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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
“INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM ON THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S
HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY,”
PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION AG/RES. 2454 (XXXIX-O/09)



Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

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PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S
HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY

I. BACKGROUND

In April 2000, the OAS convened a meeting of Ministers or Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States in fulfillment of the mandate in resolution AG/RES. 1625 (XXIX-O/99), “Status of Women in the Americas and Strengthening and Modernization of the Inter-American Commission of Women.” At that meeting, which was coordinated by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the ministers adopted the “Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality” (hereinafter “the IAP” or “the Program”).

The Program was presented for consideration at the OAS General Assembly in Windsor, Canada, in June 2000, which adopted it in resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00) “*Adoption and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality*,” which requested the Secretary General to present annual reports to the General Assembly on its implementation.

The IAP provides an unprecedented comprehensive approach to gender mainstreaming both within the inter-American system and in the member states. It is intended to support their efforts and those of inter-American organizations for the systematic integration of a gender perspective in their policies, programs, and strategies; it is also a tool for achieving gender equity and equality in all public policy arenas, such as the legal and judicial areas.

The Program assigns the CIM the task of implementing it, recognizing the CIM as the principal forum for generating hemispheric policy to promote human rights and gender equity and equality. The IAP’s objectives and lines of action contribute to fulfilling the mandates of the CIM Strategic Plan of Action, its Biennial Work Program, and the Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas.

Resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00) is closely linked to Resolution AG/RES. 1741 (XXX-O/00), “Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas,” in which specific recommendations were formulated for the Third Summit of the Americas; it proposes to integrate a gender perspective as a cross-cutting theme into the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and recommends that the Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States be held every four years in order to contribute to the preparatory and follow-up activities of the Summits of the Americas. The last Meeting of Ministers (REMIM III) was held on November 13, 2008, in Santiago, Chile.

The Heads of State and Government of the Americas expressed their support of the Inter-American Program (IAP). The Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas held in Quebec in 2000 backed this Program, incorporated gender awareness into some of its chapters and, for the first time, adopted a chapter on gender equality. The Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey in 2004, reiterated the commitment to continuing to promote gender equity and equality and the mandates of the Summits of the Americas. The Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, focusing on the topic of creating decent work and strengthening governance, reaffirmed its commitment to combat gender-discrimination in order to eliminate the disparities that exist between men and women in the labor market. The Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Port of Spain in April 2009, affirmed its commitment to strengthen institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, including the “Convention of Belém do Pará” and its funding, and to encourage the full and equal participation of women in political life and decision-making structures at all levels through laws and public policies that promote respect for women’s human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as gender equality and equity.

Section 2, paragraphs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4, of the IAP establishes the need to adopt measures to integrate a gender perspective into the execution of programs and activities by all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, and to provide them with the necessary training for that purpose. In May 2001, the OAS Secretary General signed an agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to develop the OAS Gender Mainstreaming Project, which is being coordinated by the OAS and the CIM. From February 2002 through December 2003, the first phase of this project was carried out, with training for 200 General Secretariat staff members. This group, from both headquarters and field offices, included especially those responsible for execution of programs and policies.

In the second phase of the project (October 2005-August 2006), also funded by CIDA, there were seven workshops for specific areas; 125 staff members of the General Secretariat were trained. This phase was geared to offering tools that would meet the specific needs of various areas of the Secretariat. A gender-mainstreaming staff manual was designed, with tools for gender analysis. The project reports and document CIM/doc.13/06 “Report on the Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality” presented pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05), give details of the project’s results.

In 2008, as part of the OAS/CIDA Cooperation Plan 2008-2011, Canadian funds were approved to implement the project “Integration of Gender Analysis and Gender Equity and Equality as Cross-cutting Topics and Objectives in All OAS Programs,” which is the third phase of the previous initiative. Project components include on-site and virtual training and development of an information system and indicators. The first three will be carried out by the CIM and the fourth by the Department of Planning and Follow-up.

With respect to the on-site training, which will be conducted by FLACSO through its gender, society, and policies area, a study on the OAS staff’s gender training needs is underway as input for planning the upcoming training, and to show the areas’ degree of progress and sensitivity as regards the integration of this perspective in their work. The study includes interviews, primarily with secretaries and directors, and a questionnaire for directors and personnel responsible for projects and programs. The CIM Permanent Secretariat has planned a kickoff meeting, which will take place on February 17, 2010, with the participation of CIM President Wanda Jones, Secretary General José

Miguel Insulza, Permanent Representative of Canada Graeme Clark, secretaries and directors of the OAS, and FLACSO experts Gloria Bonder and Sophia Huyer.

The on-site training workshops will begin February 17 in Washington, D.C., with the workshop for facilitators for the integration of the gender focus in the OAS and the workshop on gender for personnel of the Department of Human Resources. Eight other workshops in specific programs or areas will take place soon. Materials developed in this phase will be used in the on-line training.

II. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

A. ACTIONS CARRIED OUT BY OAS AGENCIES AND ENTITIES

Resolution AG/RES. 2454 (XXXIX-O/09) “Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality,” approved by the OAS General Assembly in 2009, urged the Secretary General to request the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to include in their annual reports to the General Assembly their initiatives to mainstream the gender perspective into their policies, programs, projects, and activities; and to forward that information to the CIM so that it may be included in the annual report on compliance with IAP and that resolution.

On December 17, 2009, the CIM Permanent Secretariat transmitted to all the bodies, organizations and entities of the General Secretariat a communiqué reminding them of the need to comply with the provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly, requesting them to include this topic in their annual reports to the General Assembly and to forward the information that has made it possible to draft the present report. The General Secretariat appreciates the information sent and notes the progress achieved in implementing the Program since its adoption in 2000, reflected in the activities detailed as follows:

1. Department of Legal Services

The Department of Legal Services, in its capacity as a legal advisor, responded to various queries from the CIM and provided legal assistance in the Commission’s meetings.

2. Summits of the Americas Secretariat (SAS)

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat (SAS) serves as the institutional memory and technical secretariat of the process of the Summits of the Americas, supporting the OAS member states in the implementation and review of summit mandates and commitments through the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

Several summit commitments address women’s human rights and gender equity and equality in connection with the following topics, among others: justice, prosperity, security, differentiated needs, and participation in conditions of equality. See details at: <http://www.summit-americas.org/sisca/ge.html>.

The SAS has been working with inter-sectoral partners, and has promoted the participation of social actors, including women’s groups, in debate on the topics of the inter-

American agenda established by the summits process. Equity and promotion of women's participation in all activities of the SAS was an important criterion considered when selecting beneficiaries of the financing, thus promoting gender balance in participation in the various events. The SAS has given the technical secretariats of various inter-American ministerial meetings a compilation of pertinent recommendations made by the social actors in the areas of education, labor, agriculture and rural life, and public security, including recommendations on gender equality as a cross-cutting theme. The SAS, as technical secretariat of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), invited the President and Executive Secretariat of the CIM to report to the member states on the Commission's work in connection with the summit mandates and commitments.

In support of the OAS function as chair of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), the SAS encourages the active participation of the 13 partner institutions in the group that follows up on the summits process. This collaboration facilitates consistent participation in the JSWG, as shown by the contributions of the partner institutions in some of the most important post-summit initiatives, such as: the Inter-American Social Protection Network, the Microfinance Growth Fund for the Western Hemisphere, and the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas. All of these initiatives promote gender equity and equality.

From February 18 to 27, 2009, the SAS cooperated with the CIM in holding a virtual forum on the inclusion of the gender perspective in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain. This forum followed up on recommendations made by REMIM-III and analyzed the incorporation of the gender perspective as a cross-cutting theme in the draft declaration. The virtual forum was moderated with the assistance of the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM). Recognizing that information and communications technologies play an important role in the inclusion, transparency, and active participation of the various interest parties, the SAS is developing an improved version of the summits virtual platform in order to promote and improve policies and practices for full and equal participation.

The SAS has established the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System (SISCA), which will play an important role in the generation of information on the implementation of the mandates and commitments of the summits that deal with gender, among other issues.

3. Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)

a. Department of Human Development, Education, and Culture

i. Office of Education and Culture (OEC)

The Regional Project of Education Indicators (PRIE) is one of the mechanisms defined in the framework of the Summits of the Americas to monitor and measure the progress of the 35 member states with respect to the goals set for education by 2010. The PRIE monitors compliance with the educational goals of the Summit by building and applying internationally comparable indicators. The Public Education Secretariat (*Secretaría de Educación Pública*—SEP) of Mexico, as the Project's General Coordinator, along with

UNESCO as the specialized technical organization, the OEC of the OAS as part of the Project's Steering Committee, and those responsible for the education information and statistics systems of the countries have carried out the actions pertaining to the work plan drawn up from the year 2004 until the present.

To support governments in systematically gathering and disseminating statistical data with a gender breakdown, the PRIE is incorporating the gender perspective by compiling and processing information on gender parity to monitor the Summit's education goals. Thus the information obtained through the PRIE is of the utmost importance to improve education and eliminate education inequalities among the citizens of the countries of the Americas by providing up-to-date information for use by the Ministries of Education.

It is important to highlight that the parity indicators in the region, both in primary education and in secondary education, in terms of timely access and completion, show that, as a rule, there is gender equity. It is noteworthy, however, that in some cases indicators show males at a disadvantage. For example, there is a growing trend in the region that terms of timely entry into school and enrollment in primary education, the parity index is recording an adverse status for boys. As for indexes of completion of secondary education, in 14 countries the parity index favors the girls. Therefore, there is a growing trend in the region, in both primary and secondary education, for an adverse ratio for boys.

Scholarships were awarded in 2009 to teacher educators in the Americas for participation in four pilot courses, whose primary objective was to teach teachers to integrate ICTs and Web 2.0 resources in the curriculum. The on-line course was called "Projects for Cooperation via Network: principles, strategies, and challenges." Although it was not necessary to make a selection, it is interesting that most of the applicants for these scholarships were women. The percentages are shown in the following table:

Latin America

	First Round	Second Round
Women	76%	73%
Men	24%	27%

Caribbean

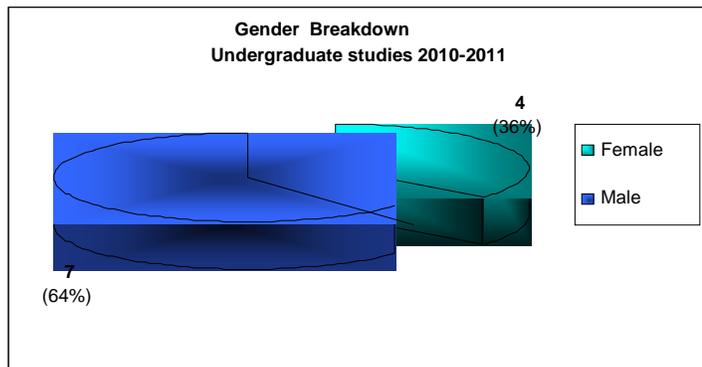
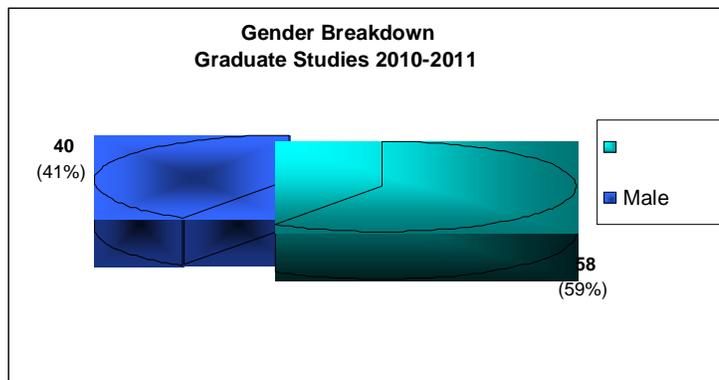
	First Round	First Round
Women	69%	70%
Men	31%	30%

In addition, 18 women and eight men were selected to receive travel scholarships for the "Inter-American workshop on the role of arts and the media for the promotion of democratic values and practices in children and youth: implications for research, policy, and practice." The distance-learning phase has already begun and the classroom phase will be in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, June 16-18, 2010. Applications were open to all OAS member states.

ii. OAS Scholarships Program for Academic Studies

During the period February 2009 – February 2010, the OAS Scholarships Program for Academic Studies executed the budget for the 2010-2011 academic year, granting the following number of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies:

Gender/Sex	Graduate	Undergraduate
Female	58	4
Male	40	7
Total	98	11



Note: In addition, the OAS Academic Scholarships Program will soon award thirty-four (34) more scholarships for graduate studies and five (5) for undergraduate studies. The numbers in this report are therefore subject to change.

Number of Graduate Academic Scholarships by country

Country	Women	Men	TOTAL
Antigua and Barbuda	2	1	3
Argentina	2	1	3
Barbados	2	1	3
Bolivia	2	1	3
Brazil	3	0	3
Bahamas	2	1	3

Country	Women	Men	TOTAL
Belize	0	3	3
Canada	3	0	3
Chile	2	1	3
Colombia	2	1	3
Costa Rica	0	3	3
Dominica	1	2	3
Ecuador	3	0	3
El Salvador	1	2	3
Grenada	3	0	3
Guatemala	2	1	3
Guyana	3	0	3
Haiti	0	3	3
Honduras	0	0	0
Jamaica	2	1	3
Mexico	2	1	3
Nicaragua	1	2	3
Peru	1	2	3
Panama	3	0	3
Paraguay	3	0	3
Dominican Republic	2	1	3
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	3	3
Saint Lucia	3	0	3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3	0	3
Suriname	1	1	2
Trinidad and Tobago	1	2	3
United States	2	1	3
Uruguay	1	2	3
Venezuela	0	3	3
TOTAL	58	40	98

Number of undergraduate academic scholarships by country

Country	Women	Men	TOTAL
Antigua and Barbuda	1	0	1
Bahamas	0	1	1
Barbados	0	1	1
Belize	0	1	1
Dominica	0	1	1
Grenada	0	1	1
Jamaica	0	1	1
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	0	1
Saint Lucia	1	0	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	0	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	1	1
TOTAL	4	7	11

iii. Professional Development Scholarships Program (PDSP) - 2009

A total of 1,015 professional development scholarships were awarded in the Professional Development Scholarships Program (PDSP) in 2009. 43.8% of the recipients were women and 56.15% men.

Of the courses submitted to the OAS in 2009, the following professional development scholarships were offered for participation in gender-related courses:

Course title	Name and location of offering institution	Type	Language	Number of scholarships granted	
				Women	Men
“Leadership of Women in Current Contexts: Renewing strategies and practices”	Gender, Society and Policy area of FLACSO, Argentina, and Inter-American Commission of Women - CIM/OAS-USA	online	Spanish	16	0
“Science, Technology, and Society. Contributions of the gender approach”	UNESCO Regional Chair for Women, Science, and Technology in Latin America, based in the Gender, Society and Policy area of FLACSO, Argentina, and the Science, Technology, and Innovation Office of the OAS, USA.	online	Spanish	9	4
“Science, Technology, and Society. Contributions of the gender approach”	UNESCO Regional Chair for Women, Science, and Technology in Latin America, based in the Gender, Society and Policy area of FLACSO, Argentina, and the Science, Technology, and Innovation Office of the OAS, USA.	online	Spanish	10	1
“IACHR Fellowship – Rapporteurship on Women’s Rights”	Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights – Rapporteurship on Women’s Rights, USA	onsite	Spanish English	1	0

iv. ROWE FUND educational loans program

Faithful to the principles of the OAS Charter, the Rowe Fund does not discriminate on the basis of gender, nationality, or ethnic origin. The Third Summit of the Americas mandated generating better gender perspectives in each area of work; this also requires improvement in the process by which gender-specific data are compiled. The Rowe Fund has been compiling statistics by gender since 1995 and has reduced the gap between granting of loans to female and male students.

The increased participation of women in all levels of education is evident from the Rowe Fund data. The percentage of loans for studies in the United States granted to women, which was one-third of the total in 1995 (33.3%), has steadily increased and in the last three years 2007-2009 the average has been 57.2%.

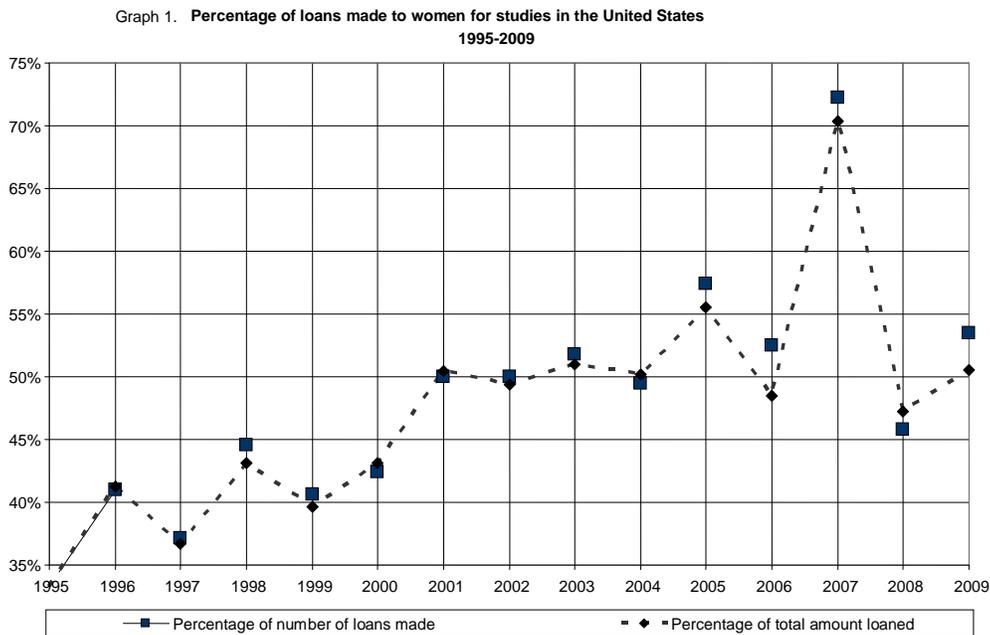
In 2009, the Fund made 136 educational loans to students and OAS staff members for a total of \$878,573.00; of which 55.9% were to women. Specifically, there were 101 educational loans to students in Latin America and the Caribbean for studies in the United States, and 35 loans to OAS staff members, of which 53.5% were to female students and 62.9% were to female OAS staff members.

Table N° 1

	Level	Female	Male	Totales	(%) of women
OAS staff	Certificate		5	5	0.0%
	Undergrad	8	5	13	61.5%
	Master's	14	3	17	82.4%
	subtotal	22	13	35	62.9%
Students from Latin America or Caribbean In U.S. University	Certificate	4	1	5	80.0%
	Undergrad	17	14	31	54.8%
	Master's	33	31	64	51.6%
	Doctorate subtotal	0	1	1	0.0%
Totals:		76	46	136	55.9%

Rowe Fund loans have mainly been used for the cost of master's studies. In 2009, 63.3% of all loans made were to students and OAS staff members working for their master's. Table N° 1 shows that 82.4% and 51.6% of female OAS staff members and female students from Latin America and the Caribbean used the loan for master's studies.

The following graph shows the increasing trend of loans made to Latin American women for studies in the United States:



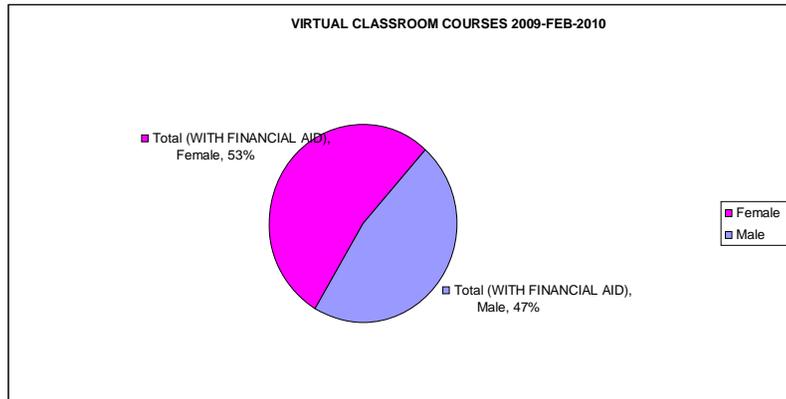
v. Office of the Educational Portal of the Americas

The Department of Human Development, Education, and Culture uses the Educational Portal of the Americas as a mechanism to maximize, consolidate, and broaden access to different opportunities for professional development using ICTs from a cross-cutting, interdisciplinary and multilateral perspective. Between January 2009 and February 2010 it awarded a total de 3,584 financial grants or partial scholarships for citizens and/or residents of 28 of the 35 OAS member states for refresher or professional training in online continuing education courses whose length ranges from 10 to 14 weeks in virtual classrooms under the pedagogical model established and recognized in the virtual classroom of the Educational Portal of the Americas (www.educoas.org).

This model affords opportunities for high-quality, low-cost, interactive individualized professional development in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, and in topics of regional relevance for different target populations, such as undergraduate professors and/or directors of preschool, elementary school, and secondary school; mathematics teachers; owners of small or medium agribusiness farms; technicians in government institutions or universities; government officials, etc.

53% of all the financial assistance went to women and 47% to men who satisfied the requirements for the grant. More than half the total scholarship recipients are in remote or relatively undeveloped areas.

GENDER	Total (receiving financial aid)
Female	1910
Male	1674
Grand Total	3584



Plans are being made to launch the first edition of the course on gender and political leadership in the Latin American and Caribbean context, jointly offered by the Educational Portal of the Americas and Colombia's Advanced School of Public Administration (ESAP).

The topics of the month on the Portal have covered issues such as “Women and the current economic crisis” and “Gender equity in education: Renewing commitments.”

b. Department of Social Development and Employment (DSDE)

In 2009 the DSDE continued making progress in the implementation of the IAP, particularly in the area of labor and employment, in the framework of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML).

The XV IACML, held in 2007, took an important step for gender mainstreaming in the Ministries of Labor with approval of the “Strategic guidelines for advancing gender equality and non-discrimination within a decent work framework.” This document was drafted by the DSDE on the basis of a technical study and is the road map for actions in this field.

In the area of labor, in compliance with the IAP and the IACML strategic guidelines, the following actions were undertaken in 2009:

- i. The DSDE conducted a study on “The institutional framework of the gender perspective in the Ministries of Labor of the Americas,” which provides an exhaustive analysis of the types of offices, units, or commissions that deal with gender issues in the Ministries, their characteristics and principal results, among other things. The study contains a proposal for training to strengthen these units or offices that will make it possible to define new actions by the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL). The study, and the actions that preceded it, benefited from close cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the CIM.
- ii. This study was presented at the XVI IACML, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October 2009. There the Ministers of Labor of the hemisphere reiterated their commitment to gender equity, stating in their Declaration: “We will work towards a continuing reduction in the gender gap, promoting a reduction of the disparities that exist between men and women in the world of work. Notwithstanding the progress made in the last decades, there are challenges that become more relevant with the current economic crisis. We commit ourselves to reinforce the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in employment policies, and promote it in recovery programs. We will strive, in the area of our competences, to ensure that all workplaces are free from violence and different forms of harassment. We will contribute to equity initiatives in the workplace that lead to a better balance between family and workplace responsibilities.”
- iii. The workshop of the RIAL on “Gender mainstreaming in the Ministries of Labor of the Americas” was held on July 21, 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the participation of gender experts from 25 Ministries of Labor, representatives of the CIM and ILO, to see how far the ministries have come in this area and define priority training needs. The workshop’s discussion focused on the preliminary version of the abovementioned study, which was completed taking into account the participants’ input.

In another area, the DSDE is carrying out the Migration and Development program, which has taken the following actions pursuant to the IAP:

iv. Model of service to migrant women in the San Diego/Tijuana border zone

In response to the situation of extreme vulnerability of migrant women on the border between San Diego, USA/ Tijuana, Mexico, the Migration and Development Program is executing a project to develop a model of attention to this population that responds to their specific needs, together with the government and civil society agencies involved in the subject. In 2009, the project has made progress in documenting the situation and current services, and drawing up the preliminary proposal of a model for discussion with the responsible local agencies.

v. Continuous Reporting System on Migration for the Americas (SICREMI)

The system's objective is to contribute to the development and implementation of public policies on migration to promote orderly, fair, and controlled migrations, by strengthening institutional capacities to generate timely and reliable data on the subject in the OAS member states. The SICREMI helps generate data on women's participation in migration, as a basis for public policies that support their integration in the receiving societies and mechanisms to promote development in their communities of origin. In 2009, the project has advanced with the organization of the network of national correspondents for production of the first regional report on migration in nine countries that are participating in this first phase. All information obtained and subsequent analyses will be broken down by gender.

vi. Temporary Work Programs for Migrant Workers (MINPET).

The project maps and follows up on the various forms and types of temporary work programs for migrants. The program will make it possible to know the participation of women in the various forms and promote the development of programs and policies to strengthen the role of the woman migrant as a worker and breadwinner.

vii. Legal database of migration law frameworks, programs, and public policies on migration in the OAS member states.

In 2009, the project did a study of the basic elements in the member states' domestic and international legal framework, seeking to identify public policies for proper respect of migrants' human rights, including programs to protect migrant women and children. The study resulted in a proposal for a database on the subject that would facilitate the exchange of best practices and adoption of public policies that would promote safe and orderly migrations, meeting the specific needs of female migrants.

viii. Models of educational programs for children migrants in the OAS member states.

En 2009, the project completed the diagnostic phase of documenting existing programs in the region and prepared a proposal for the second year, which will

involve case studies in typical zones in order to know specific gender needs and propose models to address them.

In 2010, in compliance with the IAP and the IACML mandates, the DSDE will continue working closely with the CIM to carry out training actions to infuse the gender perspective more deeply in the labor and employment policies and Labor Ministries of the hemisphere.

c. Department of Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism

The Department of Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism has five sections: Trade; Tourism; Science, Technology, and Innovation; Competitiveness, and the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE). Here are the activities carried out by the department to implement the IAP during the reporting period:

In the trade area, the department has promoted the increasing participation of women in training programs for government officials. The gender perspective is also one of the basic elements in the design of the program to help micro, small, and medium sized enterprises to tap the benefits of international trade. In this regard, the gender perspective is on the agendas of the high-level dialogue for drafting of policies in the area, and orients the execution of projects that favor the development of women entrepreneurs, including for example the Central American Women's Business Network.

In the area of tourism, there were two regional workshops in the Caribbean for awareness building and better understanding of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in small tourist enterprises. Most of the participants trained were women. CSR is cross-cutting in the area of trade and tourism and includes gender issues.

In addition, the department promotes the integration of the gender perspective in the member states' science and technology policies and programs in order to contribute to the full and equal participation of women and men in the design, production, and distribution of the benefits of the knowledge-based society. Together with the Department of Human Development (DHD) of the OAS and the UNESCO Regional Chair for Women, Science, and Technology in Latin America, based in FLACSO – Argentina, there were two editions of the online course "Science, Technology, and Society. Contributions of the gender perspective," designed for science and technology teachers in the region. The OAS Professional Development Scholarships Program offered scholarships for this course. In cooperation with CIFAL/Atlanta, there was a Global Forum on Gender, Governance, and Economic Empowerment, held in Atlanta, Georgia. The matter of women's participation in science and technology was addressed in the paper presented at the Sixth World Scientific Youth Congress on "Science and Humanism," which took place in Mexico City. The department arranged for the OAS General Secretariat to sign an agreement with the Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS) for the execution of joint projects.

d. Department of Sustainable Development (DSD)

The DSD is the SEDI department responsible for promoting sustainable development and sound environmental management. The DSD promotes the integration of gender

perspectives in policies and programs for sustainable development in member states in order to contribute to the full and equal participation of women and men in the design, production, and distribution of the benefits of the knowledge-based society.

The department encourages the full and equal participation of women in decision making at all levels, particularly in relation to facilitating and promoting the harmonious and comprehensive sustainable development and protection of the environment, including information technology in water resources, climate change, natural disasters, biodiversity and energy, given that they are an integral part of efforts to create societies in which everyone can participate and contribute, so these tools can promote gender equality.

Within the DSD, the gender perspective is reflected particularly in the work being done in the projects of its various areas for professional development:

- **Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change**

The DSD continued to promote the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) with funding from the Program of Inter-American Cooperation of Canada, through the implementation of the network's Web portal, and organizing training workshops and other exchanges of knowledge and information among OAS member states. The project "Applying Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Disaster Mitigation in Central America" was completed, funded by the Research Center for the Development of Canada, IDRC, through the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas, ICA, and Phases I and II of the "Central American Program for the Early Warning to Flood in Small Watersheds (SVP) and Vulnerability Reduction: Development of a Regional Platform" were executed with the support of the global Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning of the United Nations (UN/PPEW) and UN/ISDR Americas, with financing by the Government of Germany.

A key factor in the RIESGO-MACC project has been the international partnership with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Relief (UN/ISDR), and the partnerships with regional intergovernmental organizations, such as CEPREDENAC, CDEMA, and CAPRADE, among others. An inter-American workshop was organized on "Disaster Relief and Management in the Americas."

- **Environmental Law Program, Policy and Governance**

In 2009, the DSD contributed to the strengthening of capacities related to environmental management in the context of economic integration and trade liberalization in the region. In the context of regional trade agreements, member states received support in the areas of trade and environment, environmental governance, and institutional strengthening. In particular, DSD published the first evaluation report on monitoring progress in the environmental cooperation agenda for DR-CAFTA countries. In addition, the DDS, in conjunction with the CARICOM Secretariat and with support from the World Bank, launched the project in Barbados on Emergency Legislation in the Caribbean and advanced in the development of recommendations on how to improve the legal and administrative procedures during and immediately after a natural disaster. The project on the sustainability impact of the soy production chain, with the participation of Argentina, Paraguay, and

Uruguay, was completed. In the area of adaptation to climate change, the DSD worked with the Government of Jamaica in an assessment of rural communities' vulnerability to climate change impacts and the adaptation measures needed.

- **Program for Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management**

In 2009, in the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), the OAS / SEDI continued to promote databases on species / specimens, invasive species, ecosystems, protected areas and pollinators. The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), focuses on three regional partnerships for conservation management of migratory species. In coordination with eight countries (the Andean countries and Costa Rica), the DSD developed the Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands in order to advance the development of programs on the valuation of and compensation for environmental services. Finally, the project ReefFix worked with CARICOM countries in economic valuation of coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

4. Secretariat for Political Affairs

a. Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation

- **Electoral Observation Missions**

In 2009 the OAS deployed 12 electoral observation missions and in all of them it sought to guarantee a gender balance, both in the number of international observers sent and in the selection of candidates for key posts. Of the 739 observers deployed by the OAS, 44% were women. In the case of Panama there was an equal number of female and male participants, and in the missions to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Bolivia there were more women than men.

Pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2452 (XXXIX-O/09) which calls for women to be appointed to head electoral observation missions, the Secretary General chose Dame Billie Miller, former Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados, as chief of the mission to observe the parliamentary elections held in Antigua and Barbuda in March 2009. In five of the 12 missions (El Salvador, Bolivia, Panama, Mexico, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) female staff members of the department were named as deputy chiefs of mission, and in nine missions female staff members of the department were general coordinators. Moreover, gender balance was also maintained in the composition of groups of experts responsible for analyzing key aspects for the missions (legal experts, experts in electoral organization and technology, media, etc.).

Mission	Type	Date	Number of Women	Number of Men	% of Women
El Salvador	Election of Deputies to Central American Parliament, Deputies to the Legislative Assembly and Municipal Councils	January 18	32	48	40%

Bolivia	Constitutional Referendum	January 25	26	37	41%
Antigua and Barbuda	Parliamentary	March 12	9	13	41%
El Salvador	Presidential	March 15	36	64	36%
Ecuador	General	April 26	43	47	48%
Panama	General	May 3	27	27	50%
Ecuador	Election of members of the Andean Parliament and leaders of the Rural Parish Boards	June 14	8	11	42%
Mexico	Local and federal elections	July 5	67	84	44%
Colombia	Election of Mayor, Municipality of Magangué	July 5	2	8	20%
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Constitutional referendum	November 25	8	7	53%
Bolivia	General elections and referendums on autonomy	December 6	63	56	53%
Dominica	General	December 18	7	9	44%
Totals			328	411	44%

- **Project on Incorporation of the Gender Perspective in OAS Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs)**

The OAS General Secretariat is currently implementing a project titled “Incorporation of the Gender Perspective in OAS Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs),” which seeks to improve the Organization’s electoral observation work by integrating the gender perspective in the electoral observation methodology. Gender-sensitive observation methodology will enable the OAS to make a systematic analysis of the situation as to equal participation of men and women in the electoral processes at all levels: as voters; as candidates in national and local elections; as leaders of government institutions; within electoral organizations; and within the political parties’ structures. The gender-sensitive observation methodology would also investigate subjects such as the existence of barriers for women’s political participation in the countries, in the specific context of an observed election. At the end of 2009, the DECO obtained funding for this project from the governments of Germany, Spain, and Canada. The project’s first activities began in January 2010.

- b. **Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions**

- **Gender perspective in the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP-OEA)**

The mission uses work protocols for each of its functions to shape and document the effectiveness of its mandate and areas of operation. It incorporates a cross-cutting gender perspective in all its actions (mandate and primary areas). Currently, this action reflected in

the recognition of women's role as *agents of the peace process and reinsertion* in the framework of support and follow-up for the communities in the following initiatives: 1) "We are all women in Barranquilla"; 2) "In the victim networks"; and 3) "The victims' encounters on remembrance and gender."

The objective of the "We are all women in Barranquilla" program was to tap the resources and skills of demobilized women, victims of the armed conflict, community leaders, and public officials, to facilitate co-existence to strengthen the construction of social nets in Atlantic Department. An important result was the empowerment of the female role as women leaders of the community, with wide understanding as an active subject in the process of participating in the socio-political opportunities and emancipation from family relationships that violate their rights as women. The initiative successfully met its objectives, thanks to the participation of beneficiaries and institutions and the commitments received for follow-up in support of the women.

With respect to the initiative for strengthening the victims' networks, most of the participants or beneficiaries are women victims, so there is a continuous effort to emphasize the women's role in the community and as leader-victims. It should be noted that the participants' testimony revealed family relationships that reflected gender violence and family abuse, but it is clear that their experience as leaders is recognized and prevails in a process that shows social evolution and opportunities that these women have used to strengthen their communities.

The encounters on remembrance and gender have been important, because although there is awareness of sexual crimes committed by paramilitary groups, most of them have not been confessed in the voluntary statements, thus failing to fulfill the commitment to truth on this point and leaving the crimes exempt from prosecution in the framework of the justice and peace process. In this regard, during the encounter there was agreement on various concepts of remembrance and gender, such as: (i) Remembrance is not limited by region or race; we all speak the same language; (ii) The right to the truth in a differentiated manner, with emphasis on the crimes against women; and (iii) A feminine viewpoint is needed to reconstruct the story. This perspective must not be fragmentary and it requires listening to understand the mental logic and policies that gave rise to the war.

Since its inception, the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia has implemented gender mainstreaming in its actions, because of the clear discrimination against groups that are marginalized by virtue of their ethnic origin, gender, color, or origin and not treated in practice as citizens with full rights. This is especially clear in the case of women, because gender is used as a policy criterion for discriminating between full and dependent citizens, either because of cultural stereotypes or economic necessity.

5. Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

The Secretariat for Multidimensional Security supports the IAP objectives in all its elements. The Secretariat coordinates its efforts through activities carried on by its component parts, as follows:

a. Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (ES-CICAD)

The Executive Secretariat of CICAD is promoting gender equality in both conceptual and practical terms and includes the topic in its research and actions.

When the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs of ES-CICAD conducts studies and surveys, it gives a gender breakdown in order to review the impacts of gender difference on drug use and abuse and on other findings.

The drug prevention and treatment activities being carried out by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD routinely include the gender perspective. For example, hemispheric guidelines in school-based prevention include, among other considerations, the principle that prevention programs must be gender-adapted. In 2010, ES-CICAD will develop a clinical protocol on drug and alcohol treatment for women.

CICAD is in the process of designing a project that will be implemented jointly with a leading research agency in Canada, as soon as the necessary resources are available. The project, whose tentative title is “The linkage between drugs and violence in the Americas: a gender perspective,” will be implemented in 10 countries of the hemisphere and aimed at defining the complex dynamics between gender, drugs and violence. During the initial discussion on the methodology and approach of the project, the Executive Secretariat of CICAD asked for and incorporated input from the CIM.

b. Department of Public Security (DPS)

Training was provided to more than 500 consular officials, judges, prosecutors, police, immigration officials, and other officials involved in prevention and combat of trafficking in persons. The training courses enabled the participants to understand, analyze, and apply the gender perspective in their various work areas, especially as regards protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons. The courses for police officers emphasized the need for active participation by women from the outset, so they can be incorporated in future decision making. During the reporting period training was given to 250 “blue helmets,” of which 40% were women.

From March 25 to 27, 2009, the department organized the Second Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, which adopted the document “Conclusions and Recommendations of the Second Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons (AG/RES.2456 (XXXIX-O/09), which establishes guidelines for prevention, prosecution, protection, and international cooperation regarding trafficking in persons, including the need to incorporate a human rights and a gender perspective. The resolution urges member states to promote measures that help draw attention to the existing problem with regard to the demand for trafficking in persons for purposes of sexual exploitation.

In the framework of the Meetings of Ministers of Security of the Americas (MISPA), el DPS is responsible for operation of the Inter-American Security Observatory (OIS), which compiles, publishes, and analyzes the most relevant and pertinent data on crime and violence in the region. Aware of the importance of adopting a gender perspective, the OIS has included gender breakdowns in the indicators on crime and violence, security agents, and prison systems. The OIS also includes information compiled by 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), which makes it possible to see violence against women and its link to public security, promotes the adoption of public policies with a gender perspective, and facilitates interagency cooperation.

As part of the Inter-American Police Training Program (PICAP), the DPS has been preparing the project: “Police training in violence against women,” which seeks to strengthen enforcement of domestic legislation and international treaties on the subject by modifying and enhancing police response to cases of violence against women. The project, to be executed starting in March 2010, will study the police role in prevention of violence against women and in response to women’s special needs in terms of security. Based on this study, training will be provided for police of six Central American countries to improve violence prevention, facilitate women’s access to justice, strengthen respect for women’s human rights, and ensure overall public security.

6. Secretariat for Legal Affairs

a. Office of the Secretary

The Inter-American Judicial Facilitators Program (PIFJ) has responded to the IAP regarding the lack of access to justice by promoting gender equity and equality and women’s human rights through various actions. In February 2010 there were 2,832 judicial facilitators (of whom 31 % were women) in Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay. The judicial facilitators donate their time. From March 2009 to February 2010 they provided a total of 6,322 services, which included mediation, advice, motions for the judge, follow-up, and explanation of laws in public lectures.

The facilitators sent 125 cases to the judges, ensuring that a large group of women were heard and the crimes against them did not go unpunished, including sexual crimes (6 cases), domestic violence against the woman (29 cases), spousal settlements (44 cases), family suits (5 cases), food allowance (37 cases), and other domestic violence (4 cases). Lectures and counsel were offered on subjects such as family law, sexual crimes, laws on participation, children’s code, domestic violence, gender, human rights and local development to 8,105 women, explaining what to do, what recourse to seek, what procedural steps to take, thus helping them to know and defend their rights and improve their quality of life.

In addition, 7,535 men participated in lectures and counsel to sensitize them to the need for gender equity and respect for human rights, so that women are treated with equality and equity in the social context. Judicial facilitators helped 1,153 women resolve their problems through mediation.

b. Department of Legal Cooperation (DLC)

The DLC is the technical secretariat for areas involved in the fight against corruption, especially as regards the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) and in the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), including the topics of mutual assistance in criminal matters and extradition, and cybercrime. The gender perspective is an important element in all the DLC activities, because the subjects it deals with have an impact on the fight against gender inequity, which is a cross-cutting theme in the combat against corruption. It should be noted that the MESICIC Committee of Experts, at its fourteenth session in September, 2009, elected a woman as its chair, the expert representing Brazil.

c. Department of International Law

In its international law promotion activities, the Department of International Law has sought to give women and men equal preference as presenters and participants. In 2009, the department carried out an action program to “strengthen the participation of indigenous peoples in the inter-American system,” with special emphasis on gender equity in both training activities and dissemination. Training was provided to 39 indigenous representatives in Central and South America, of which 50% were women. The same policy will continue in the execution of the program this year.

d. Department of Special Legal Programs

The Department of Special Legal Programs, through the technical secretariat for development of the Draft Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) (PAD), is organizing the second meeting of National Disability Councils (CONADIS), to be held April 5-7. One of the meeting’s topics is the need to incorporate the gender perspective in the follow-up and monitoring of the program of action. As approved, the PAD is neutral in terms of incorporating the gender perspective, because it applies generally to persons with disabilities without any specific reference to women or girls.

There has also been interest in gender mainstreaming with special attention to women and girls in various forums, including UNICEF. The department is exploring technical assistance for preparation of informative and educational materials for boys and girls and youth in general, in the forum organized by the Inter-American Institute of Defenders of Children and Adolescents on December 7 and 8, 2009. The program was presented on that occasion and the need was stressed for secretariats for children in the countries to upgrade and give priority to services for children and youth with disabilities. Inclusion of the gender perspective was also pursued at the second meeting of the working group on participation of children and adolescents with disabilities.

To follow up on these meetings, SEDISCAP sent a note to the CONADIS in the Americas requesting them to seek mechanisms for participation of female and male youth and children with disabilities and contact child defense offices in their countries to prompt greater awareness of the situation and the socially vulnerable status of children and youth in

the Americas. As part of this follow-up, there was a meeting at the end of the past year with the IIN working group to agree on joint actions in the effort to give priority to, and mainstream within its program, actions aimed at the juvenile population with disabilities, especially the most vulnerable ones, the girls and young women. Subsequently there was a report to CSOs (Inter-American Inclusion and RIADES) on the discussion with the IIN, so that their associations could support these actions.

A chapter on consumer protection was written for the book on environmental and social determinants of health, to be published by PAHO. The chapter written by the Department of Special Legal Programs makes a case for special protection of the right to health of women and children consumers, and for including special gender indicators in the observatory proposed for effective protection of consumers' health.

7. Secretariat for Administration and Finance

a. Department of Human Resources (DHR)

The DHR has carried out the following activities related to the gender issue in 2009:

- **Nursing room**

The DHR, together with the Office of General Services and the Staff Association, inaugurated two new nursing rooms to support and provide space for new mothers to continue with their nursing needs. The rooms are located in the general services building and the administration building.

- **Reports with gender breakdown**

It is the DHR's policy to present reports that include a gender breakdown for the information of the administration and the Permanent Council's Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP).

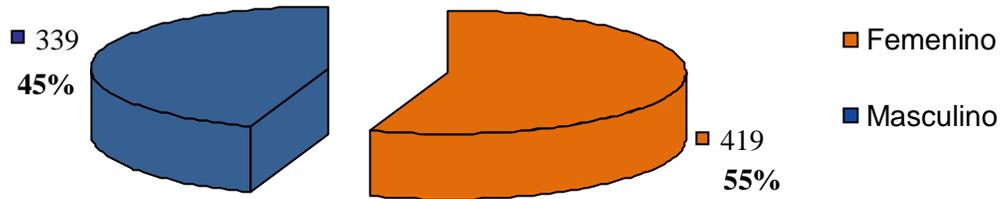
On March 19, 2009, the DHR submitted document CP/CAAP-3001/09, which shows the geographical and gender breakdown of the General Secretariat as of December 31, 2008. Then, on February 16, 2010, in response to resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXVIII-E/09), the Secretariat for Administration and Finance (SAF), through the DHR, submitted to the CAAP a report on gender of the staff of the OAS General Secretariat as of December 31, 2009.

In response to that resolution, the DHR continued striving to increase the number of women at each level, noting an increase of 6% of women at the D01 level in comparison with 2008. As of December 31, 2009, women held 37% of the P-5 positions financed by the Regular Fund and 36% of the P-5 positions financed by all funds.

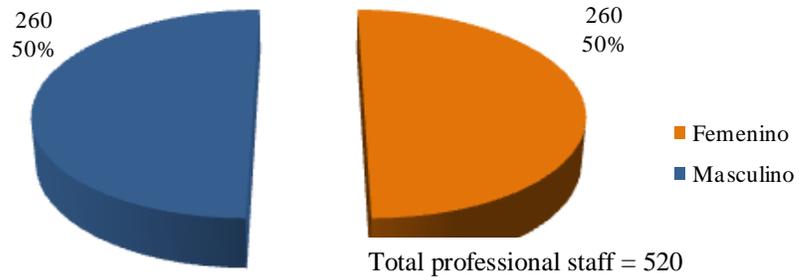
The DHR continues to prepare monthly headcount reports, which permit better administrative management and updated statistics on gender, nationality, and category of the staff members of the General Secretariat.

Gender breakdown of the General Secretariat as of December 31, 2009

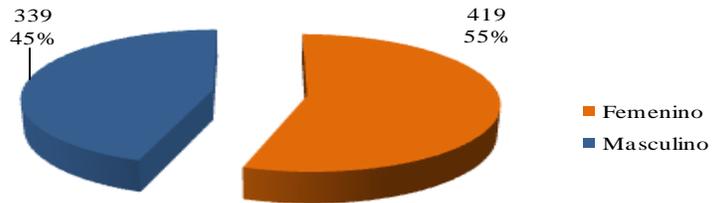
Gender	Personnel	Percentage
Female	419	55%
Male	339	45%
Total	758	100%



Gender breakdown of professional grades as of December 31, 2009

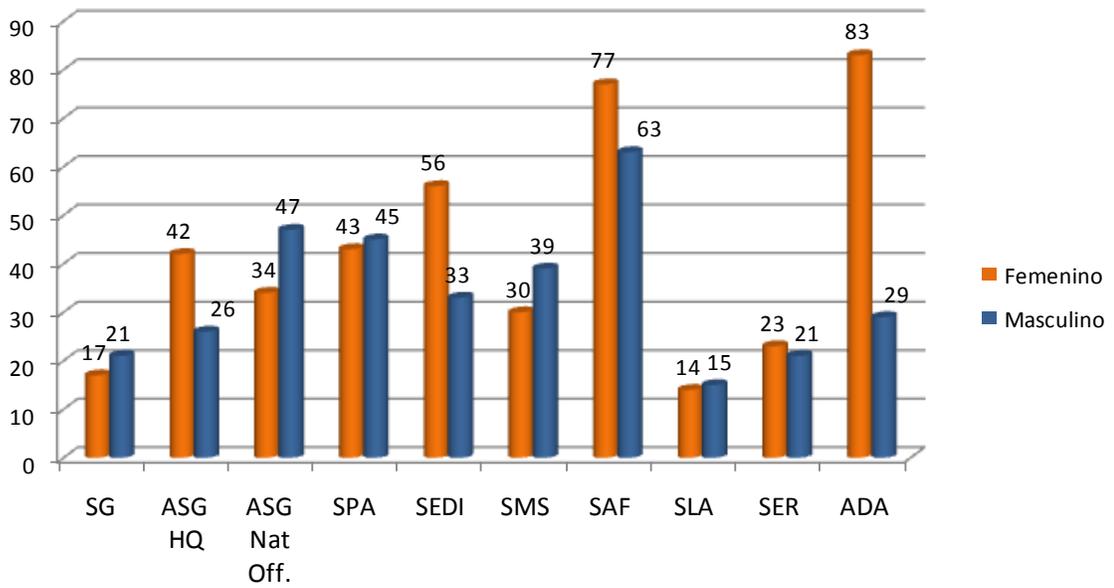


Gender breakdown in General Services grades as of December 31 2009



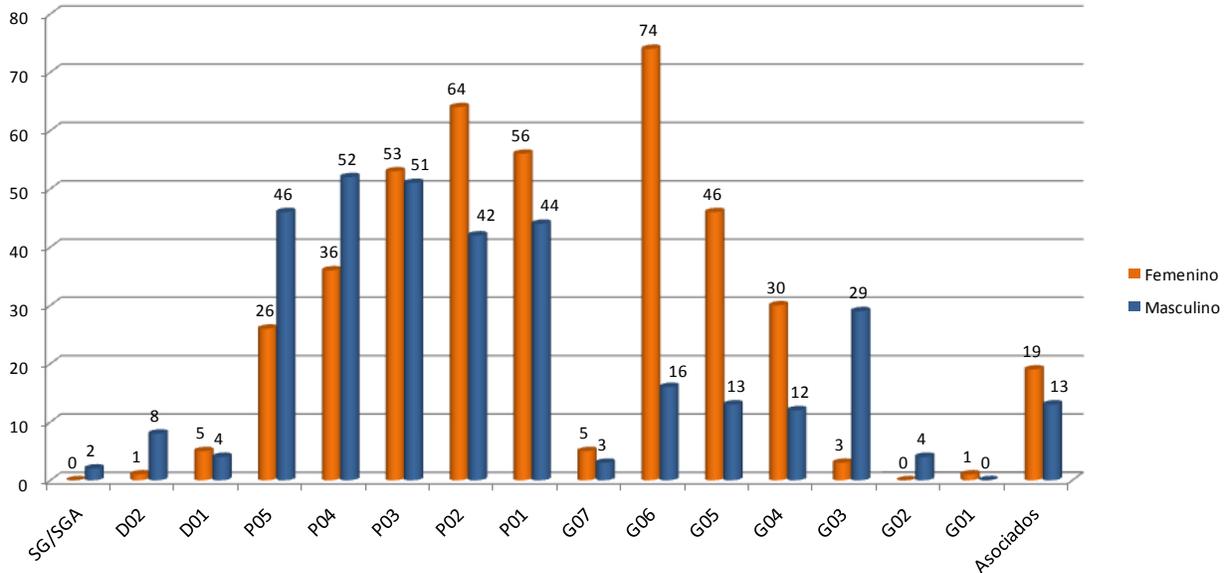
Total General Services staff members = 236

Gender breakdown of the General Secretariat as of December 31, 2009



**Autonomous and Decentralized (ADA)*

Number of positions by gender in the General Secretariat as of December 31, 2009



b. Department of Planning and Evaluation (DPE)

The DPE, as the department responsible for the development of tools and procedures to facilitate result-based project management, is charged with promoting the incorporation of the gender perspective in the processes of planning, design, monitoring, and evaluation of projects. More specifically, as part of the Project Management Training Program, the DPE provides theoretical and practical guidance to the staff and consultants in the construction and use of performance indicators that include gender factors in measurement of results.

Planning and dissemination of results with a gender perspective is not possible unless the project teams include an analysis of problems with a gender approach and an analysis of those who are sensitive to gender in the stages of project planning and design. In this context, the DPE, through project SAF0901, intends to: i) incorporate the gender perspective in the already standardized processes of the project cycle, planning, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, and in the use of management tools developed for that purpose; and ii) conduct a pilot for planning and design of projects from a gender perspective and their subsequent monitoring and evaluation.

8. Secretariat for External Relations

a. Department of International Affairs (DIA)

During this reporting period, and in compliance with the commitments set forth in the IAP, the DIA launched several initiatives to promote women's rights to full and equal participation. These activities include: channeling resources for implementation of programs, holding forums with social actors, networks and CSOs, execution of dissemination programs, such as the Lecture Series of the Americas, Policy Round Tables, partnerships with

international organizations that carry out programs on women and gender, and holding Model OAS General Assemblies to promote youth awareness of inter-American policies to promote women's rights.

The DIA promoted several projects on this subject with OAS permanent observers, which financed various initiatives costing US\$390,000. These resources went to implement projects to promote the gender perspective in democracy, development of methodologies for women's participation in electoral observation missions and in local public finance, as well as topics of defense and promotion of human rights and access to justice for women victims of violence. These contributions came from Germany, China, Spain, and Finland, among others. In addition, in 2009 the OAS executed eighty-three (83) projects with funds from permanent observers that incorporated the gender perspective in their activities to a greater or lesser extent.

The department coordinated forums with CSOs in preparation for the Fifth Summit of the Americas and the thirty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, providing financial support to about 40 women representatives of civil society networks who are working on gender, democracy, social development, the environment, human rights, trafficking in persons, violence and public security, HIV/AIDS, rights of children and adolescents, and child abuse, etc.

The DIA prepared chronological and thematic compilations of the recommendations from the meetings with civil society since 2002, with a section devoted to those dealing with gender issues. These compilations, which reflect the concerns of women and men regarding hemispheric affairs, were shared with the member states and the social networks and are available on the OAS web page. The DIA created a database of CSOs working on gender topics and disseminated information about activities planned to mark the Inter-American Year of Women in 2010 to about 500 CSOs.

In the area of interagency relations, the DIA facilitated negotiation of the memoranda of understanding between the OAS General Secretariat and the Council of Europe, as well as the African Union. The MOU with the Council of Europe addresses five areas of cooperation, one of which is gender, including combat of violence against women, the exchange of programs and good practices with the CIM on the Convention of Belém do Pará, and the establishment of a Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the Council of Europe. Similarly, one of the most important areas of cooperation included in the memorandum signed with the African Union on October 1, 2009, was the promotion and protection of women's human rights.

The DIA has provided technical support for the Special Committee on Migration Issues (CEAM) and prepared a study on gender perspective in migration that presents an analysis of the increase in women migrants in the Americas since 1960 and describes the challenges and social, economic, and political impact of that migration. The DIA also coordinated the preparation and signature of a cooperation agreement between the OAS and the IOM dealing mainly with international migration law, labor migration, combat of trafficking in persons, migrants' human rights, and education for migrant youth and children. The IOM has a working group on gender issues, whose work involves incorporation of

gender equity in all the organization's activities, including those carried out jointly with the OAS under the agreement.

The DIA offered seven Lectures of the Americas and 10 Policy Round Tables with high-level presenters, who analyzed regional and global problems in topics such as the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities, corporate social responsibility, the regional economic situation, security and terrorism, globalization and the role of universities, diversity and social inclusion. All of these programs emphasized gender mainstreaming and the impact of public policies on women, while seeking to achieve a gender balance among the presenters. The 2009 Lecture Series included two distinguished women orators: Alicia Barcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Jennifer Mary Shipley, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, which made it possible to increase the number of women presenters in comparison with the previous year, demonstrating the importance we assign in our programs to gender equality and dealing with topics of vital importance for women: the financial crisis and social inclusion.

Since the end of 2009, the DIA has coordinated activities with the CIM to launch the Inter-American Year of Women, such as the holding of Lectures and Policy Round Tables on the subject and the publication of related articles in the *Americas Quarterly*, a periodical of the Americas Society. There are plans to publish articles throughout 2010 dealing with topics of interest to women, including trafficking in persons and drugs and transnational crime, access to health care, and HIV/AIDS. The DIA, together with the CIM, has identified potential speakers for one Lecture and one Round Table.

The DIA carried out six model OAS General Assemblies in 2009 for university and secondary students and interns in the OAS General Secretariat. This model, which seeks to instill democratic values and promote human rights in the young people, included the following topics concerning women in the Assemblies: promotion of gender equality and women's rights; development of public policies and strengthening of institutional mechanisms for political advancement of women; and development of new initiatives for the protection of rights of socially excluded sectors, including the poor, ethnic minorities, women, and children. Because of their high intellectual level and leadership capacity, 25 young women were chosen as authorities of the model General Assemblies, including Secretary Generals, Presidents, and Vice-presidents. The female president of the Model General Assembly in Honduras presented the results of that model to representatives of the member states in the OAS General Assembly in June 2009.

b. Department of Cultural Affairs

The Department of Cultural Affairs, in cooperation with the CIM, organized the private showing of the documentary "Code Name: Butterflies" on March 30, 2009, in the Hall of the Americas. The film narrates the life of three sisters—the Mirabals—who fought for freedom in the 1950s in the Dominican Republic. These three women not only opposed the dictatorial regime in their country, but also led a revolutionary movement against Trujillo. They defied the tyrant and paid for it with their lives. The United Nations designated November 25, the date of the Mirabals' assassination, as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

During the CIM Executive Committee meeting on March 30 and 31, 2009, the president and delegates of the Commission attended this event, along with permanent representatives of several countries, including Chile, the Dominican Republic, and others, as well as more than 200 guests, including OAS officials and members of the Washington community. One surviving Mirabal sister, and the daughter of another of the sisters, also attended the showing.

Data from the Museum of Art of the Americas:

- Total number of artists in the Museum's temporary exhibit program from March 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010 = 62. There were 25 women and 37 men.

- Exhibitors at the Museum:

Female artists: Magdalena Fernández, Lilian García-Roig, Nayda Collazo Llorens, Ada Bobonis, Angela Bonadies, Joanne Kent, Kyan Bishop, Leah Frankel, Pattie Porter Firestone, Kristen Campbell, Dalya Luttwar, Marta Minujin, Donna McCullough, Gale Jamieson, María Barbosa, Cheraya Esters, Mariah Josephy, Carol Gellner Levin, Linda Hesh, Renee Butler, Jennifer Allora, Inéz Aponte, Rosa Irigoyen, Edra Soto, and Margot S. Neuhaus.

Male artists: Hector Hyppolite, Rogelio Salmona, Alain Guerra, Neraldo de la Paz, Jesús Rafael Zoto, Hugo Zapata, Foon Sham, Ronny Vayda Adler, Jonh Castles, Bobby Donovan, Jeff Chyatte, Rimer Cardillo, Joel D'Orazio, Allan Arp, Brent Crothers, Adam Bradley, Pablo Rubio, Alonzo Davis, Brian Reed, Frederick Crist, Tony Capellan, Rafael Ferrer, Patrick MacDonough, Guillermo Calzadilla, John Betancourt, José Cruz, Miguel Luciano, Adal Maldonado, Héctor Méndez Caratini, Jesús Negrón, Tristán Reyes Alvarado, Quintín Rivera, Carlos A. Rivera, Carlos Ruiz Valarino, Araon Salabarrías, Victor Vásquez, and Duncan McCosker.

Total exhibitors invited / curators participating in the Museum's education program from March 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010 = 14. There were 7 women and 7 men.

Women: Laura Roulet, Tatiana Flores, LeGrace Benson, Astrid Jaeger, Judy Hoffman, Diana Barco, María Elvira Madriñán, and Michele Greet.

Men: Gerald Alexis, Bill Brubaker, Marc Christophe, Kenneth Frampton, Félix Angel, Julio Valdez, and Rafael Lozano-Hemmer.

New acquisitions in the permanent collection (2009): Total number of artists = 66 (74 works of art). There were 21 women and 45 men.

B. ACTIONS CARRIED OUT BY OAS DECENTRALIZED ORGANS

1. Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

In keeping with the principles of equality and non-discrimination – both fundamental principles of the inter-American human rights instruments – the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the office of its Special *Rapporteur* on the Rights of Women focus specifically on women’s human rights and gender equity and equality.

In 2009 the *Rapporteurship* on Women’s Rights, currently headed by Commissioner Luz Patricia Mejía, continued the process of implementation of various initiatives for compilation of qualitative and quantitative information in order to identify the principal progress and challenges that women face to exercise of their rights without any discrimination, particularly in the areas of political participation, reproductive rights, and their economic and social rights. These three projects, funded by Finland and Spain, will publish thematic reports with recommendations to the governments on how best to comply with their human rights obligations in these areas.

Among the activities implemented in the framework of these projects, the *Rapporteurship* made a visit to Bolivia June 22-26, 2009, to gather specific information at the national level on the principal progress and challenges that women face to exercise their economic and social rights without any discrimination. It met with senior government officials and representatives of labor organizations, civil society, and international agencies. During the *Rapporteurship’s* visit to Bolivia, on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, there was a regional meeting of experts to identify the principal progress and challenges that women face to have access to and control of resources, educational opportunities, and job conditions in conditions of equality. The *Rapporteurship* also participated in a workshop on June 26, 2009, for follow-up on the friendly settlement agreement in the case of *MZ v. Bolivia*, in order to train male and female employees of all levels of the judicial branch in issues involving violence and discrimination against women.

On May 13, 2009, the IACHR released its “Report on the Rights of Women in Chile: Equality in the Family, Labor, and Political Spheres,” which concludes that different forms of discrimination in law and practice continue to hurt Chilean women in the family, labor, and political spheres. With the analysis and recommendations of this report, the Commission hopes to support the government’s efforts to ensure that equality for women is reflected in laws, public policies, and effective and sustainable implementation mechanisms that have a positive impact on the daily life of all Chilean women. The report was prepared following a working visit by the *Rapporteurship* in 2007.

On May 18, 2009, the IACHR also released its report “The Right of Women in Haiti to be Free from Violence and Discrimination,” produced on the basis of information gathered during visits to Haiti in 2004, 2006, and 2007, which analyzes the grave situation of discrimination and violence against women in Haiti, and the current legislative, institutional, and legal response to these problems.

In addition, the *Rapporteurship* continued supporting the IACHR work of processing individual petitions and precautionary measures on matters related to women’s rights, and litigation of cases in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. For example, on April 28 and 29, 2009, the

Rapporteurship participated in the public hearing in the case of *Claudia Ivette González et al (Campo Algodonero)* against Mexico, which was held in Chile, the first case of the Inter-American Court to deal comprehensively with women's rights. The judgment in that case was handed down by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on November 16, 2009, and establishes the state's responsibility for not taking adequate measures to prevent and respond to the violence against the victims, in a context of violence and discrimination for reasons of gender in the area. During that visit to Chile, the *Rapporteurship* also gave a lecture on jurisprudence on women's rights in the Law School of Diego Portales University on April 30, 2009, attended by representatives of the school's faculty and students in various fields.

2. Inter-American Children's Institute (INN)

The most relevant initiatives, activities, and projects of the INN—the OAS specialized organization dealing with children and adolescents—for follow-up of the IAP include the following:

- a. The Ninth Report to the OAS Secretary General on actions taken by the member states to combat commercial sexual exploitation of girls, boys, and adolescents in the Americas. This was a follow-up to OAS General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1667 (XXIX-O/99), of June 7, 1999, and in the framework of the “Inter-American Program for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Minors,” established by General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2432 (XXXVIII-O/08), and by mandate of the IIN Directing Council in resolution CD/RES. 10 (82-R/07). The report highlights progress in the member states in terms of legislation and public policy, and presents comparative tables with a regional analysis of the subject. The report was widely distributed to national authorities and is available in English and Spanish on the Institute's website (www.iin.oea.org), and on the portal of the ANNA Observa Inter-American Observatory (www.annaobserva.org).
- b. The First Pan American Forum on Children, held from September 21-25, 2009, in Lima, Peru, during the Twentieth Pan American Child Congress. The Forum demonstrated the firm commitment of the states of the region to let boys, girls, and adolescents be heard and share opinions, experiences, and recommendations at the highest-level body in the inter-American system concerned with children and youth. Participants included 61 teens (32 female and 29 male), from 22 member states.
- c. A 55-second video on corporal punishment of children and adolescents—a reissue/adaptation of a video prepared by the IIN—in which a boy and a girl play at being a doll's father and mother. Dissemination of the video is intended to encourage the member states to ban corporal punishment in their domestic legislation.
- d. Training through virtual courses to share more tools on subjects such as: commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; rights of the child, and participation of children and youth in citizenship building and their incidence in public policy.

3. Secretariat of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)

CITEL encourages the full and egalitarian participation of women in decision making at all levels, especially with respect to facilitating and promoting the harmonious and integral development of telecommunications, including information and communication technologies (ICTs), bearing in mind that they are an integral part of the activities aimed at creating societies in which all can participate and contribute and that, therefore, they are instruments that can favor gender equality.

The General Coordination of Human Resources Development of CITEL is in charge of selecting the activities of the telecommunication training program that meet the needs of CITEL member countries. In the process of selecting the participants in this program, special attention is paid to promoting gender equality in accordance with the provisions of resolution COM/CITEL RES. 160 (XIII-03). In 2009, 26 courses were offered (15 distance-learning courses and 11 classroom courses) on topics of telecommunication policymaking, regulation, management, and technology; 224 fellowships were granted to participants coming from 26 countries of the region, with women accounting for 21% of participants. This training will make it possible to improve levels of knowledge and skills and promote greater access to the job market.

Data broken down by sex and Internet use from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) show that the access gap between men and women is narrowing. CITEL encourages members to compile breakouts to permit inter-country comparisons and show the trends in the sector. It also promotes projects and programs that consider gender questions and cooperation among telecommunication sector organizations on this subject.

Preparatory work is underway for the World Telecommunication Development Conference and the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union, both in 2010. Preliminary conferences approved resolutions to promote cooperation and coordination of policies, programs, and development projects that link ITC with fostering of gender equality.

CITEL plans to continue working by exchanging information, knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and best practices on technical, economic, and regulatory aspects and promoting the inclusion of the gender perspective in the sector's working policies and programs, because the information and knowledge society will benefit from the equitable participation of women and men in decision- and policy-making, as well as equal access to communication services.

4. Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)

CIM is responsible for supervising, coordinating and evaluating fulfillment of the IAP in coordination with the national mechanisms for women in the member states.

In accordance with IAP mandate of "ensuring that gender perspective is systematically incorporated in elaboration and application of international instruments, mechanisms and procedures in the Organization's framework, specially in agendas for ministerial meetings," CIM kept working on the IAP follow-up process (SEPIA), working in collaboration with civil society experts, governments and regional and international organizations to present recommendations to integrate gender perspective in ministerial meetings and, subsequently, to formulate action lines to follow up compliance with those recommendations.

a. Summits of the Americas

The CIM worked closely with the Secretariat of the Summits of the Americas during the preparation for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, especially in order to promote a gender perspective in the draft declaration of commitment of Port of Spain. Arrangements were made, with effective results, to ensure that the declaration contained the gender topic. The CIM Executive Committee called for action on the issue, and the delegates successfully arranged for various proposals with alternative language and the rearrangement of some paragraphs in the draft declaration, to promote priority, visibility, and integration of the gender perspective throughout the declaration, and to encourage the use of gender appropriate language. The President of the CIM attended the Fifth Summit as part of the delegation of Chile, headed by President Bachelet, and was also accredited as President of the CIM.

b. Inter-American Year of Women

In 2007 the OAS General Assembly approved Resolution AG/RES. 2322 (XXXVII-O/07) “Inter-American Year of Women,” proclaiming 2010 as the year for its observance. The initiative coincides with the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and the Convention of Belém do Pará and the tenth anniversary of the approval of the IAP. Its purpose is to promote broad mobilization in the Americas to evaluate successes and challenges in the defense of women’s human rights and gender equity and equality and to strengthen public sensitivity to gender issues. The General Assembly requested the Permanent Council to form a working group to prepare a program of activities for the Year that provides for participation by various sectors and identifies sources of funding. Last September the Permanent Council’s General Committee decided to establish the working group, for which the CIM is the technical secretariat.

The working group held three meetings to draft a program of activities and choose the logo and theme for the Year. Participants were the member states, special invitees, such as PAHO’s Office of Gender, Ethnicity, and Health, and elements of the General Secretariat, such as the Department of International Affairs (DIA) and the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Secretariat for External Relations. The group decided on the slogan “Women and Power: for a world with equality” and a commemorative logo. The countries gave details of their national activities planned in observance of the Year. The CIM will launch it at the third regular meeting of the Executive Committee, to be held February 24-26, 2010. Activities in the program include: i) a Lecture of the Americas and round tables on the gender topic, with cooperation from the DIA; ii) publication of articles in the *Americas Quarterly* magazine; and iii) a film cycle on topics related to women in the hemisphere and a show of women artists.

c. Follow-up of SEPIA 1- Gender and Labor

The CIM continued working with the Department of Social Development and Employment (DSDE) in the follow-up of the “Strategic Lines of Moving toward Gender Equality and Nondiscrimination in a Framework of Decent Work,” adopted by the Twenty-fifth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (XV IACML, Trinidad and Tobago, 2007). Specifically, it worked on the study on “Institutionalization of the Gender Perspective

in the Ministries of Labor of the Americas,” published and presented at the XVI IACML in Buenos Aires, October 6-8, 2009; and it began implementation of the project “Moving toward gender equality in a framework of decent work,” approved in the OAS/CIDA Cooperation Plan 2008-2011. The project’s components include high-level subregional dialogues between ministries of labor and national mechanisms for women, subregional training courses for personnel of both areas, and development of tools to monitor the ministries’ progress.

The CIM participated in the meeting of IACML working group 1, held in Washington on May 20, 2009, during the second meeting of the working groups of the XV IACML, at which progress of the abovementioned study was discussed. It also took part in the “Workshop on mainstreaming the gender perspective in the ministries of labor in the Americas,” held on July 21 in Buenos Aires, organized by the DSDE; the workshop was attended by officials responsible for the gender topic in the labor ministries, the OAS, the ILO, and civil society organizations. It discussed the preliminary version of the study and the ministries’ gender training needs. The Permanent Secretariat also attended the IACML 2009 planning meeting in Washington on December 10 and 11, 2009, sharing with other international organizations, such as the ILO, PAHO, IDB, and ECLAC a session on aids for compliance with the declaration and plan of action of the XVI IACML, in which activities planned regarding decent work were presented as part of the project funded by CIDA, which was well received. As a result, the first subregional workshop was set for Guyana and the second for Central America.

In consultation with the DSDE, ILO, and relevant national agencies, the CIM is now planning workshops for the Caribbean, Central America, and MERCOSUR, to be held in April and May in Guyana, El Salvador, and Paraguay respectively. The fourth workshop will take place in September in Ecuador. These workshops will cover “Strategic Planning with a Gender Perspective” and will cover specific needs identified in the abovementioned study of the institutions.

d. Follow-up of SEPIA IV – Gender, Science, and Technology

In response to the interest expressed at the first regular session of the CIM Executive Committee in promoting and providing incentives for women’s businesses, a proposed project was prepared with the UNESCO regional chair for women, science, and technology in Latin America. Funding is being sought for the proposal, which is related to economic independence and labor and to SEPIA IV, and is titled “Strengthening of women’s capacity to develop productive technology-based businesses in municipalities.” The project seeks to develop and implement the pilot phase of a program to train trainers in order to promote and develop women’s business capacities and strategic use of ICT, especially among young women in the municipalities. If approved, the project will be coordinated with the OAS Department of Science and Technology (DST).

In April 2009, the Permanent Secretariat received a visit from the principal adviser of the Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS), who expressed the desire of TWOWS to strengthen ties of cooperation with the CIM, referring particularly to the holding of a joint conference on scientific women in the region, which would also involve the DST.

e. Gender and Migration

In the framework of the Special Committee on Migration Issues (CEAM), the Permanent Secretariat organized the “Special Meeting on Migration and Gender,” held on April 1, 2009. The occasion was a high-level dialogue between members of the CEAM and the CIM Executive Committee, the objectives of which were to help the OAS gain knowledge of the subject and to generate ideas and recommendations to orient the Organization’s future work in the area. Other participants in this event were special guests from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the academic sector.

f. Electoral observation

In the framework of its current collaboration with the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO), involving integration of a gender perspective in electoral observation processes, the Permanent Secretariat took part in the “Methodological workshop on monitoring of media with a gender perspective in elections,” held in Lima, Peru, October 27 and 28, 2009, sponsored by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA International). This participation enabled the CIM to take part in constructing a common methodological tool, replicable in the region, for monitoring gender perspective in media coverage of the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in Latin America. The CIM is also working with DECO to offer technical assistance in the framework of a project for integrating the gender perspective in the electoral observation process, which is being funded by Germany.

g. Task Force on the Professional Situation of and Opportunities for Women in the OAS

At the invitation of the president of the Staff Association, the Permanent Secretariat took part in an informal information meeting of the task force on women’s situation in the OAS, recently formed by the Staff Association. That meeting on November 20, 2009, attended by the president and another representative of the Association, reported on what the task force plans to do, including a study of the professional situation of women in the OAS. They also expressed interest in obtaining the participation of both the Department of Human Resources and the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, as advisers in the process. The CIM agreed to be an adviser to the task force.

h. Women's Human Rights and Eradication of Violence against Women

i. Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará

As of February 2010, the Convention of Belém do Pará has 32 States Parties.

ii. Mechanism to Follow-up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI)

Detailed information on MESECVI activities is included in document CIM/doc.107/10, presented to the Permanent Council in compliance with resolution AG/RES 2451 (XXXIX-O/09), “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’.”

The following is a summary of the activities of the Technical Secretariat during the period of this report.

- **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 Conference of States Parties of 28 country reports and the hemispheric report, which contain recommendations to the states for better implementation of the Convention. The first round is now in the phase of following up on the CEVI’s recommendations to the states. In August 2008, the Secretariat forwarded the document of follow-up indicators based on the CEVI’s recommendations to the OAS permanent missions, and through them to the CNAs. The deadline for responding to the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI was November 30, 2008. By July 2009, the CEVI had received 17 reports that were the basis for the preliminary follow-up report. Once the CEVI adopts the report, it will be presented for the consideration of the Third Conference of the States Parties.

- **Committee of Experts (CEVI)**

The First, Second, and Third Meeting of the 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. The meeting was to be held in 2010. It was also decided that the Technical Coordinator of the CEVI, with the support of the Technical Secretariat, 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 before both meetings.

- Conference of States Parties

The Third Conference of the States Parties will be held in Guatemala, and is tentatively slated for September 2010. The conference will adopt 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. As of February 2010, there are 29 experts and 28 competent national authorities.

- Technical Secretariat

The Secretariat carried out the activities for which it is responsible according to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) and the Conference, including finalizing the preliminary report of indicators; preparations for the Fifth Meeting of the 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; and starting work on the redesign of the webpage.

iii. Promotion of the MESECVI

- Presentation of the Alternate Coordinator of the CEVI to the Executive Committee

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, to be held in June 2009, 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 join forces, including civil society groups, in order to disseminate information about the Mechanism. The delegates at that meeting acknowledged the work of the Committee of Experts. The delegate of Mexico presented to the President of the CIM 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.

- Meeting with 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. As result of to this visit and based on 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.

- 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)

The President of the CIM participated in this seminar, held in Santiago, Chile, on June 17, 2009. Its purpose 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 on policies for the prevention, care, and protection of victims of violence against women. Representatives of 10 countries participated: 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 the seminar's main topics.

- Sixteenth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, July 6, 2009, and Forty-third Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held in the same city on July 7 and 8, 2009

The CIM participated in both meetings, at which cooperation linkages were established among the MESECVI, the recently created Gender Equality Observatory (<http://www.cepal.org/oig/>), and the U.N. Secretary-General's "*UNite to End Violence against Women*" campaign. The Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI will support ECLAC's efforts to promote the Observatory and the U.N. Statistical Commission's proposal for a set of international indicators to measure violence.

- Joint work with the Department of Public Security (DPS)

At a meeting on July 27, 2009, the DSP, which is part 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.

- Second Session of the CIM Executive Committee

During its second session, held in Washington on October 5 and 6, 2009, the CIM Executive Committee agreed as part of the “Inter-American Year of Women” to support cooperation with the United Nations in the area of violence against women, recalling that the Convention of Belém do Pará was the first legal instrument in the region to combat violence against women. In addition, the Committee expressed its interest in collaborating to strengthen the MESECVI. To this end, it asked the Secretariat of the Mechanism 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, should provide a report on the historical development of the MESECVI, an assessment of its performance, and information on all initiatives to identify sources of funding.

- Launching in Latin America of the U.N. Secretary-General’s “*UNite to End Violence against Women*” campaign

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 on November 24, to serve as a forum for the sharing of experiences and best practices for preventing and punishing violence against women. The event presented the goals and results of the 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 of the UNDP; and Rigoberta Menchú, the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner. The CIM was involved in the coordination with the organizations of the United Nations system and participated at the inter-agency meeting held in Panama City on September 2-4, 2009.

- Femicide/feminicide

The Secretariat of the MESECVI, in follow-up to resolution CIM/RES. 240 (XXXIII-O/06) and pursuant to the interest shown by the CEVI in this regard, agreed to organize a meeting of academics on the topic of femicide/feminicide 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 to organize this event.

iv. Dissemination

CDs were 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 Parties to the MESECVI.”

v. Financing the MESECVI

During the First Session of the CIM Executive Committee, held March 30-31, 2009, the 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. The delegates raised the topic of resources and 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 Mechanism as a priority area. With respect to this request, the Secretary General of the OAS pointed out the importance of supplementing operations through external funding, rather than from the Regular Fund, owing to the current budget 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.

Item 11 of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, adopted on April 19, 2009, at 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 Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, ‘Convention of Belém do Pará,’ and its funding.”

II. OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

A. SECRETARIAT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON PORTS (CIP)

The CIP, through its Executive Committee, established the Subcommittee on the Participation of Women in Port Affairs of the Hemisphere at the Fourth Meeting of the CIP, held in Maracaibo, Venezuela, in 2005, in resolution CIDI/CIP/RES. 65 (IV-05). The subcommittee’s purpose is “to promote and encourage the participation of women in port affairs” and to “open up professional opportunities for women in executive positions of port authorities without limitations.” The subcommittee has the following functions: to generate alternatives for training and specialized technical assistance in specific subjects for port women; to establish and maintain a hemispheric communication network for port women; and to develop special plans to promote the incorporation of women in operational, administrative, and financial areas.

The delegation of the Dominican Republic currently chairs the subcommittee. Ecuador is the vice chair, and the other members are Argentina, Bahamas, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The CIP activities intended to improve gender equity and equality in the sector include:

- Establishment of an inter-American network of port women, to have a database that will integrate the women and facilitate communication among them and the other actors that interact in the sector, keeping them informed of CIP activities and technological developments in the port sector. The database currently has information from the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Suriname, and the Dominican Republic.
- Training activities, including among the most recent ones the seminar “Labor entry of women in the maritime-port sphere,” held April 21 and 22 in Montevideo, Uruguay, and the “Hemispheric seminar on the challenges faced by port women to meet the demands of the 21st century,” held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, August 18-21, 2009, which was attended by about 100 officials and executives from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Spain, the United States, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela. These training events make it possible afford port women appropriate opportunities for exchanging experiences and technical information with other women in the sector in the hemisphere.
- Strengthening of institutional relations. Agreements are being negotiated with national entities to expand cooperative relations, particularly with training and education centers in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Spain, and other international entities such as the Business Alliance for Secure Commerce (BASC) and the Women’s International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA).

B. COORDINATING OFFICE FOR THE OFFICES AND UNITS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN THE MEMBER STATES

1. Bolivia

The National Office reported that although there were no specific activities on the gender topic during the period, it promotes the gender perspective in all its activities.

2. Dominica

This Office facilitated a stakeholders meeting aimed at obtaining feedback from a wide cross-section of agencies in Dominica that respond to issues of HIV and violence against women. This stakeholders meeting occurred on September 11-12, 2009. The Office collaborated with the National Aids Response Program; assisted the Executive Secretariat of the CIM in implementing a local contract, and the representative presented at the official opening of the stakeholder meeting.

This stakeholders meeting was part of a CIM project entitled: “Capacity Building for Integrating Services on HIV and Violence against Women in the Caribbean – A Pilot Project.” The first phase of the project was a study conducted in 2007-2008 on the intersection of HIV and VAW in Dominica and Barbados. The Consultation allowed 20 participants in Dominica the opportunity to discuss the

findings and inject their perspectives on the way forward in identifying protocols that can assist in integrating and solidifying actions on these two significant socio-cultural problems.

Two OAS/FEMCIDI projects were executed in Dominica in 2009, namely: “Tourism Awareness and Training” and “Training of unemployed, marginalized, at-risk youth in Construction and Building Trades.”

The tourism training was relatively gender balanced, particularly in courses such as tour guiding and bartending. The construction skills course was heavily male oriented. The plumbing course was 20% female.

3. Saint Kitts and Nevis

- Promotion of democracy

The OAS St. Kitts and Nevis Country Office collaborated with the Department of Gender Affairs, within the Ministry of Health and Social Development, to conduct a series of courses in democracy that was primarily targeted at women in the Federation. The courses were taught by highly qualified professionals in government, the private sector, and NGOs. They covered such topics as Democratic Institutions, Women in Politics, the role of International Institutions in Promoting Democracy, Gender Equity and Equality and Gender Mainstreaming. The classes for the above-mentioned courses were held during a period of four months.

- Promotion of women in politics

Consistent with the multinational project entitled: “Promoting the Participation of Women in Politics for Good Governance and Democracy,” the OAS St. Kitts and Nevis Office again joined forces with the Department of Gender Affairs as well as with NGO groups in the Federation in organizing a regional workshop on the empowerment of women. This event attracted participants from neighboring OECS Territories, and focused on promoting and protecting women’s human rights and strategies for promoting the participation of women in politics for good governance and democracy. A panel discussion on how best to help women break down the barriers to political power in countries across the region formed an important highlight of this regional event.

- Launch of the Women’s Issues Manifesto

As part of a strategy to advance the equality agenda of women at every level, the OAS St. Kitts and Nevis Country Office supported the launch of the “Women’s Issues Manifesto”. The event took place on the sister island of Nevis in the presence of women’s groups, government officials and political leaders. The launching of the manifesto was an effort to highlight the issues that were critical to empowering women in the

Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis and to get the political parties in the twin-island country to focus on what women considered to be most important to them.

4. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Two OAS/FEMCIDI projects executed with the support of the OAS Office during the reporting period contributed significantly to the training, development, and economic independence of women:

- The three-year project, **Reducing rural poverty through entrepreneurship development**, which commenced in June 2008, continued to work to foster an effective rural development strategy in St. Vincent and the Grenadines by promoting the participation of rural residents (especially the poor, youth, and women), in the development of their communities. The project is providing practical training to budding and existing entrepreneurs, identifying business opportunities, providing hands-on business development assistance to existing businesses and improving the capacity of residents to craft and implement poverty alleviation strategies. Of the persons accessing and completing community-level entrepreneurship training up to January 31, 2010, over 80% were women.
- The four-year project, **Empowering caregivers for the roving caregivers program in St. Vincent and the Grenadines**, which commenced in June 2009, is training a group of Roving Caregivers to provide young, unemployed parents in five impoverished communities, with the values, skills, attitudes, knowledge and practices necessary for meeting the educational needs of their young children (birth – 3 years old). Three hundred and two (302) children from 287 families are currently enrolled in the program. None of them has access to formal early childhood education. Of the 287 families served, all are headed by young, unemployed women. Twenty-seven of the 28 roving caregivers being trained and certified by the project are women.