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REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOLLOW UP MECHANISM TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND
ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ‘CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ’”
PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION AG/RES. 2451 (XXXIX-O/09)

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Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

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REPORT ON THE 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” IN COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION
AG/RES. 2451 (XXXIX-O/09)

The Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), as the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism to Follow up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI), in compliance with operative paragraph 12 of resolution AG/RES. 2451 (XXXIX-O/09) and in accordance with Article 13.1 of the Statute of the MESECVI, presented this report to the Permanent Council work carried out between February 2009 and February 2010.^{1/}

I. BACKGROUND

A. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MECHANISM TO FOLLOW-UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION (MESECVI)

The CIM, in compliance with the mandates from resolutions CIM/RES. 224/02 (XXXI-O/02), AG/RES. 1942 (XXXIII-O/03), and CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 6/04, undertook actions aimed at drawing up the draft Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention of *Belém do Pará*. The Permanent Secretariat of the CIM drafted a working document proposing a follow-up of the mechanism and held prior consultations with the member states, specialized international organizations, and civil society.

In June 2004, continuing the process initiated in 2002, a Meeting of Government Experts was convened; it was held on July 20-21, 2004 to examine the mechanism proposed and make recommendations to the states parties. At the end of the meeting, the Experts indicated that the mandate of the OAS General Assembly, contained in resolution AG/RES. 2021 (XXXIV-O/04) had been fulfilled and requested the meeting’s rapporteurship to submit to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention of *Belém do Pará* the draft Statute of the Mechanism to Follow up on Implementation of the Convention for its adoption.

Pursuant to the General Assembly mandate, the Secretary General of the OAS convened the Conference of the States Parties on October 26, 2004. The Conference approved the “Statute of the 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).

With its adoption, the States Parties expressed their political will to have a consensus-based and independent mechanism, to which they would submit progress reports, in compliance with the Convention, and undertook to implement its recommendations.

^{1/} All the documents and background information referred to here, including reports submitted in previous years, are to be found on the CIM website, under MESECVI, <http://www.oas.org/cim/Spanish/MESECVI-indice.htm>.

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MESECVI

The MESECVI was designed to ensure follow-up of the commitments made by the States Parties to the Convention, to contribute to achieving the purposes established in it, and to facilitate technical cooperation between the States Parties, as well as with other member states of OAS and permanent observers. It is based on principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and legal equality of the States and observes the rules of impartiality and objectivity in its operation, in order to guarantee fair application and egalitarian treatment between the States Parties.

The Mechanism consists of two bodies: The Conference of the States Parties, which is the political body, comprised of the representatives of the States Parties; and the Committee of Experts, (hereinafter "CEVI"); which is the technical body, comprised of specialists from the sector being covered by the Convention. Although the Experts are designated by the governments, they carry out their duties personally. The liaisons between the States Parties and the Secretariat of the MESECVI are the competent national authorities (hereinafter "CNAs"). The Secretariat of the Conference and the Committee is held by the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, where the headquarters of MESECVI has been established.

The Multilateral Evaluation Round consists of two phases: the first is for purposes of evaluation and the second for follow-up. In the first phase, the (CNAs) of each of the States Parties provide their responses to the questionnaire adopted by the CEVI. On the basis of these responses, the CEVI prepares a series of preliminary reports which are forwarded to the CNAs for feedback. Once these observations are incorporated, the reports are returned to the Committee of Experts, which then reconsiders the reports and approves the final versions of the country reports and hemispheric report. Both the country and hemispheric reports contain recommendations for the States Parties; the former contains specific recommendations while the latter includes general recommendations regarding better implementation of the Convention. Finally, these reports are presented at the Conferences of the States Parties to the MESECVI for their adoption and publication.

In the second phase, the CNAs report to the CEVI regarding the implementation of the latter's recommendations, using the format adopted by the Committee of Experts for such purpose. On the basis of the responses received, the CEVI drafts and adopts a report to follow up on the indicators, which must also be presented for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the States Parties to the MESECVI.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MESECVI

A. FIRST MULTILATERAL EVALUATION ROUND

In the framework of the First Round, in July 2008, the MESECVI completed the stage of State Party evaluation with the adoption by the Conferences of States Parties of the country reports and the Hemispheric Report, which contain recommendations to the states for better implementation of the Convention.

To date, the first Round is in the phase of following up on the recommendations put forward by the CEVI to the states, whose estimated completion date is mid-2009. In August 2008, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI forwarded the document of follow-up indicators based on the

CEVI's recommendations to the OAS permanent missions, and through these to the CNAs. The deadline for responding to the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI was November 30, 2008. However, due to the low number of responses by that date the deadline was extended. By July 2009, the CEVI had received 17 reports that were used as the basis for the preliminary follow-up report. Once the report is adopted by the CEVI, it will be presented for the consideration of the Third Conference of the States Parties of the MESECVI.

1. Committee of Experts (CEVI)

The First, Second, and Third Meeting of CEVI took place in Washington, D.C., on August 22-24, 2005 and July 24-25, 2006, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on June 18-20, 2007, respectively. The reports on those meetings have already been submitted to the General Assembly. The Fourth Meeting of Experts took place in Washington, D.C., from August 13 to 15, 2008.

The Fifth Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the MESECVI was held on June 25 and 26, 2009. The work of the Meeting included preparing the draft questionnaire for the second Multilateral Evaluation Round and the election of new authorities of the CEVI. Hilda Morales of Guatemala was elected as the Coordinator, and Asia Villegas of Venezuela as Alternate Coordinator.

Pursuant to the offer of the Venezuelan government, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI contacted Venezuela's National Institute for Women (INAMUJER), in order to coordinate the organization of a special meeting of the CEVI. The purpose of this meeting will be to review matters that could not be addressed or finalized during the Fifth Meeting of the CEVI, such as the preliminary follow-up report on the recommendations of the CEVI and the questionnaire for the Second Round. After several conversations, however, INAMUJER requested that the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI postpone the meeting until 2010.

Furthermore, it was decided that the Technical Secretariat, with the support of the Coordinator of the CEVI, would contact the organizers of the Third Conference of the States Parties of the MESECVI, to be held in Guatemala, in order to explore the possibility of holding the special meeting of the CEVI within the framework of the Conference, tentatively scheduled for September 2010. The Coordinator will also consider the possibility of holding a seminar on best practices and recommendations for the States on the day prior to both meetings.

2. Second Conference of States Parties

The Third Conference of the States Parties will be held in Guatemala, and is tentatively slated for September 2010. The activities of this Conference will include adoption of the report on follow-up to the recommendations of the CEVI, which will conclude the first Multilateral Evaluation Round. The agenda of the Conference has not yet been prepared.

Within the framework of the First Round, some States Parties have yet to appoint their experts and CNAs and/or were unable to participate in all phases of the first Round. Tables listing the participation of the States Parties during this Round in the meetings of the Conference of States Parties and those of the CEVI, as well as their status in terms of appointing experts and CNAs are included as Annexes I, II, III, and IV hereof.

3. The Technical Secretariat

The Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI fulfilled the activities for which it is responsible according to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) and the Conference, including the following:

- Finalizing the preliminary report of indicators;
- Preparations for the Fifth Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI);
- Drafting of the preliminary questionnaire of the CEVI for the second Multilateral Evaluation Round;
- Preparing of the annual work calendar for the 2009-2010 biennium of the CEVI;
- Initiating preparations for the Third Conference of the States Parties of the MESECVI; and
- Initiating work on the redesign of the webpage in order to make information more accessible to civil society organizations and the general public.

III. PROMOTION OF MESECVI

1. Presentation of the Alternate Coordinator of the CEVI to the Executive Committee of the CIM (March 30-31, 2009)

The Alternate Coordinator of the CEVI at the time, Hilda Morales, who is today its Coordinator, participated in a meeting of the Executive Committee of the CIM held March 30-31, 2009 at OAS headquarters. At that meeting, she presented the document of indicators approved by the CEVI that would serve as the basis for the report on follow-up to the indicators of each State Party. She also noted that at the Fifth Meeting of the Committee of Experts, the CEVI would develop a new questionnaire for the Second Round, taking into account the self-evaluation section included in the questionnaire used in the First Round. She discussed the follow-up indicators of the questionnaire and suggested contacting each of the countries to ensure that all would be sending representatives to the meetings of experts. She also spoke to the need to joining forces, including civil society groups, in order to disseminate information about the MESECVI.

The delegates at that meeting acknowledged the work of the Committee of Experts. The delegate of Mexico presented the President of the CIM with a document of observations regarding the proposed indicators, asking that it be circulated among the delegates for their feedback and suggesting that said document might eventually become a useful tool for the Committee of Experts regarding the delegates' points of view, their relevance, and possibilities of addressing them. Within this framework, Brazil and Chile also submitted their observations regarding the document of indicators.

2. Meeting of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, May 6, 2009)

The interim Executive Secretary of the CIM participated as a member of the OAS delegation in a meeting with representatives of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, in response to interest on the part of the European Union in concluding a convention on violence against women. As a result, relationships were established with the director of the Department of Legal Reform under the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs (DG-HL), and with the Secretary of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG) of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) of the Council of Europe. Owing to this visit and issues of mutual interest, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Council of Europe to establish solid foundations for the future joint work of both organizations.

3. Human security seminar regarding public policies for the prevention, care, and protection of the victims of violence against women, Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), Santiago de Chile, June 17, 2009

The President of the CIM participated in a seminar entitled “Human Security: Public Policies for the Prevention, Care, and Protection of the Victims of Violence against Women” [*Seguridad Humana: políticas públicas de prevención, atención y protección de la violencia contra las mujeres*] hosted by the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). The purpose of this event was to incorporate the subject of violence against women on the agenda of the UNASUR. Debate centered on the sharing of lessons learned and successful practices for developing policies for the prevention, care, and protection of victims of violence against women. Participating at the event were representatives of ten countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The recommendations of the Hemispheric Report of the MESECVI (2008) and debate on how to strengthen the potential of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará were central to the seminar.

4. Sixteenth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System and Forty-third Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, Port of Spain, July 6-8, 2009)

The CIM participated in the Sixteenth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations on the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on July 6, 2009, and in the Forty-third Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC, also held in Port of Spain, on July 7-8, 2009. At both meetings, cooperation linkages were established among the MESECVI, the recently created Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean (<http://www.cepal.org/oig/default.asp?idioma=IN/>), and the U.N. Secretary-General’s “*UNite to End Violence against Women*” campaign. Moreover, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI will support ECLAC’s efforts to promote its new Observatory and the U.N. Statistical Commission’s proposal for a set of international indicators to measure the scope, prevalence, and incidence of violence against women.

5. Joint work with the Department of Public Security (DPS)

At a meeting on July 27, 2009, the DSP, an agency of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, asked the CIM to collaborate with the Inter-American Observatory on Security (OIS) by providing relevant information and statistics (e.g., on femicide, number of protection measures, and rates of sexual violence) obtained through the MESECVI during the Multilateral Evaluation Rounds. With this information, the DPS supports the CIM by disseminating statistics on violence against women and the treatment of this problem as security issue.

6. Second Session of the CIM Executive Committee, Washington, D.C., October 5-6, 2009

During its Second Session, the Executive Committee of the CIM agreed to support the “Inter-American Year of Women,” a strategy of the United Nations designed to promote the importance of combating violence against women, recalling that the Convention of Belém do Pará was the first legal instrument in the Region of the Americas to combat violence against women.

In addition, the Executive Committee expressed its interest in collaborating to strengthen the MESECVI. To this end, it asked the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI for detailed information on the process in order to study ways delegates of the CIM can help support the MESECVI at its next meeting. This document, classified under CIM/CD/doc.24/10 (Annex V) is to provide a report on the historical highlights and development of the MESECVI, an assessment of its performance, and information on all initiatives for the purpose of identifying sources of funding.

7. Launching in Latin America of the U.N. Secretary-General’s “UNite to End Violence against Women” campaign, Guatemala City, November 24-25, 2009

The OAS joined the U.N. Secretary-General for the Latin American launch of his *UNite to End Violence against Women*” campaign on November 24-25 in Guatemala City. The Executive Secretary of the CIM and a member of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI participated at a “knowledge fair,” held November 24, to serve as a forum for the sharing of experiences and best practices for preventing and punishing violence against women. The event included exhibits on the goals and results of MESECVI as a best practice for the region; educational materials were also distributed to inform those attending about the MESECVI. These materials included pamphlets and a CD prepared especially for the occasion.

Both representatives participated in the November 25 inaugural event that launched the United Nations Secretary-General’s Latin America campaign, headed by Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom. The inaugural was held at the National Palace of Government in Guatemala City and included the participation of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon via teleconference, as well as that of Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Rebeca Grynspan, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Rigoberta Menchú, the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

The CIM was involved in the coordination with other organizations of the United Nations system and participated at the inter-agency meeting held in Panama City on September 2-4, 2009.

8. Femicide

The Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, in follow-up to resolution CIM/RES. 240 (XXXIII-O/06) and pursuant to the interest shown by CEVI in this regard, agreed to organize a meeting of academics on the topic of Femicide with the Washington College of Law of American University, in Washington, D.C., programmed for 2010, as part of the activities of the “Inter-American Year of Women.”

The OAS Department of Public Security (DPS) has expressed an interest in helping with the organization of this event. DPS has submitted a proposal to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for developing model legislation on Femicide for the Region of the Americas, in which the CIM would participate as a partner.

IV. DISSEMINATION

With regard to support materials, a CD-ROM was prepared containing the basic documents of the MESECVI, along with the final country and hemispheric reports, and the document entitled “Decisions, Conclusions, and Agreements of the Second Conference of States Party to the MESECVI.”

V. FINANCING THE MESECVI

During the First Session of the CIM Executive Committee, held March 30-31, 2009, the Committee’s President reiterated the request she made to the Secretary General of the OAS in January of that year, regarding, *inter alia*, the need for more resources, particularly those needed to support operations of the MESECVI. Subsequently, other delegates raised the topic of resources. The delegate of Mexico reiterated the importance of the MESECVI, pointing out that its operations should not depend solely on external funds, but also the Regular Fund program-budget of the OAS. Accordingly, the delegate of Mexico asked the Secretary General to consider the MESECVI as a priority area of the Organization.

With respect to this request, the Secretary General of the OAS pointed out the importance of supplementing operations through external funding, rather than funds from the Regular Fund program-budget of the OAS, owing to the current budget situation, namely, that there is no consensus among the member states for increasing the budget and including the MESECVI in the regular fund and furthermore because there are already requests for budget cuts. Given this situation, he called on the CIM to concentrate its efforts on attracting fresh sources of financing, while committing to help in the search for resources.

Worthy of mention in this regard is that Item 11 of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, adopted April 19, 2009 within the framework of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, stipulates that the States “commit to strengthening the institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, including, where applicable, the Mechanism to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, ‘Convention of Belém do Pará,’ and its funding.”

VI. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2009-2010

The General Assembly of the OAS at its thirty-ninth regular session approved two instruments related to the MESECVI and the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women. In the **Declaration of San Pedro Sula: Toward a Culture of Non-Violence [AG/DEC. 60 (XXXIX-O/09)]**, the Assembly renews its commitment to promoting, within the framework of the rule of law, a culture of peace and non-violence, understood as “a set of values, attitudes, and modes of behavior based on respect for life, human beings, and their dignity.” Consequently it gives priority to human rights, the ending of violence, and adherence to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, solidarity, tolerance, and respect for diversity. Within this framework, it declares its commitment to advancing in the promotion and implementation of national legislation to prevent, eliminate, and punish all types of violence against women.

The second instrument approved by the Assembly was **resolution AG/RES. 2451 (XXXIX-O/09)**. In this resolution, the Assembly notes with concern that Mexico is the sole contributor to be established in the OAS to finance the operations of the MESECVI, and that the Mechanism needs qualified trained specialists that can perform their duties indefinitely and with exclusive dedication, in order to comply with their assigned tasks.

In view of the foregoing, among other reasons, the Assembly resolves to urge the States Parties to the Convention to contribute economic support and/or human resources to the MESECVI to enable it to meet the commitments of its calendar of work and guarantee the optimal operation of the Mechanism. Moreover, the Assembly, pursuant to available financial resources and in accordance with the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), requests the Secretary General to allocate the necessary human, technical, and financial resources to ensure that the CIM can continue to support implementation of the MESECVI. Moreover, the Assembly calls on the Secretary General to organize a meeting of donors to raise the necessary funds to ensure the operation of the MESECVI.

ANNEX I

RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE, PRELIMINARY REPORTS I AND II,
FINAL REPORT, AND CNA COMMENTS

Country	Responses	Preliminary Report I	Preliminary Report II	CNA Comments	Preliminary Report III	CNA Comments
1. Antigua & Barbuda	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
2. Argentina	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
3. Bahamas	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
4. Barbados	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
5. Belize	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
6. Bolivia	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
7. Brazil	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
8. Chile	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
9. Colombia	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
10. Costa Rica	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
11. Dominica	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
12. Dominican Republic	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
13. Ecuador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
14. El Salvador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
15. Grenada	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
16. Guatemala	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
17. Guyana	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
18. Haiti	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
19. Honduras	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
20. Jamaica	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
21. Mexico	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
22. Nicaragua	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
23. Panama	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
24. Paraguay	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
25. Peru	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
26. St. Kitts & Nevis	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
27. St. Lucia	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
28. St. Vincent & the Grenadines	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
29. Suriname	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
30. Trinidad & Tobago	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES
31. Uruguay	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
32. Venezuela	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
TOTAL	28	22	28	20	20	15

**STATUS REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF EXPERTS
AND COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY (CNA)**

COUNTRY	EXPERTS	COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY
1. Antigua & Barbuda	YES	YES
2. Argentina	YES	YES
3. Bahamas	YES	YES
4. Barbados	YES	YES
5. Belize	YES	YES
6. Bolivia	YES	YES
7. Brazil	YES	YES
8. Chile	YES	YES
9. Colombia	YES	YES
10. Costa Rica	YES	YES
11. Dominica	YES	YES
12. Dominican Republic	YES	YES
13. Ecuador	YES	YES
14. El Salvador	YES	YES
15. Grenada	NO	NO
16. Guatemala	YES	YES
17. Guyana	YES	YES
18. Haiti	YES	YES
19. Honduras	YES	YES
20. Jamaica	YES	YES
21. Mexico	YES	YES
22. Nicaragua	YES	YES
23. Panama	YES	YES
24. Paraguay	YES	YES
25. Peru	YES	YES
26. St. Kitts & Nevis	NO	NO
27. St. Lucia	NO	YES
28. St. Vincent & the Grenadines	YES	NO
29. Suriname	YES	NO
30. Trinidad & Tobago	YES	YES
31. Uruguay	YES	YES
32. Venezuela	YES	YES
TOTAL	29	28

ANNEX III

PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCES OF STATES PARTIES

COUNTRY	CONFERENCE 1	CONFERENCE 2
1. Antigua & Barbuda	NO	NO
2. Argentina	YES	YES
3. Bahamas	YES	NO
4. Barbados	YES	YES
5. Belize	YES	NO
6. Bolivia	YES	YES
7. Brazil	YES	YES
8. Canada ^{2/}	YES	NO
9. Chile	YES	YES
10. Colombia	YES	YES
11. Costa Rica	YES	YES
12. Dominica	NO	NO
13. Dominican Republic	YES	YES
14. Ecuador	YES	YES
15. El Salvador	YES	YES
16. Grenada	NO	NO
17. Guatemala	YES	YES
18. Guyana	NO	NO
19. Haiti	NO	YES
20. Honduras	YES	YES
21. Jamaica	NO	YES
22. Mexico	YES	YES
23. Nicaragua	YES	YES
24. Panama	YES	YES
25. Paraguay	YES	YES
26. Peru	YES	YES
27. St. Kitts & Nevis	YES	NO
28. St. Lucia	YES	NO
29. St. Vincent & the Grenadines	NO	NO
30. Suriname	NO	NO
31. Trinidad & Tobago	YES	YES
32. United States ^{3/}	YES	NO
33. Uruguay	YES	NO
34. Venezuela	YES	YES
TOTAL	26	21

^{2/} Participated as an observer (Article 4 of the MESECVI Statute).

^{3/} *Idem.*

ANNEX IV

PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS IN THE FIVE MEETINGS

Country	First Meeting	Second Meeting	Third Meeting	Fourth Meeting	Fifth Meeting
1. Antigua & Barbuda	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
2. Argentina	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
3. Bahamas	YES	YES	NO	NO	
4. Barbados	NO	NO	NO	NO	
5. Belize	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
6. Bolivia	YES	NO	YES	NO	
7. Brazil	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
8. Chile	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
9. Colombia	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES
10. Costa Rica	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
11. Dominica	NO	NO	NO	NO	
12. Dominican Republic	YES	NO	YES	NO	
13. Ecuador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
14. El Salvador	YES	YES	YES	YES	
15. Grenada	NO	NO	NO	NO	
16. Guatemala	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
17. Guyana	NO	NO	NO	NO	
18. Haiti	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
19. Honduras	YES	YES	NO	YES	
20. Jamaica	NO	YES	YES	NO	
21. Mexico	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
22. Nicaragua	YES	YES	NO	NO	
23. Panama	YES	NO	YES	NO	
24. Paraguay	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
25. Peru	YES	YES	YES	NO	
26. St. Kitts & Nevis	NO	NO	NO	NO	
27. St. Lucia	YES	YES	NO	NO	
28. St. Vincent & the Grenadines	NO	NO	NO	NO	
29. Suriname	NO	YES	NO	NO	
30. Trinidad & Tobago	NO	NO	NO	NO	
31. Uruguay	YES	NO	YES	YES	
32. Venezuela	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
TOTAL	20	17	18	15	13

ANNEX V

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008-2010
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**REPORT ON THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MESECVI (2004-2010)
AND ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

This document was prepared in compliance with Agreement No. 11, adopted by the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in its second regular session (October 5-6, 2009), which calls on the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism to Follow up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI) to prepare a report on the historical highlights and development of the MESECVI, an assessment of its performance, and information on all initiatives for the purpose of identifying sources of funding.

I. HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. Background

Studies conducted by the CIM in 2000, five years following the entry into force of the Conference of the States Parties to the *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women*, “*Convention of Belém do Pará*,” found that it was still too soon to determine whether violence against women had decreased in the region of the Americas during the 1990s. Furthermore, disparities surrounding the implementation of said Convention by each of the States Parties have hindered attempts to evaluate its impact, such as the specific results it may have generated in terms of legislation and the adoption of public policies in each country.

The CIM received mandates from the Assembly of Delegates to create an appropriate forum to follow up on implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará.^{4/} Accordingly, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States reiterated the need to adopt a follow-up mechanism for the Convention.^{5/} The CIM prepared a document containing a proposed follow-up mechanism that was submitted for consideration by the Principal Delegates, as well as experts at international and civil society organizations.

The First Conference of States Parties, meeting on October 26, 2004, adopted the “Statute of the 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 Statute), with a view to following up on the commitments assumed by the States and studying how these commitments were being implemented. Likewise, the Statute was adopted to help

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

5. AG/RES. 1942 (XXXIII-O/03).

advance the objectives of the Convention and establish a system of technical cooperation among the States Parties for the sharing of information, experiences, and best practices.

2. Structure

The MESECVI is comprised of two forums:

- **Conferences of the States Parties**, the political body of the MESECVI, has the authority and the general responsibility for implementing the MESECVI and adopting such decisions and/or procedures it deems necessary to attain its objectives; and
- **Meetings of the Committee of Experts (CEVI)**, a technical body, responsible for technical analysis concerning the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties.
- Moreover, the **secretariat** of the Conferences of the States Parties and Meetings of the Committee of Experts is the General Secretariat of the OAS, through the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM.

3. Legal framework

The legal instruments currently governing the MESECVI are as follows:

- MESECVI Statute (2004)^{6/}
- Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts on Violence (CEVI) (2005)^{7/}
- Method for Evaluation and Follow-up on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Convention of Belém do Pará (2005)^{8/}
- Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties (2008)^{9/}

4. Resources and personnel

The activities of the MESECVI are financed by a fund established specifically for this purpose (Article 11 of the MESECVI Statute).

Ever since the MESECVI was created, CIM Senior Specialist Mercedes Kremenetzky has acted as its Technical Secretary. From 2005-2007 she was assisted by Flor de Lis Vásquez, a Mexican foreign service officer seconded to the CIM. In 2007-2008, the Technical Secretariat team was joined by consultant Flor de María Valdez. In July 2009, she rejoined the MESECVI team and has been there since. In March 2009, Mercedes Kremenetzky, Senior Specialist of the CIM and the

6. Text available at:

<https://www.oas.org/cim/Documentos/MESECVI/Violencia-%20MESECVI.%20EstatutoMecanismo.doc>

7. Text available at: <https://www.oas.org/cim/Documentos/MESECVI/MESECVI-CE-doc.10.esp.doc>

8. Text available at:

<https://www.oas.org/cim/Documentos/MESECVI/MESECVI-CE-doc.7.esp.rev.1.doc>

9. Text available at:

<http://portal.oas.org/Portals/7/CIM/documentos/MESECVI-II-doc.12.rev.4.esp.ReglamentoCEP.doc>

Technical Secretary of the MESECVI was appointed interim Executive Secretary of the CIM, a position she held until August 1, 2009.

II. SUMMARY OF MESECVI ACTIVITIES

1. Committee of Experts (CEVI)

Upon initiating implementation of the MESECVI on January 28, 2005, the President of the CIM called on the ministers of foreign affairs of the States Parties to the Convention to appoint a subject matter expert to the CEVI, who would exercise her or his responsibilities in an individual capacity. The CEVI was installed and began operating during the First Meeting of Experts.

1.1 First Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI), Washington, D.C., August 22-24, 2005

The following were approved:

- Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts on Violence (CEVI) of the MESECVI (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.4/05);
- Questionnaire of the first Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI, with emphasis on four areas: legislation; access to justice; national budget; and information and statistics (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.5/05 rev. 1);
- Draft annual work calendar for the 2005-2007 biennium (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.6/05 rev.2);
- Method for Evaluation and Follow-up on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.7/05 rev. 1);
- Distribution of responsibilities/coordination of tasks among CEVI experts (formation of working subgroups for each region); and
- Election of the Coordinator (Brazil) and Alternate Coordinator (Honduras).

On September 13, 2005, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure adopted, the Secretariat called on all States Parties to appoint their expert and/or Competent National Authority (CNA) to serve as a liaison with the MESECVI Secretariat. On November 7, 2005, the first Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI was sent to the liaisons.

1.2. Second Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI), Washington, D.C., July 24-25, 2006

The following were approved:

- First drafts of preliminary reports and the standardized structure to be followed in drafting the reports of the experts, with a view to facilitating preparation of the hemispheric report;

- Adoption of the new dates for delivery of preliminary reports; and
- Criterion for the participation of civil society groups in terms of their contributions to preliminary reports; it was decided that civil society groups would be invited to participate at half-day forums with the CEVI prior to its sessions on specific topics.

1.3. Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI), Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 18-20, 2007

The following was decided:

- To approve the hemispheric report (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.79/05 rev. 1) with the observations received, and to submit it for final review by the experts to ensure these observations were included therein, as well as in the final reports of each country (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.79/05 rev. 2);
- To conduct a final review of the reports of each country before the final versions were sent to the governments;
- To adopt a plan of activities for promoting the MESECVI in each country, under the coordination of the national expert, the competent national authorities (CNAs), and the OAS; and
- To develop a system of indicators to follow up on the recommendations provided in the reports.

1.4. Fourth Meeting of the Committee of Experts on Violence (CEVI), Seminar on Strategies for Monitoring Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) to the Governments, Washington, D.C., August 13, 2008

This seminar program was held prior to the Meeting of the Committee in order to receive suggestions concerning the proposal for developing indicators to follow up on the CEVI's recommendations to the governments.

The seminar was divided into three panel discussions. The first panel, on the legal framework, legislation, and national plans, featured the participation of Teresa Genta-Fons, Lead Counsel of the World Bank's Latin American and Caribbean Practice Group, and Anne Goldstein, Director of Human Rights Education of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ).

The second panel focused on national budgets, information, and statistics. The moderator was Carmen Lomellin, the Executive Secretary of the CIM. Also participating on the panel were Andrew Morrison, Lead Economist of the World Bank's Gender Group, and Lilia Jara of the Pan American Health Organization's Gender, Ethnicity, and Health Unit.

The third and final panel, on access to justice for women in situations of violence, was moderated by Hilda Morales, Alternate Coordinator of the CEVI. Also participating on the panel were Karen Musalo, Director of the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies at the University of

California's Hastings College of Law, and Valéria Pandjarian, Coordinator of International Litigation for the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM).

1.5 Fourth Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI), Washington, D.C., August 14-15, 2008

The following was decided:

- To approve 38 indicators (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.86/08 rev. 3) for following up on the recommendations of the CEVI;
- To adopt the CEVI Declaration on Femicide and to publish it on the MESECVI website (MESECVI/CEVI/DEC. 1/08);
- With respect to the second Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI, to agree that the Technical Secretariat would prepare a questionnaire based on the evaluation of the questionnaire for the first Multilateral Evaluation Round carried out by the CEVI during the Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts at Buenos Aires. The questionnaire would be forwarded for the consideration and review of the experts before the next meeting; and
- To recommend that the Technical Secretariat prepare the annual work calendar for the 2009-2011 biennium.

1.6 Fifth Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI), Washington, D.C., June 25-26, 2008

The following was decided:

- To collect suggestions from civil society representatives regarding the proposed questionnaire for the second Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI;
- To select a method and means for distributing work for the second Multilateral Evaluation Round, with the understanding that the experts who evaluated a country in the first Round would collaborate with experts appointed to evaluate the same country in the second Round; and
- To elect the delegate of Guatemalan, Hilda Morales, as Coordinator of the CEVI for the 2009-2011 biennium, and the delegate of Venezuela, Asia Villegas, as Alternate Coordinator.

2. Conference of the States Parties

2.1. Second Conference of the States Parties, Caracas, Venezuela, July 9-10, 2008

The following was decided:

- To adopt the final report, comprising the final country reports and the hemispheric report on the first Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI;
- To endorse the decisions, conclusions, and agreements arising from the Second Conference of the States Parties to the MESECVI;
- To approve the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties to the MESECVI; and
- To elect the delegate of Venezuela to serve as the President of the Conference of the States Parties, and the delegates of the Dominican Republic and Mexico to serve as the First and Second Vice Presidents, respectfully.

III. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Analysis of the First Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI

The creation of the MESECVI and initiation of its first Multilateral Evaluation Round have given rise to significant expectations as well as some initial momentum on the part of the States Parties. However, the full potential of the MESECVI has yet to be completely tapped. It also presents some challenges, such as the need for more extensive contact between the competent national authorities (CNAs), MESECVI experts, and the Technical Secretariat, with a view to facilitating the performance of their tasks and the activities of the MESECVI.

1. Strengths of the MESECVI:

- Evaluates the progress of each State Party through country reports on the implementation of the Convention;
- Systematically processes the results of country reports into a hemispheric report, and provides the status of progress made on implementing the Convention at the regional level;
- Provides timely recommendations to each of the State Parties, in order to improve compliance with the commitments assumed under the Convention and carry out follow-up activities on such compliance;
- Identifies best practices and the needs of technical assistance through a report to follow up on the implementation of recommendations, thereby facilitating cooperation among the States Parties;
- Engages governments and civil society in a participatory system where all views are represented; and
- Ensures the independence of the process through a technical body comprised of independent and autonomous experts, acting in an individual capacity.

1. Involvement of CEVI experts

Contributions

From the time of their appointment to this unremunerated post, the experts of the CEVI have demonstrated a keen interest in fulfilling their mission. These individuals have promoted initiatives that have helped position the MESECVI as a tool in service to the Hemisphere, supporting implementation of the Convention. For example, a significant number of CEVI experts have organized events and/or given presentations in their countries to promote MESECVI- and CEVI-related activities and results. Their efforts in this regard have helped raise greater awareness on the work of the MESECVI and sparked more interest among civil society organizations for getting involved in the upcoming Multilateral Evaluation Rounds.

CEVI experts also carried out a preliminary analysis of their work during the evaluation phase of the first Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI (document MESECVI/CEVI/doc.84/07). This analysis proved to be useful in planning for the second Multilateral Evaluation Round.

Their conclusions were as follows:

- To preserve the questionnaire's current structure and intersectoral focus, which encompasses legislation, current regulations, national plans, access to justice, national budgets, and information and statistics, inasmuch as the questionnaire allows the problem to be addressed in a comprehensive manner and is strategic for implementing the objectives of the Convention;
- To perform ongoing monitoring on the issues of femicide, national budgets, and information and statistics, as these are important topics for which there is little in the way of information and indicators;
- To formulate specific questions on types of violence against women other than domestic or household violence, or any other type of interpersonal relationship, so as to remain true to the objectives of the Convention;
- To prepare specific questions regarding acts of violence committed by perpetrators other than family or household members, or individuals in other types of interpersonal relationships with their victims, with special emphasis on the community and the State;
- To bring about a greater impact on access to justice for all women through fair and efficient proceedings, and adopt an attitude of complacency owing simply to the existence of such proceedings;
- To evaluate the responses to the questionnaire mindful of the existing diversity of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the diversity of perpetrators of violence against women, and the diverse spectrum of acts that constitute violence against women, pursuant to the spirit of the Convention of *Belém do Pará*; and

- To take additional information into account when conducting evaluations.

Challenges

Some challenges prevent the CEVI from achieving better performance. The participation of experts in meetings of the CEVI barely achieves the required quorum for meeting. In some instances, especially in the Caribbean countries, States lack funds to pay for the travel expenses of their experts. In others, States may not have funds allocated to cover the travel expenses of experts, require excessively bureaucratic procedures for travel, or require experts to pay their travel costs up front and submit vouchers for reimbursement, which may take up to several months to process. Consequently, these circumstances drastically limit the possibility of receiving expert input or due representation of the region in meetings of the CEVI. Therefore, more state assistance is urgently needed to support the work of experts and the CEVI. For the CEVI to operate as originally envisaged, more support from the States Parties is required in order to guarantee the timely participation of all the experts.

3. Participation of competent national authorities (CNAs)

The CNAs of each of the States Parties are responsible for serving as a liaison between the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI and that State Party. They respond to the questionnaire forwarded to them by the CEVI, provide feedback for the preliminary report prepared by the CEVI on the basis of their responses, and offer observations for the final country report.

It was observed during this Round that a significant number of CNAs:

- Did not submit the reports they were responsible for in a timely manner, which in turn made it impossible to meet the different requirements at each stage of the Round as well as established deadlines;
- Left entire sections of the questionnaire blank, which hinders the evaluation efforts of the CEVI;
- Did not perform an analysis to determine the degree of compliance with or progress made on the implementation of the Convention. Consequently, the responses either allege compliance without citing any information to back up that assertion, cite erroneous information, or enclose supplementary information in response to the questionnaire which has not been appropriately incorporated into that response;
- Require greater support from the central government of the State in order to fulfill their duties. On several occasions CNAs reported that they did not have access to specific information because the state agency responsible for that information either did not provide it in time or failed to send it at all.

4. Participation of the States Parties to the Convention

First Multilateral Evaluation Round

During the first Multilateral Evaluation Round, the States Parties actively participated in the evaluation phase, but began to lose interest in the follow-up phase. In the evaluation phase, 28 of the

32 States Parties presented reports in response to the questionnaire sent by the CEVI. However, in the follow-up phase, only 17 of the 32 States Parties provided a response to the document of follow-up indicators prepared by the CEVI. (See Annexes I, II, III, and IV.)

Moreover, only a few of the Caribbean States Parties have consistently participated in the various stages of the Multilateral Evaluation Round. Of the 14 Caribbean States Parties, ten participated in the evaluation phase of the Round and only six sent reports for the stage of follow-up and recommendations. With respect to the meetings of the CEVI, of the 14 Caribbean States Parties, only Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, and Haiti sent their experts to the Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI); at the Fourth Meeting of the Committee the only expert from a Caribbean country was the delegate from Haiti; while the only Caribbean experts attending the Fifth Meeting of the Committee were those from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, and Haiti. The States that did not send experts said that their absence was due to a lack of resources for their travel expenses.

Ensuring a greater presence of the Caribbean countries at the meetings of the CEVI will require a strategy to promote greater participation of this region in the work of the MESECVI.

Conference of the States Parties

With regard to meetings of the Conference of the States Parties, the MESECVI Statute stipulates that the Conference is to hold a regular meeting every two years (Article 5). However, because of delays in returning and evaluating reports, the Second Conference of States Parties was held four—instead of two—years after the First Conference. The first Round shall be formally concluded in 2010, with the presentation of the follow-up report on the recommendations of the CEVI at the Third Conference of States Parties.

Contributions to the MESECVI

With regard to contributions to the MESECVI, only Mexico and Brazil have contributed financial support. Brazil contributed funding during the first year of operations of the MESECVI, while Mexico has contributed funds on an annual basis. Were it not for these contributions the MESECVI would not be able to operate. However, some States Parties have made non-financial contributions to the MESECVI. Argentina and Venezuela offered to host meetings of the Conference of States Parties or the CEVI. Moreover, Mexico assigned one of its Foreign Service officers to work at the CIM for a two-year period (2006-2007), to assist with the first Multilateral Evaluation Round.

Challenges

- Delays have been observed in communicating appointments or replacements of experts and/or CNAs to the Secretariat. This situation, in turn, causes delays in the work of the Rounds inasmuch as the work of each such position must be suspended until the new person is appointed;
- It is of the utmost importance that the States appoint experts with ample technical knowledge and experience in the different subject matter areas addressed by the Convention, in accordance with the MESECVI Statute and the Rules of Procedure of the CEVI. This skill set will ensure quality evaluation work by the Committee, which was conceived of as an independent body; and

- Ensure that there is no confusing the role of experts (autonomous, independent, and acting in their own capacity) with those of the competent national authorities (liaison between the State Party and the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI). There have been instances in which a person was appointed both as expert and CNA. Moreover, representatives of the Permanent Missions to the OAS have been accredited to attend meetings of the CEVI on behalf of experts unable to attend.

5. Participation of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI

The Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI has helped coordinate work with the States Parties and the CEVI, but this task has proven difficult. Owing to insufficient financial and human resources the Technical Secretariat has not had the means to carry out all the activities stipulated under the MESECVI Statute or Rules of Procedure of the CEVI, particularly in regards to responding to the demands for the organization and review of the information received from the participants of the Round.

Drawing on the example of Mexico's contribution, in December 2008, the Technical Secretariat asked the Member States, to no avail, to collaborate with the MESECVI either by making a financial contribution or designating staff to the Mechanism for a period of one or two years.

6. Participation of civil society

The three key instruments of the MESECVI (e.g., the MESECVI Statute and the Rules of Procedure for both the Conference of the States Parties and the CEVI) provide for the participation of civil society organizations in their activities. Civil society participation was more active in activities of the CEVI than in the Conference, although this may be attributable to the fact that the Rules of Procedure for the Conference governing civil society participation were only recently approved (2008), whereas the Rules of Procedure of the CEVI have been approved since 2005.

During the first Multilateral Evaluation Round, the CEVI received six different reports from NGOs based in Argentina, El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, and Uruguay. Other organizations and groups participated during the third and the fifth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the CEVI. Efforts are being made to step up the dissemination of MESECVI information among these organizations, so as to provide them information on how to participate. Work is also under way to improve the channels of communication with other organizations, with a view to maintaining more agile and permanent contact. The MESECVI webpage has been redesigned to improve navigation, making it easier for users and communications support staff, thus fostering a closer relationship with these organizations.

7. Financing

Different entities such as the OAS General Assembly, the Office of the President of the CIM, and the CIM Permanent Secretariat and Assembly of Delegates have made repeated requests for financial support on behalf of the MESECVI. To date, only Mexico and Brazil have provided financial support to the MESECVI.

7.1 Summit of the Americas

Point 11 of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, adopted on April 9, 2009, within the framework of the Fifth Summit of the Americas declares that the states undertake to reinforce institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, including, where appropriate, the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará” and its financing.

7.2. Conference of the States Parties to the MESECVI

The Conference of the States Parties, in its document adopted in 2008 entitled “Decisions, Conclusions, and Agreements of the Second Conference of States Party to the MESECVI,” recommended that the Secretary General of the OAS identify external sources of funding for this purpose, such as international and regional financial institutions, official national organizations and others. It also recommended the Secretary General establish and oversee a solidarity subfund, to receive voluntary contributions that would ensure the participation at CEVI meetings of experts from those countries lacking funding for this purpose. Moreover, CEVI asked the Secretary General to organize a meeting of donors to raise the necessary funds to ensure the operation of the MESECVI.

With regard to the latter request, on January 28, 2009, the Secretariat participated in a meeting of donors called by the Office of External Relations of the OAS, on the occasion of the visit of the CIM President and members of the Executive Committee to headquarters. During that meeting, the delegate of Mexico reported on the financial situation and needs of the MESECVI, with a view to securing external funding to finance its implementation.

7.3 General Assembly of the OAS

Through resolutions AG/RES. 2138 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2162 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2330 (XXXVII-O/07) AG/RES. 2331 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2371 (XXXVIII-O/08), and AG/RES. 2451 (XXXIX-O/09), the General Assembly of the OAS invites all States Parties and states not party to the Convention, permanent observers, international financial institutions, and civil society organizations to contribute to the specific fund established in the OAS to finance the operations of the MESECVI. It also calls on the Secretary General of the OAS to allocate more human, technical, and financial resources that would enable the CIM to continue supporting the MESECVI. Furthermore, resolutions 2371 (XXXVIII-O/08) and AG/RES. 2451 (XXXIX-O/09) include the request asking the Secretary General to study the possibility of organizing a meeting of donors in order to obtain this funding.

7.4. Office of the President and Secretariat of the CIM

By means of letter No. 05-049/06, dated May 30, 2006, the President of the CIM wrote to the Secretary General, asking for his support in ensuring the sustainability of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI).

On June 22, 2007, the President of the CIM met with the Secretary General of the OAS and again urged him to allocate the appropriate human, technical, and financial resources needed to strengthen the capacity of the Technical Secretariat of the CIM in view of its growing responsibilities, among which included ensuring the sustainability of the MESECVI.

On October 3, 2007, the President of the CIM sent note No. 10-061/07, urging the Principal Delegates of the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará to take such measures as necessary to alert their governments regarding the financial needs of the MESECVI, and the urgent need for them to make a contribution to the specific fund established for this purpose. Furthermore, she recommended that the governments promote, within the framework of the Commission of Administrative Affairs and Budget (CAAP) of the Permanent Council, the establishment of a permanent budget line of the Regular Fund of the OAS for the MESECVI, as is the case for other follow-up mechanisms within the Organization.

By means of note No. 01-006/08, dated January 30, 2008, the Executive Secretariat of the CIM wrote the Director of the Department of External Relations of the OAS to inform her of the urgency of securing funding to ensure that the MESECVI would be able to operate at full capacity.

At a meeting of the Executive Secretary and the Principal Specialist of the CIM in August 2008, the Secretary General of the OAS offered to support the work of the MESECVI by creating a position for that mechanism. Said position would provide job security to the staff of the CIM working in that area. All that has been secured is one person for limited periods of time.

By means of letter No. 063-11/07, dated December 17, 2008, the Executive Secretariat of the CIM reiterated its request to the States Parties for human and/or financial resources, but no offers materialized.

During the meetings of the Executive Committee between January 26 and 29, and March 30 and 31, 2009, the President of the CIM again met with the Secretary General. During these meetings, a proposal was made to the Secretary General that financial resources are allocated to the MESECVI from the regular budget of the OAS beginning in 2010. However, it was made clear that this would be a matter for the Member States to decide through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs when adopting the budget of the Organization.

7.5 Assembly of Delegates of the CIM

By means of resolutions CIM/RES.doc.229 (XXXII-O/04), CIM/RES. 237 (XXXIII-O/06), and CIM/RES. 249 (XXXIV-O/08), the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM invited States Parties and states not party to the Convention, permanent observers, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, as well as domestic and international public- and private-sector entities to contribute to the specific fund established in the OAS to finance the operations of the MESECVI. Furthermore, by means of resolution CIM/RES. 249 (XXXIV-O/08), the Assembly, pursuant to available financial resources and in accordance with the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), called on the Secretary General to allocate the necessary human, technical, and financial resources to ensure that the CIM could continue to support implementation of the MESECVI.