedo, Principal Delegate (Guatemala)
Mayra Díaz Méndez, Principal Delegate (Costa Rica)

Delegations:

Ann-Marie Layne, Minister Counselor, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda
Maria Fabiana Loguzzo, Director of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and Worship of Argentina
Ana M. Pastorino, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Argentina

Monique D. Vanderpool, First Secretary, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of The Bahamas
Viviane Rios Balbino, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Brazil
Cherie Nisbet, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Belize
Gisela Vaca Melgar, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Bolivia
Swathi Kappagatula, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada
Pedro Oyarce, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Chile
Maricel Sauterel, Chief, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Women's Affairs Office of Chile
Patricio Reinoso, Chief of Staff of the Minister of Chile
Pamela Albornoz, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Chile
Sandra Mikan, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Colombia
Karen Leiva, Head of International Relations and International Cooperation of INAMU
Maritza Chan Valverde, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica
Irene Marr, Office of Global Women's Issues, United States Department of State
Gianni Paz, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of the United States
Maria Cristina Drouet, Permanent Mission of Ecuador
Carolina Sánchez, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of El Salvador
Ingrid Jackson, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Grenada
Linsleyd Tillit, Director, Promotion and Participation of Women, Presidential Secretariat for Women's Affairs of Guatemala
Elsa Samayoa de González, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Guatemala
Suze Percy Filippini, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Haití
Héctor Ortega, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Mexico
Julieta Blandón, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Nicaragua
Menitza Mandiche, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Panamá
Claudia Medina, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Paraguay
Giancarlo Galvez, Second Secretary, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Peru
Dayana Ureña, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Dominican Republic
Gail Gilbert, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis
Michael Louis, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia
Clenie Greer-Lacascade, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia
Frances Seignoret, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago
María del Luján Flores, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Uruguay
Graziella Reyes, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Uruguay
Tereza Arreaza, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Venezuela

Permanent Observers

Marie-France Pagnier, Ambassador, Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of France

Invited Speakers

Gina Montiel, Manager, country Department Central America, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Cecilia Ramos, Executive Director for Mexico and Dominican Republic, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Nora Gómez, Research, Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO)-Argentina

Other Invited

Marijke Velzeboer-Salcedo, Coordinator, Gender, Ethnicity and Health Team, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
Teresa Genta-Fons, Senior Attorney, Legal Vice-president, World Bank
Miosotis Rivas, Technical Secretariat of the Women COMMCA/SICA
Priscila Henríquez, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

CIM Permanent Secretariat:

Carmen Moreno Toscano, Executive Secretary
Mercedes L. Kremenetzky, Senior Specialist

Inaugural session

The inaugural session was held on October 5, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. The Executive Secretary extended a welcome to the participants. Presentations were made by the Chair of the Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the OAS, Ambassador Luis Alfonso Hoyos Aristizabal; the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, José Miguel Insulza; and the President of the CIM, Laura Albornoz Pollmann. Their remarks have been published as documents CIM/CD/INF. 4/09, CIM/CD/INF. 5/09, and CIM/CD/INF. 6/09, respectively.

Sessions

Before initiating the Committee's work, the Chair said that, in view of the fact that the Vice President of the CIM had tendered her resignation, she had consulted with the Executive Committee and proposed that the Principal Delegate of the United States, Wanda K. Jones, fill that post. Since that proposal had been accepted unanimously, the Principal Delegate of the United States, Wanda K. Jones, was formally installed as Vice President of the CIM.

She then submitted the draft Agenda (CIM/CD/doc.11/09) and draft Working Procedures (CIM/CD/doc.12/09) to the delegations for consideration. The first document was approved as presented and the second, with changes in the second day's schedule.

I. Consideration of the summary minutes of the First Regular Session of the Executive Committee 2008-2010

The delegates considered the draft Summary Minutes of the First Regular Session of the Executive Committee 2008-2010 (CIM/CD/doc.10/09) and approved them without any changes (Agreement No. 1).

II. Report on the activities of the President and the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM

The President gave a brief account of the activities carried out from April to September 2009. She drew attention to the activities conducted in the framework of the thirty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and to the measures taken to seek funds, in particular through the request made to the IDB, through Mr. Mario Marcel, Manager of its Institutional Capacity and Finance Sector, to execute a project on institutional strengthening of the region's mechanisms for the advancement of women. She also referred to the meeting with the Secretary General on October 5, at which he pledged to personally attend the Summit on Gender, Integration, and Development, to be held in Costa Rica in December 2009 and to support it logistically and financially.

The Executive Secretary made a brief summary of the Permanent Secretariat's activities described in document CIM/CD/doc.13/09. She referred in particular to the activities carried out to develop a new strategic relationship with regional and inter-American organizations and to promote gender mainstreaming within the OAS and donor contributions. She also emphasized the importance of increasing the Commission's visibility within the Organization and of shoring up dialogue with civil society and the academic sector.

III. Information on the Summit on Gender, Integration, and Development, to be held in Costa Rica in December 2009

The delegate of Costa Rica reported on the progress made in preparations for the Summit on Gender, Integration, and Development, which would be held in her country on December 8 and 9, 2009.

In her remarks, she noted that the Council of Central American Ministers for Women's Affairs (COMMCA) had been incorporated into the Central American Integration System (SICA). It was to be hoped that the meeting of presidents would set an important precedent for decision making and policy design in the region and address matters of special interest for the promotion and advancement of women's rights in the areas of economic autonomy, political participation, and gender institutionally in SICA.

As concerned the preparatory work for the Summit, she noted that a meeting of the region's ministers would be held on October 30 to consider specific aspects of the Summit's agenda. She emphasized that it was important for the CIM to be given space at the Summit to enable, at the very least, the pro tempore chairs of the other subregions to participate.

The President of the CIM thanked the delegation of Costa Rica for her presentation and for Costa Rica's efforts to strengthen the COMMCA. The delegations commented along the same lines, and the COMMCA was congratulated for having become a benchmark for other subregional mechanisms. The recent creation of the Andean Advisory Council of High-Level Authorities on Women's Affairs and Equal Opportunity was highlighted.

The Committee asked the President of the CIM to follow up on the arrangements she had made with the Secretary General to ensure that the Commission's delegates would participate in that event (Agreement No. 2).

That presentation was published as document CIM/CD/INF.7/09.

IV. Proposal for the celebration of Inter-American Year of Women 2010 - AG/RES. 2322 (XXXVII-O/07)

The President said that it was essential to ask the Working Group of the Permanent Council to prepare a message containing guidelines regarding the celebration of the Inter-American Year of Women and asked the Executive Secretariat to prepare a concept paper on the event (Agreement No. 3).

The delegates indicated that it would be advisable to draw up a comprehensive schedule of activities and suggested that resources be used to the fullest by taking advantage of the venues set aside for previously scheduled activities or meetings, such as the Lecture Series of the Americas and meetings of the pro tempore chairs of the subregional mechanisms.

To maximize the use of resources, the delegates decided that the CIM should organize activities for launching and celebrating the Inter-American Year in the framework of activities already scheduled for 2010 (Agreement No. 4). Likewise, efforts should be fostered to hold an event on violence against women in the framework of the United Nations in order to promote the importance of the Convention of Belém do Pará (Agreement No. 5). It was also deemed advisable to concentrate the events in the months of February and November.

The President reported that the OAS Secretary General had requested a budget estimate to determine the availability of resources for the launch.

Lastly, the logo prepared by Chile for the commemoration was presented. Following comments on it, the meeting decided that it should be modified, with alternative versions produced and circulated to enable the delegates to make a selection (Agreement No. 6).

The chief of PAHO's gender unit, Marijke Velzeboer-Salcedo, expressed an interest in participating in the activities of the Inter-American Year of Women. She reported on progress made at the recent meeting of the PAHO Directing Council in gender mainstreaming as it related to the *Plan of Action for Implementing the Gender Equality Policy* in the health area. She said that she would send the Permanent Secretariat the URL for that document so that it could be provided to the ministers.

V. Implementation of the mandates from the Thirty-fourth Assembly of Delegates

a) Biennial work program 2009-2010

The Biennial Work Plan, contained in document CIM/CD/doc.9/09 rev. 1, was considered and adopted without any changes (Agreement No. 7).

b) Structure of the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Delegates

The delegate of Mexico, the country that would host the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, presented a draft agenda, which was published as document CIM/CD/doc.17/09 rev. 1. She said that one of that Assembly's objectives would be to discuss the positioning and strengthening of the CIM and the adoption of a strategic plan that determined its future course of action. She proposed the topic "Building Citizenship among Women" as the central theme for the Assembly and said that it would be appropriate to include that event in the celebrations for the Inter-American Year of Women.

She also presented a proposal on a new structure for the Assembly of Delegates, using as reference the agendas and mandates of the four previous sessions of the Assembly and contrasting them to the four thematic areas of the OAS (human rights, democracy and good governance, multidimensional security, and integral development and prosperity), thus taking advantage of the possibilities afforded by the CIM to serve as a forum for furthering priority areas.

She said that her government wanted the meeting to be flexible and dynamic and to focus on just two or three thematic areas, for example, political participation, good governance, and democracy, and preferred to have the deliberations take place during plenary sessions. For each topic, there would be a formal presentation, followed by comments by three panelists and then by open discussion. A working group would have to be set up within the OAS to take charge of the preparations for the event. The Executive Committee approved the preliminary draft agenda and instructed the Executive Secretariat to initiate the process of consultation with governments on the agenda, as prescribed in the legal instruments of the CIM (Agreement No. 8). It also asked the Technical Secretariat to support all activities related to that Assembly (Agreement No. 9).

In addition, she suggested that Article 23 of the Statute be amended to increase the interval between Assemblies of Delegates to three years – instead of the stipulated two – to give the Executive Committee more time for its activities. Regarding that proposal, the President said that it could be considered. The delegate of Mexico also suggested that an assessment be made of the importance of the PIA, in view of the new profile of the CIM. In that connection, the Executive Committee asked the Executive Secretary to draft a document on the matter (Agreement No. 10).

The delegates expressed thanks to Mexico for its presentation and said that they agreed that the topic of strengthening of the CIM should be included on the agenda of the next session of the Assembly of Delegates. Further, they said that they agreed with the course of action being proposed and with the idea of relating the resolutions to the main topics to be discussed.

VI. Progress report on the issue of the elimination of violence against women and strengthening of the MESECVI

Under that agenda item, Mercedes Kremenetzky, Principal Specialist of the CIM, gave a report on:

a) Participation in the United Nations Secretary General's Campaign

The CIM was invited to take part in the launching of the United Nations Secretary-General's campaign on eradicating violence against women in Latin America. To coordinate that participation as well as that of the other United Nations agencies involved, a teleconference was held on July 21, 2009, followed by an inter-agency meeting from September 2 to 4, 2009, in Panama City.

A decision was made to invite the OAS Secretary General to the official launching of the campaign, on November 25, 2009, in Guatemala. Likewise, a decision was made to take part in the Knowledge Fair, to be held on November 24, prior to the launching, where a progress report would be presented on the implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the MESECVI, as an example of efforts to prevent and combat violence against women in the region. The CIM offered to share its experience in negotiating the Convention of Belém do Pará and in applying the mechanisms for monitoring and implementing it.

b) Follow-up to the Hemispheric Report adopted at the Second Conference of States Parties

The Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI presented a summary of the advances made by the MESECVI. She referred to follow-up of the recommendations made by the CEVI during the first round and reported on the results of the Fifth Meeting of the CEVI, held on June 25 and 26. She reported on the steps taken to obtain human and economic resources for the mechanism and on participation in a meeting with the Council of Europe, at which interest was expressed in the Convention of Belém do Pará and the MESECVI, in view of the European Union's intention to draw up a convention on violence against women.

She indicated that the Seminar on Femicide with the Washington College of Law of American University had been postponed until 2010.

c) Next Evaluation Round of the MESECVI

The delegates underscored the importance of undertaking an in-depth analysis of the MESECVI and the progress they had made with a view to enhancing it, increasing the impact and influence it has on the conduct of states, achieving swift results, and repositioning it politically. To that end, they considered the possibility of defining and implementing a strategy to address the shortcomings identified.

The delegates mentioned some of the areas and measures that could help strengthen the mechanism, such as reducing the time period for each evaluation round. They stressed the importance of providing it with adequate financing, approaching non-traditional OAS donors, and channeling additional resources to the area.

Several delegations said that they were in a position to fund concrete activities, for example, meetings, publications, or the development of materials. The President recalled her conversation with the OAS Secretary General in which he indicated to the Committee that the financial condition of the Organization made it impossible to finance personnel for the mechanism through the Regular Fund. She reported on her recent conversation with the Ambassador of Spain and asked the Executive Secretariat to continue those conversations.

She emphasized the importance of the Convention of Belém do Pará and its mechanism for the Hemisphere and the CIM, as well as the importance that the experts be technically and politically independent.

The Technical Secretariat was asked to draft a report within one month on the status of the MESECVI (Agreements Nos. 11 and 12). The delegations of Brazil, Chile, and Costa Rica offered to host the meeting that would be convened for that purpose. In the case of Costa Rica, it was proposed that said meeting be held in the framework of the Summit on Gender, Integration, and Development, which would take place in Costa Rica in December 2009.

The Executive Committee also recognized the importance of strengthening strategic partnerships with other international organizations to further their collaboration with PAHO, the IOM, the ILO, the UNHRC, the UNHCHR, and UNIFEM, among other bodies. The Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS offered to coordinate that area and to meet with some of those organizations.

As concerned the indicators developed within the CEVI, the Executive Secretariat was asked to coordinate that work with the United Nations Statistical Commission, ECLAC, and the CEDAW Committee of Experts, with a view to enhancing the consistency and comparability of those organizations' indicators of violence against women with those of the MESECVI (Agreement No. 13).

The delegate of The Bahamas reported that a bill on marital rape had been introduced in her country in August and that some sectors in the country were strongly opposed to it. She asked the CIM and the IACHR to assist her by transmitting background information on cases and legislation in order to support adoption of the bill (Agreement No. 14).

VII. Opportunities for women in the face of the financial crisis. Possibilities of working with the IDB and FLACSO on joint projects – Inputs from the Delegates

a) Presentation by Ms. Gina Montiel, representative of the IDB

Ms. Gina Montiel, Manager of the Country Department Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic, was offered the floor. In her presentation, she said that the current financial crisis had resulted in a drop in remittances, tourism, and exports, which in turn had led to reduced tax income that jeopardized social programs and the productive participation of women. She drew attention to the decline in employment, caused in part by persons returning to Central America and Mexico from the United States, and of the remittances that had an impact on household income. She also mentioned the policies promoted by the IDB to counteract those effects, including the implementation of temporary job programs, as well as preparation of an impact assessment of the financial crisis on those countries.

She reported on the creation of a US\$16 million grant program to support projects in the countries and regions, invited the delegates to present a project profile which would serve as a means for them to initiate dialogue with the Bank on access to those resources, and invited them to visit the IDB Web page to obtain detailed information on those procedures.

b) Presentation by FLACSO

The representative of FLACSO, Nora Gómez, made a presentation on the importance and use of information technologies (ICTs). She said that ICTs led to new forms of production and employment and brought to bear important economic and political interests that could result in unheard of personal and social development. She cited informative figures regarding the use of ICTs by men and women, indicating that there were still inequalities in that regard, and referred to the creation of technologies and contents in decision making. She underscored that women were underrepresented in the computer technology industry.

She proposed three strategic areas to achieve parity (access, appropriation, and innovation) and the policy challenges of an equality agenda at the policy level, in all areas pertaining to women and ICTs. Among the possible uses of ICTs, she mentioned e-trade; education, research, and continuing education; e-health; e-citizenship and political participation; online networks and communications; gender-based violence; digital literacy training; gender mainstreaming; and professional development and employment. She referred to the recent establishment of the Latin American Center on Gender and the Information Society (CGySI) and invited the delegates to join it, especially those from the Caribbean. The President said that she would disseminate information on this initiative, in particular among the Caribbean countries.

Lastly, reference was made to the strategy for 2010, whose objectives were to move toward an information society that would benefit everyone equally, foster development through growth with equity, consolidate democracy and strengthen regional integration, and reduce economic and social costs, and to the challenge of establishing a regional plan to ensure that the strategic use of ICTs was included in every aspect of the gender equality agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean.

VIII. Budget execution as of September 30, 2009

The Executive Secretary presented a summary of budget execution as of September 30, 2009 (CIM/CD/doc.18/09), which was approved (Agreement No. 15). She said that the conventional format used for preparing those reports had been used, but that in the future a more modern, results-based method would be used.

IX. Other business

a) Reading out of the agreements

The agreements included at the end of this document were read out and adopted.

b) Closing remarks

The President then declared the Second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the CIM closed and thanked the delegates for their presence, inputs, and collaboration.

AGREEMENTS

- Acuerdo No. 1** Approve the Summary Minutes of the First Regular Session of the Executive Committee, contained in document CIM/CD/doc.10/09.
- Acuerdo No. 2** Request the Chair of the CIM to make the necessary arrangements with the General Secretariat to bring about the participation of the Commission's delegates in the COMMCA Summit on Gender, Integration and Development, to be held in Costa Rica on December 8 and 9, 2009.
- Acuerdo No. 3** Ask the Working Group to prepare the message to be conveyed containing guidelines regarding the Inter-American Year of Women, and ask the Executive Secretariat to prepare a concept paper to serve as a framework for commemoration of the Inter-American Year of Women, and to the countries, gender authorities, and subregional bodies involved in gender issues that define activities to be included in the complete schedule for the year.
- Acuerdo No. 4** Carry out activities to commemorate the Inter-American Year of Women on the following dates in 2010:
- a. Launch the celebrations in February 2010, on a date close to the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and hold the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the CIM on the same dates;
 - b. As part of the activities scheduled for ECLAC's "XI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean," to be held in Brazil in July;
 - c. Within the framework of the Meeting of States Parties of the MESECVI to be held in Guatemala, in September; and
 - d. During the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, to be held in Mexico in November.
- Acuerdo No. 5** Foster a strategy, during the Inter-American Year of Women, vis-à-vis the United Nations, for promoting the importance of combating violence against women, recalling that the Convention of Belém do Pará was the first legal instrument in the region to address violence against women.
- Acuerdo No. 6** Use a modified version of the logo offered by Chile as an emblem for the celebrations; the delegation of Chile is sending a new version on October 13, 2009.
- Acuerdo No. 7** Adopt the 2008-2010 Biennial Work program contained in document CIM/CD/doc.9/09 rev. 1.

- Acuerdo No. 8** Approve the preliminary draft agenda for the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM contained in document CIM/CD/doc.17/09 rev. 1; and request the Executive Secretariat to initiate the process of consultation regarding the agenda for the Thirty-fifth Assembly of delegates of the CIM with the delegates and governments as prescribed in the legal instruments of the CIM.
- Acuerdo No. 9** Request the Executive Secretariat of the CIM to support preparations for the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.
- Acuerdo No. 10** Request the Executive Secretariat of the CIM to prepare a document evaluating implementation of the Inter-American program for the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP).
- Acuerdo No. 11** Request the Executive Secretariat of the MESECVI to prepare, within one month, a Report on the history of the MESECVI and on how it has developed over time, along with a diagnostic assessment of its performance. It should also mention all initiatives undertaken to raise funding.
- Acuerdo No. 12** Hold a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the CIM to evaluate the performance of the MESECVI.
- Acuerdo No. 13** Request the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to contact the United Nations Statistical Commission, ECLAC, and CEDAW Committee of Experts with a view to enhancing the consistency and comparability of those organizations' indicators of violence against women with those of the MESECVI.
- Acuerdo No. 14** Request:
- a. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to send the Executive Secretariat of the CIM any pronouncements it has made on cases of marital rape;
 - b. The Executive Secretariat of the CIM to put together an inventory of Latin American and Caribbean legislation on marital rape and to send it, together with a paper discussing the theoretic basis for its criminalization, to the delegate of The Bahamas in support of the bill on that subject currently being debated in her country's Parliament. Contact the WHO, IOM, ILO, UNHRC, UNHCHR, and UNIFEM to identify areas of cooperation and funding for the MESECVI.
- Acuerdo No. 15** Approve the budgetary execution through September 30, as shown in document CIM/CD/doc.18/09.