

Inter-American Commission of Women

Resolutions adopted during the XXXII Assembly of Delegates

Washington DC, October 27-29, 2004

Resolutions and Declarations

- CIM/RES.229 (XXXII-O/04)** Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará"
- CIM/RES.230 (XXXII-O/04)** Gender and Access to Decent Work to Address Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance
- CIM/RES.231 (XXXII-O/04)** Promoting the Role of Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict Management, and Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Peace-Building
- CIM/RES.232 (XXXII-O/04)** Integration of a Gender Perspective into and Hemispheric Policies and in the Summits of the Americas
- CIM/RES.233 (XXXII-O/04)** Biennial Work Program of the Inter-American Commission of Women, 2004-2006: Program Guidelines
- CIM/RES.234 (XXXII-O/04)** Meetings of the Executive Committee for the 2004-2006 Term
- CIM/RES.235 (XXXII-O/04)** Venue and Date of the Thirty-Third Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women
- CIM/RES.236 (XXXII-O/04)** Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children
- CIM/DEC.02/04 (XXXII-O/04)** Declaration of the Thirty-Second Assembly of Delegates of the CIM on the Adoption of the Statute of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, "Convention of Belém Do Pará"
- CIM/DEC.03/04 (XXXII-O/04)** Declaration on the Impact of the Proposed Restructuring of the Organization of American States

CIM/RES.229 (XXXII-O/04)

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

THE THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

WHEREAS:

The preamble to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," adopted in 1994, states that "the elimination of violence against women is essential for their individual and social development and their full and equal participation in all walks of life";

In the Convention of Belém do Pará, the states parties "agree to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies to prevent, punish and eradicate" all forms of violence against women;

The human rights of women must be safeguarded and violence against women reported as an infringement of human rights, as recognized at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, in the Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action, adopted in 1995, at the Twenty-third Special Session of the UN General Assembly, in the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in its Optional Protocol, and in the Lima Consensus, adopted at the Eighth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

The Convention of Belém do Pará is the only legally binding instrument in the world on gender-based violence and it is the starting point from which the states must implement national and regional policies, laws, and programs of action aimed at eradicating violence against women; and

In spite of the actions taken by the countries of the region, violence against women continues to be an area of special concern, and, for that reason, it was considered appropriate to have a Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women which can provide a means to analyze the progress and trends in implementing the Convention and facilitate cooperation among the states parties and among all member states of the OAS to advance its aims;

OBSERVING that, to date, the 31 member states that have ratified the Convention of Belém do Pará, as well as those that have not, have demonstrated their commitment to its objectives;

BEARING IN MIND that the declarations and plans of action of the Summits of the Americas and the Reports of the Rapporteurship of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on the Rights of Women have expressly determined that violence against women is an area for priority action and shown a marked interest in the topic, especially in the implementation and follow-up of the Convention;

CONSIDERING that at the Meeting of Experts called by the Inter-American Commission of Women and sponsored by the Government of Mexico, which took place in Washington, D.C., on July 20 and 21, 2004, with the participation of states parties to the Convention and others that are not parties to it, it was agreed to present for the consideration of the states parties a Draft Statute of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará; and

RECALLING that the Conference of States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará was held on October 26, 2004, with the participation of the states that are not parties, the IACHR, and the OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs, and that this Conference adopted the abovementioned Statute,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its satisfaction over the approval, by the Conference of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," of the Statute of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention and to present it to the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-fifth regular session.

2. To recommend that the member states take concrete measures to ensure the effective application and, where appropriate, the adjustment of national legislation, in keeping with regional and international conventions to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, in particular the Convention of Belém do Pará, as well as actions to improve their policies, plans, and programs to foster a culture of respect for human rights for everyone.

3. To encourage the member states that have not yet ratified the Convention of Belém do Pará to do so or to accede to it, whichever is applicable.

4. To congratulate the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM for its work since the beginning of the process of preparing the Convention of Belém do Pará, and especially for its efforts to achieve the adoption of the follow-up mechanism.

5. To request the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, in coordination with the OAS General Secretariat, to:

a. Prepare draft rules of procedure, a work schedule, and a work methodology for the Mechanism;

b. Prepare a draft questionnaire on the provisions of the Convention of Belém do Pará in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of the Statute of the Mechanism.

6. To invite all states parties and states not parties to the Convention, permanent observers, international financial institutions, and civil society organizations to make contributions to the specific fund that has been created for that purpose in the OAS; and also to recognize the contributions thus far made.

7. To invite the states parties to report to the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women on the appointment of experts to the Committee of Experts

that will serve as technical organ of the Mechanism to Follow Up on the Convention of Belém do Pará.

8. To request the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women to convene, in the first four months of 2005, the first meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism, in accordance with Article 11 of the Statute of the Mechanism, to consider the documents that will be prepared pursuant to operative paragraph 5.

9. To urge the states parties to report periodically to the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará on progress made and obstacles encountered in the implementation thereof.

CIM/RES.230 (XXXII-O/04)

**GENDER AND ACCESS TO DECENT WORK TO ADDRESS POVERTY AND STRENGTHEN
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

THE THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

WHEREAS:

In April 2004 the Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM II) was held, at which one declaration and five resolutions were adopted, on: "Integration of a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 4/04); "Women, Trade, and Economic Empowerment" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 5/04); "Violence against Women: Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 6/04); "Recommendations on 'Gender and Justice' to Be Presented to the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-V)" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 7/04); and "Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 8/04);

That, according to the mandates issued by REMIM II, some of its initiatives were presented for adoption by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth regular session, in addition to others put forth by the member states on matters of interest to the CIM, such as: AG/RES. 1977 (XXXIV-O/04), "Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the OAS"; AG/RES. 2011 (XXXIV-O/04), "Integrating a Gender Perspective into the Summits of the Americas"; AG/RES. 2012 (XXXIV-O/04), "Violence against Women: Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'" ; AG/RES. 2019, (XXXIV-O/04), "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children"; AG/RES. 2021 (XXXIV-O/04), "Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women"; AG/RES. 2023 (XXXIV-O/04), "Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality"; and AG/RES. 2050 (XXXIV-O/04), "Combating the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children in the Hemisphere"; and

That this Assembly is in full agreement with the aforementioned resolutions and considers compliance therewith a fundamental means of ensuring that the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) is implemented and, consequently, that a gender perspective is integrated into hemispheric policies, including preparations for the Summits of the Americas, as well as the resulting initiatives,

RESOLVES:

1. To execute the above-mentioned mandates from REMIM II and the General Assembly of the OAS, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the OAS, member states, and other relevant organizations.

2. To request the CIM Executive Committee to continue implementing the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) by:

- a. Following up on the integration of a gender perspective into policies and programs of the ministries of labor, justice, education, and science and technology (SEPIA);
- b. Promoting the inclusion of a gender perspective in the programs, policies, and operations of the inter-American system;
- c. Carrying out joint initiatives with organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS and civil society in order to facilitate gender mainstreaming as an institutional commitment;
- d. Supporting the member states in their initiatives aimed at integrating a gender perspective into public policies.

3. To request the CIM Permanent Secretariat to:

- a. Continue working closely with the Office for the Summits Process and the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) to ensure the incorporation of a gender perspective into all preparatory processes and documents of the Summits of the Americas and the acknowledgement of the fundamental role that gender equity and equality play in all development goals;
- b. Continue its role as the key policy-making body on gender equality and women's human rights in the Hemisphere, and to continue to build upon the work that has been achieved in the region in key priority areas, such as violence against women and trafficking in persons, especially women, adolescents, and children.

CIM/RES.231 (XXXII-O/04)

**PROMOTING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION, CONFLICT
MANAGEMENT, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND POST-CONFLICT PEACE-
BUILDING**

THE THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

CONSIDERING:

That the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec, and the Special Summit of Monterrey acknowledged women's empowerment as a central tenet in the "consolidation of democracy and conflict resolution";

That the Declaration of the Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM II) emphasized the "importance of facilitating women's participation in all efforts towards conflict prevention, peace-building and promotion, and security initiatives";

That the Declaration of the Special Conference on Security reaffirms "the importance of enhancing the participation of women in all efforts to promote peace and security" and promotes the integration of "a gender perspective in all policies, programs, and activities of all inter-American organs, agencies, entities, conferences, and processes that deal with matters of hemispheric security";

CONSIDERING ALSO the conclusions and agreements adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations at its 48th session with regard to the topic "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building";

BEARING IN MIND resolution CIM/RES. 227 (XXI-O/02), which underscores the importance of working in partnership with civil society organizations in order to support and promote the implementation in the Hemisphere of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, on women, peace, and security, adopted in 2000, which addresses the full participation of women in conflict prevention and peace-building;

RECOGNIZING:

That women are present in all aspects of conflict as victims, combatants, heads of family, leaders of their communities, peacemakers, negotiators, facilitators, mediators, and activists;

That they play a fundamental but unrecognized role in helping prevent, manage, and resolve conflict, foster post-conflict reconstruction, and promote peace and security;

That they are underrepresented at all levels of decision-making in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, in post-conflict reconstruction, and in national, regional, and international peace initiatives; and

That their contribution to democracy-building and good governance is essential to the construction of more stable and secure societies where conflict is less likely to develop; and

RECALLING that there are countries in the region that are implementing peace accords or are in the process of developing mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of their internal conflicts,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that the OAS General Secretariat promote the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict management and resolution, and post-conflict peace-building, with a view to helping to eliminate violations of women's human rights and to achieving peace and security in the Americas.

2. To strengthen efforts already under way with the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, and with nongovernmental organizations, such as Women Waging Peace, that support and promote the full and equal participation of women in conflict prevention, management, and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building, and that support and promote the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in the Hemisphere, especially in countries that are implementing peace agreements and/or those with internal conflicts.

3. To recommend to the General Secretariat of the OAS, in coordination with the CIM, that it carry out activities with external resources, such as a regional meeting of experts on women, peace, and security, in order to develop recommendations for the Fourth Summit of the Americas, to be held in 2005.

4. To continue working with the Committee on Hemispheric Security to integrate a gender perspective in all matters related to hemispheric security.

5. To urge member states to ensure increased representation of women in senior positions and at all decision-making levels and increased participation of women and civil society in national, regional, and international initiatives and institutions dealing with conflict prevention, management, negotiation, and resolution processes and post-conflict reconstruction.

CIM/RES.232 (XXXII-O/04)

INTEGRATION OF A GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO HEMISPHERIC POLICIES AND IN THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

THE THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

WHEREAS:

In April 2004 the Second Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM II) was held, at which one declaration and five resolutions were adopted, on: "Integration of a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 4/04); "Women, Trade, and Economic Empowerment" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 5/04); "Violence against Women: Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 6/04); "Recommendations on 'Gender and Justice' to Be Presented to the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-V)" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 7/04); and "Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women" (CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 8/04);

That, according to the mandates issued by REMIM II, some of its initiatives were presented for adoption by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth regular session, in addition to others put forth by the member states on matters of interest to the CIM, such as: AG/RES. 1977 (XXXIV-O/04), "Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the OAS"; AG/RES. 2011 (XXXIV-O/04), "Integrating a Gender Perspective into the Summits of the Americas"; AG/RES. 2012 (XXXIV-O/04), "Violence against Women: Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'" ; AG/RES. 2019, (XXXIV-O/04), "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children"; AG/RES. 2021 (XXXIV-O/04), "Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women"; AG/RES. 2023 (XXXIV-O/04), "Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality"; and AG/RES. 2050 (XXXIV-O/04), "Combating the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children in the Hemisphere"; and

That this Assembly is in full agreement with the aforementioned resolutions and considers compliance therewith a fundamental means of ensuring that the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) is implemented and, consequently, that a gender perspective is integrated into hemispheric policies, including preparations for the Summits of the Americas, as well as the resulting initiatives,

RESOLVES:

1. To execute the above-mentioned mandates from REMIM II and the General Assembly of the OAS, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the OAS, member states, and other relevant organizations.

2. To request the CIM Executive Committee to continue implementing the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) by:

- a. Following up on the integration of a gender perspective into policies and programs of the ministries of labor, justice, education, and science and technology (SEPIA);
- b. Promoting the inclusion of a gender perspective in the programs, policies, and operations of the inter-American system;
- c. Carrying out joint initiatives with organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS and civil society in order to facilitate gender mainstreaming as an institutional commitment;
- d. Supporting the member states in their initiatives aimed at integrating a gender perspective into public policies.

3. To request the CIM Permanent Secretariat to:

- a. Continue working closely with the Office for the Summits Process and the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) to ensure the incorporation of a gender perspective into all preparatory processes and documents of the Summits of the Americas and the acknowledgement of the fundamental role that gender equity and equality play in all development goals;
- b. Continue its role as the key policy-making body on gender equality and women's human rights in the Hemisphere, and to continue to build upon the work that has been achieved in the region in key priority areas, such as violence against women and trafficking in persons, especially women, adolescents, and children.

CIM/RES.233 (XXXII-O/04)

**BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAM OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,
2004-2006: PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

THE THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

HAVING SEEN the Draft Biennial Work Program of the CIM 2004-2006 – Program Guidelines (CIM/doc.9/04), presented by the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM; and

CONSIDERING:

That the Biennial Work Program contains guidelines that serve as the basis for implementing the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women for the 2004-2006 term; and

That coordinated programming must be guaranteed in order to serve the strategic areas of action appropriately, based on the mandates of the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, the General Assembly of the OAS, the Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States, and, where appropriate, the Summits of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the Biennial Work Program of the Inter-American Commission of Women, 2004-2006: Program Guidelines, contained in the appendix to this resolution.
2. To report to the Executive Committee of the CIM on the implementation of this Biennial Work Program.

Appendix

**BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAM OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,
2004-2006: PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

I. GENERAL CRITERIA

The Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), approved by the 2000 Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM I), adopted at the thirtieth regular session of the General Assembly of the OAS in 2000, and subsequently endorsed by the Quebec Summit of the Americas (2001), is a clear manifestation of the Hemisphere's consensus on the need to undertake initiatives, both in the member states and at the OAS, in which the integration of a gender perspective should be included as a key element for promoting development.

This commitment was reaffirmed at the Special Summit of the Americas (Nuevo León, 2004), where the Heads of State and Government reiterated "that the empowerment of women, their full and equal participation in the development of our societies, and their equal opportunities to exercise leadership are fundamental for the reduction of poverty, the promotion of economic and social prosperity, and for people-centered

sustainable development," and where they also reaffirmed their commitment to continue promoting gender equality and equity and the mandates of the Summits of the Americas on this matter.

The IAP provides specific recommendations for the member states, and mandates for the OAS General Secretariat and for the CIM, on the integration of a gender perspective into hemispheric policy. Although the mandates are wide-ranging, they encompass and address a broad spectrum of issues. In compliance with the mandates received from the IAP, the OAS General Secretariat has begun the process of integrating a gender perspective into the programs and policies of its organs, agencies, and entities, recognizing that the work done by the OAS must equally benefit both women and men. Since its approval, the IAP has become a blueprint for action and, in the 2004-2006 biennium, the CIM's work will focus, among other activities, on its implementation.

As referenced above, the Plan of Action adopted at the 2001 Quebec Summit of the Americas constituted an important mandate, reflecting common priority areas such as those already identified by the CIM. In addition, it expressed the need to strengthen the role of the CIM as the technical advisory body of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), and made clear that the CIM must continue working as advisor on gender in the process of preparing for the next Summits. This is important, because, despite the fact that a chapter on gender was included at the Third Summit, gender has not been integrated into all areas as a cross-cutting issue. Special follow-up and work will be required for continued progress in the implementation of the objectives of the IAP and the mandates of the Summit.

Within the framework of previously identified priorities, the CIM will continue directing its efforts towards regional activities that institutionalize the progress achieved with the recommendations made to the ministries of labor, justice, education, and science and technology on the development of policies that mainstream the gender perspective. The CIM will focus attention not only on efforts that can exert a multiplier effect but also on activities that demonstrate sustainability over the longer term, in order to prevent initiatives from appearing as isolated phenomena, with a limited impact both over time and in terms of the number of persons targeted by this activity or program.

As stated in the IAP, responsibility for gender mainstreaming and implementation of the Program should not, and cannot, be left entirely to the CIM; and this will only be successful with the active engagement of other partners and member states and the commitment of the OAS as an institution. In this context, to ensure a more effective integration of gender as a cross-cutting issue, the CIM will continue strengthening its relationships with other bodies of the inter-American system, entities and organizations of the OAS, international institutions, and civil society organizations.

II. FINANCIAL SITUATION

The financial situation of the OAS has led to a freeze on hiring, amendment of the rules governing the hiring of independent contractors, and new cuts in the CIM's budget. This has negatively affected the CIM's capacity to carry out its functions, fulfill its mandate, and negotiate with its counterparts in the international community on an equal basis. Since the outlook is very difficult for the OAS, it will have serious repercussions for the CIM.

The reduction in the CIM's budget has been painful. Since 1997, the budget has declined from approximately US\$1.1 million to US\$893,000, a loss of approximately a

quarter of a millions dollars. In 2003, the Seed Fund, which for many years constituted a much-needed source of funding for women's organizations in the member states, had to be eliminated. It is important to note that the very important work that was conducted in the area of violence against women and trafficking in women and children has depended solely on external funding.

Unless additional financial, human, and external resources are secured for the 2004-2006 biennium, the CIM's authorities will have to realistically assess its mandates, so as not to create false expectations. Because of the CIM's financial constraints for the next biennium, efforts to identify external resources and establish strategic partnerships, as in the previous biennium, will be intensified.

The Permanent Secretariat will continue to provide, to the extent of its technical and financial possibilities, support to the principal delegates in their promotion of activities in the member states.

III. PRIORITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM

1. Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality – Measures for Action

1.1 Within the member states: Both the IAP and the Plan of Action of the Quebec Summit have recognized the CIM as the principal hemispheric policymaking forum for promoting women's human rights and gender equality. As such, the Permanent Secretariat shall promote greater involvement of CIM delegates, in their respective countries, in the implementation of the policies developed by the CIM Secretariat and adopted by the Commission.

The CIM has obtained highly positive results from the initiative known as SEPIA. This process, developed in partnership with gender experts, was designed to implement the IAP's mandates by presenting, through the venue of the ministerials, recommendations on the integration of a gender perspective and suggested lines of action to the member states. To date, the CIM has worked in the areas of Labor (SEPIA I); Justice (SEPIA II); Education (SEPIA III); and Science and Technology (SEPIA IV). But to capitalize on and promote this initiative there must be appropriate follow-up. This will be achieved if the CIM delegates, in their countries, support the CIM's efforts, by conducting follow-up activities that endorse the implementation of the SEPIA recommendations in the work carried out by these ministries and promote not only the integration of a gender perspective at the ministerial level but the design of multi-sectoral strategies and approaches.

The CIM will continue implementing its strategy to achieve full integration of the gender perspective into the above-mentioned areas, participating actively, to the extent possible, in all the follow-up activities of the ministerial meetings and the preparations for the ensuing meetings.

Finally, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2023 (XXXIV-O/04), the CIM will encourage the member states to continue their efforts to develop public policies, strengthen institutional mechanisms for promoting women, and guarantee the enforcement of laws promoting women's human rights and equal opportunities for women and men at all levels. All of this will depend directly on the availability of resources needed for the 2004-2006 biennium.

1.2 Within the OAS: In compliance with the IAP's general objective "to systematically integrate a gender perspective in all organs, organizations, and entities of the inter-American system," the CIM, in its role as the organization specializing in gender affairs, will continue to encourage, along with the OAS General Secretariat, the development of OAS staff training activities, so as to continue promoting an awareness of the need to integrate a gender perspective into all OAS activities and programs. As permitted by its funding, the CIM proposes to provide capacity-building courses and activities to support trainers already trained, so that they may continue to support OAS professional staff responsible for programs and policies. In addition, the CIM will identify training courses for the OAS field staff, for staff who did not participate in previous training, and for new staff members.

Additionally, to comply with the mandates of REMIM II, the CIM will intensify its work with other organs and agencies of the OAS, such as the Office of Trade, Growth, and Competitiveness (OTGC), the Office for the Promotion of Democracy (OPD), the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Office of Education, Science, and Technology (OEST), and the Division of Social Development, Education, Science, and Technology (DSDEST).

1.3 Strengthening the CIM: At its thirty-fourth regular session, the General Assembly of the OAS adopted resolution AG/RES. 2021 (XXXIV-O/04), "Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women," which urges the Secretary General to provide the CIM with sufficient human and financial resources to strengthen its capacity to comply with its mandate. In addition, it requests that the Secretary General include CIM projects and programs among the priorities that are presented to external donors for funding. Finally, the member states were invited to provide voluntary contributions to support the development and implementation of the Commission's projects and programs. As a practical measure, this provision asks that the Permanent Council invite the CIM Executive Secretary to present reports on the financial resources needed to fulfill its mandates. This is a reiteration of what is set forth in the IAP, which recommends strengthening the technical, human, and financial resources of the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM as a necessary mechanism to enable it to promote relevant initiatives aimed at applying its objectives and conducting appropriate follow-up.

1.4 With civil society: In fulfillment of the mandates received from the General Assembly of OAS, the Summits of the Americas, the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, and the IAP, the CIM will continue the process of integrating civil society organizations into its activities and will promote their accreditation by the OAS as a way of furthering their participation in the inter-American system. The CIM will continue to work jointly with civil society gender experts to attain the goals of the IAP. The newly-created fund for civil society participation will allow greater possibilities for a more sustained relationship with these organizations. In addition, the CIM will continue upgrading its website on the Internet so that it may continue to serve as a repository of information on gender issues available to civil society organizations.

2. Fourth Summit of the Americas

As technical advisor to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on gender issues, and in conformity with the mandates of the Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates, the CIM submitted to the SIRG the recommendation of the Assembly of Delegates on incorporating a gender perspective into the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, Canada, in April 2001.

These recommendations were taken into account. The Plan of Action of the Summit contains a section on women's human rights and a chapter on gender equality, and uses an approach aimed at mainstreaming gender issues into matters of labor and employment, civil society, health, justice, and indigenous peoples. It endorses the IAP, urging the integration of "a gender perspective into the programs, actions and agendas of national and international events, to ensure that women's experiences and gender equality are an integral dimension of the design, implementation and evaluation of government and inter-American policies and programs in all spheres."

The CIM is currently working in coordination with the Office for the Summits Process, in accordance with the provisions of resolution AG/RES. 2011 (XXXIV-O/04), in order to achieve the integration of the gender perspective into the process of preparation for the next Summit, to be held in Argentina in November 2005. The central theme of the Summit will be "Creating Employment to Confront Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance," an area that offers the CIM many opportunities to use its expertise in gender, as well as to incorporate the recommendations emanating from REMIM II on the economic integration of women.

3. Strategic Plan of Action of the CIM – priority areas of action

In the past, the Plan has oriented the development of strategies in four priority areas of action. The Plan was extended by the Twenty-ninth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM to the year 2005. Submitted to the Fourth World Conference in Beijing almost 10 years ago, it has been a highly valuable instrument, and in the future it will be a document for consultation and orientation, because the topics it addresses continue to be essential to the CIM's work, especially those identified below.

3.1 Education

The Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, in specific objective #5, urges the member states of the OAS to promote gender equity and equality and women's human rights, among others, by securing their full and equal access to "education at all levels and to the various fields of study." This is reaffirmed in specific objective #8, which calls for "the elimination of cultural patterns or stereotypes that denigrate the image of women, particularly in educational materials" In addition, as one of the actions to be developed by the General Secretariat of the OAS, the IAP calls for the adoption of the necessary measures to promote the incorporation of this perspective into the work of the bodies of the inter-American system.

The CIM's proposal to incorporate the gender perspective into education is based on the premise that this perspective provides the basis for promoting the cultural changes that facilitate the achievement of gender equity and equality, as well as being a mechanism for social and economic mobility, integration, and poverty reduction. Although the equal access of women to all levels of education constitutes fundamental progress, there are other positive outcomes resulting from educating children in values of equity, tolerance, respect for diversity, and citizen training.

Education with a gender perspective involves the training of children at the earliest age in principles of equity and equality, paving the way to overcoming greater barriers based on gender inequity--among others, unequal access to the job market. It induces processes of cultural change in both men and women, such as responsible parenthood and

the equal distribution of household chores. In addition, it creates conditions for the empowerment of women and, finally, builds a society that is more fair and equitable.

In this area, and in accordance with the results of SEPIA III: Gender and Education, the CIM proposes activities aimed at encouraging sociocultural changes and eliminating stereotypes of domestic and job roles in order to raise awareness of the need for men and women to share public and private roles and responsibilities. It will continue working closely with the Division of Social Development, Education, Science, and Technology to ensure follow up of the implementation of the gender perspective into the outcomes of the next education ministerial. The CIM will focus attention on the education of women at all stages of life and will give special attention to training programs for groups whose education is lagging behind, such as minorities, the rural population, the marginalized urban population, indigenous groups, and other ethnic groups. This will require the active participation of the principal delegates to achieve closer ties with the ministries of education, so as to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations developed by gender experts in SEPIA III: Gender and Education.

3.2 Eradication of poverty and discrimination --empowerment of women

The CIM has been developing multidimensional and multisectoral strategies for dealing with this very important topic. Both the declarations and the plans of action of the Summits of the Americas have increasingly expressed special concern over this topic.

Specifically, the Special Summit held in Monterrey, Mexico, at the beginning of 2004 emphasized that the participation of women in the development of our societies and their access to equal opportunities to exercise leadership are fundamental for reducing poverty and promoting economic and social prosperity and people-centered sustainable development.

Education and training are an investment in human capital leading to improved opportunities, better integration of individuals into the job market, and higher remuneration in more productive sectors. A dynamic productive sector, sustained by skilled workers and competitive companies, contributes to better integration of economies into an increasingly liberalized global market. On the basis of this analysis, it is necessary to examine the relationship between education, the job market, and trade. Since policies are not gender-neutral, efforts must be made to prevent policy decisions, especially those on the topics mentioned above, from adversely affecting women.

The CIM will continue to promote the integrated treatment of these topics as a way to combat poverty. A strong relationship between education and labor is a strategic alliance, and a necessity in order to educate women for improved access to the labor market, competitiveness at all levels, and greater opportunities to attain leadership positions.

The next Summit will focus on the theme "Creating Employment to Confront Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance," and offers a broad range of initiatives in pursuit of the CIM's objectives this area; the CIM will focus on this theme in its role as gender advisor to the Summit process.

3.3 Human rights and the elimination of violence against women

3.3.1 Violence against women. Since the adoption of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," the CIM has developed initiatives to pursue the Convention's objectives. To date, 31 member states have signed and ratified the Convention. The CIM will continue its efforts to encourage the other member states to become parties to this Convention.

After the Thirty-first Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, and in compliance with resolution CIM/RES. 224 (XXXI-O/02), adopted at that meeting, the Commission drafted a proposal for establishing a mechanism for follow-up of implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, and conducted a consultation process for this proposal with governments and civil society. With the sponsorship of the Mexican Government, the CIM convened a meeting of experts on July 20 and 21, 2004, to adopt the recommendations of these experts on the draft mechanism. In coordination with the CIM, the Secretary General convened a Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on October 26, 2004, at which the Mechanism was adopted, in accordance with the provisions of resolutions AG/RES. 1942 (XXXIII-O/03) and AG/RES. 2012 (XXXIV-O/04) of the OAS General Assembly.

For the next biennium, according to the Statute of the Mechanism to Follow Up on the Convention of Belém do Pará, it will be a function of the CIM to carry out the relevant activities, as the Technical Secretariat, with a view to its implementation.

The Commission will also implement the mandates contained in resolution CIM/RES.229 (XXXII-O/04), adopted by the Thirty-second Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, pertaining to the Statute of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará.

The Commission will continue to promote activities aimed at preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women, giving continuity to the initiatives carried out with the Pan American Health Organization, UNIFEM, and the World Bank.

3.3.2. International trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation in the Americas. In association with the International Organization for Migration, the CIM will continue its work on this very important issue and will continue the work begun in Mexico, Bolivia, and Belize. These projects have been made possible by funding from the U.S. Government and the Government of Mexico; they will last approximately one year. Their main purpose is to assess the situation in the countries, in terms of origin, transit, or destination, and to build up the institutional capacity to prevent the smuggling of women and children, protect victims, and punish traffickers.

Similar projects are being implemented in six countries of the English-speaking Caribbean in 2004 and part of 2005, under the direction of the IOM and in collaboration with the CIM. The U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration granted specific funds for the projects in the Caribbean to the IOM.

The CIM will seek additional funding to finance future anti-trafficking projects in the remaining countries of the region. In addition, and in compliance with General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 1948 (XXXIII-O/03) and AG/RES. 2019 (XXXIV-O/04), the CIM will oversee related activities and work closely with the OAS Coordinator on the Issue of Trafficking in Persons on, them.

The CIM, along with other OAS bodies with competence in this area, will seek additional external resources to coordinate a regional meeting in 2005 on trafficking in persons,

especially women and children, as recommended by the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA V), held in April 2004.

In addition, in resolution AG/RES. 2019 (XXXIV-O/04) the General Assembly resolved:

“To welcome the recommendation of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas to hold a meeting of national authorities on this matter, with the participation of the CIM, the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and other related international organizations, for the purpose of studying integral cooperation mechanisms among the states to ensure protection of and assistance to the victims, prevention of the crime, and prosecution of its perpetrators, bearing in mind respect for the victims' human rights. The said meeting will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences, policy dialogue, and cooperation among the countries of origin, transit, and destination of trafficking in persons, as well as the establishment or improvement of statistical records in this area.”

The CIM will provide technical assistance to the aforementioned special meeting of the Permanent Council. In addition, the CIM will partner with the IOM and provide technical assistance at a regional meeting on trafficking, to be held in 2005 and hosted by the IOM.

The CIM will also comply with the mandate received in AG/RES. 2050 (XXXIV-O/04), on the sexual exploitation of children, reporting on the work done by the CIM, which also addresses this particular issue.

3.3.3. Women, peace, and security in the Americas

The Commission will continue to develop initiatives, in coordination with other OAS bodies, such as the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Permanent Council and the Office for the Promotion of Democracy, and with civil society organizations, such as Women Waging Peace and others, to strengthen the participation of women in all activities aimed at preventing conflicts, consolidating and promoting peace, and hemispheric security. In the context of the IAP, activities will be promoted to include a gender perspective in the programs and activities of the inter-American bodies related to hemispheric security.

As a first step, resources are being sought to develop a pilot project to train peacemakers, both women and men, to integrate a gender perspective into peace-building processes in Central America and the Andean subregion.

The Commission will also seek to support the fight against corruption and organized crime to the extent that it contributes to eradicating violence against women and trafficking in persons.

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[1] Spanish acronym for "Follow-Up of the Inter-American Program" (SEguimiento del Programa Interamericano)

CIM/RES.234 (XXXII-O/04)

MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2004-2006 TERM

THE THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

BEARING IN MIND that the General Assembly of the OAS, at its eleventh regular session [(resolution AG/RES. 537 (XI-O/81)], and at subsequent regular sessions, instructed the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to schedule their meetings in strict observance of the corresponding budgetary levels, reducing in each instance if necessary the number and length of such meetings, even when there are regulatory provisions to the contrary; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution CIM/RES. 54/82 (XXI-O/82), "Sessions of the 1982/84 Executive Committee," in which the Twenty-first Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women, considering that the financial situation of the Organization of American States demanded austerity measures for all activities financed by the Organization, resolved to authorize the President of the CIM, once only, and as an exceptional measure for the 1982-1984 biennium, to call three regular meetings per year of the Executive Committee for that term; and

CONSIDERING:

That, since then, the CIM, at its subsequent Assemblies, has adopted resolutions that limit the number of meetings of the Executive Committee to three per year, since it is financially impossible to comply with the provisions of the Regulations that establish a greater number of regular meetings per year;

That Article 39 of the Regulations of the Inter-American Commission of Women, adopted at the Twenty-ninth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM through CIM/RES. 201 (XXIX-O/00) of November 18, 1998, stipulates that "the Executive Committee shall hold a regular meeting every three months at the headquarters of the Commission, or in any country of the Americas if it so decides, for as long as it deems advisable. It may also hold special meetings when the President or at least four of its members so request."; and

That the critical financial situation of the OAS which led to the adoption of austerity measures for all activities financed by the Organization continues,

RESOLVES:

1. To suspend application of Article 39 of the Regulations of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) until such time as the Assembly takes a decision.
2. To authorize the President of the CIM to convene up to four regular meetings of the Executive Committee of the CIM per biennium.

CIM/RES.235 (XXXII-O/04)

VENUE AND DATE OF THE THIRTY-THIRD ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

THE THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

CONSIDERING:

That the Government of El Salvador, through its Principal Delegate, Carmen Elena Calderón de Escalón, has offered to host the Thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women, to be held in 2006,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its thanks to the Government of El Salvador for its kind offer.
2. To hold the Thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women in El Salvador, in the first two weeks of November 2006.
3. To entrust the Executive Committee with following up on this offer, in accordance with the provisions of Article 12 of the Regulations of the Commission.
4. To instruct the Executive Committee that, when preparing for the Thirty-third Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, it take whatever measures are necessary to carry out the Assembly in three days, and, insofar as possible, make its characteristics and structure similar to those of the Thirty-second Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.

CIM/RES.236 (XXXII-O/04)

FIGHTING THE CRIME OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, ADOLESCENTS, AND CHILDREN

THE THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

CONSIDERING resolution CIM/RES. 225 (XXXI-O/02), "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children"; resolution AG/RES. 1776 (XXXI-O/01), "Support for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime"; and resolutions AG/RES. 1948 (XXXIII-O/03) and AG/RES. 2019 (XXXIV-O/04), "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, as they pertain to trafficking in persons, especially women and children (REMJA-V/doc.9/04);

RECALLING that resolution AG/RES. 2019 (XXXIV-O/04) recognizes that "progress has been made in the region, in particular, in the development of appropriate mechanisms and legal reforms to combat and prevent trafficking in persons, and in victim assistance and protection and the punishment of traffickers"; and

CONSIDERING that this issue has been addressed by the Inter-American Commission of Women, which, in recent years, in partnership with the Inter-American Children's Institute, has executed projects in Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama; and which, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is now carrying out projects in Mexico, Bolivia, Belize, The Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and St. Martin (Netherlands Antilles),

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for its execution of projects in the Americas and its support for national initiatives aimed at preventing trafficking in women, adolescents, and children, which is a matter of increasing concern to governments and civil society.

2. To support the request to member states to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing said Convention, and to take the necessary national measures to implement those instruments.

3. To urge member states to complete their internal processes for determining whether to sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors.

4. To urge member states, in accordance with their national legal systems and the international instruments, to adopt the measures necessary to implement the recommendations of resolution CIM/RES. 225 (XXXI-O/02), "Fighting the Crime of

Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children," so as to enhance their legal, judicial, and administrative systems, and to consider the establishment, where appropriate, of mechanisms and strategies to prevent and combat the crime of trafficking in persons, especially women, adolescents, and children, and to protect victims.

5. In accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2019 (XXXIV-O/04), "[to] welcome the recommendation of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas to hold a meeting of national authorities on this matter, with the participation of the CIM, the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and other related international organizations, for the purpose of studying integral cooperation mechanisms among the states to ensure protection of and assistance to the victims, prevention of the crime, and prosecution of its perpetrators, bearing in mind respect for the victims' human rights. The said meeting will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences, policy dialogue, and cooperation among the countries of origin, transit, and destination of trafficking in persons, as well as the establishment or improvement of statistical records in this area."

6. To coordinate with other appropriate organs of the Organization the convocation, in 2005, of the meeting mentioned in the previous paragraph, and to include participation by experts on this issue, civil society organizations registered with the OAS, and other organizations, especially those working in this area.

7. To cooperate with the OAS Coordinator on the Issue of Trafficking in Persons on the development of policy initiatives of importance to the region, as well as in program planning and project development, as established in resolution AG/RES. 1948 (XXXIII-O/03).

CIM/DEC. 2 (XXXII-O/04)

DECLARATION OF THE THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE CIM ON THE ADOPTION OF THE STATUTE OF THE MECHANISM TO FOLLOW UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, "CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ"

In Washington, D.C., on October 28, 2004, we, the Principal Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the OAS, gathered on the occasion of the Thirty-second Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, welcome the adoption by acclamation of the Statute of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," by the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, held on October 26, 2004, at OAS headquarters.

We commend the Government of Mexico on this initiative, one that is in the interest of all states parties, and wish to thank the CIM Permanent Secretariat for its efforts in accomplishing this objective, as well as all member states for their contributions during the Conference of States Parties, which also enjoyed the active participation of the states not parties to the Convention. This joint effort enabled that important instrument to come to fruition—an instrument that will unquestionably contribute to enhanced hemispheric collaboration in the struggle against violence and serve as the starting point for a new phase of implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará.

We consider as essential our commitment to ensuring that this Mechanism is implemented without delay, so that the objectives of the Convention of Belém do Pará may be attained and the women of our region may exercise the right to live free from violence.

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We encourage all states parties and those states not parties to the Convention, permanent observers, international financial institutions, and civil society organizations to make contributions to the specific fund that has been created for that purpose in the OAS.

CIM/DEC.3 (XXXII-O/04)

DECLARATION ON THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

THE THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

Recalls that, since its establishment in 1928 as the first intergovernmental organization in the world created to ensure the political and civil rights of women, the CIM has been active in promoting the rights of women, promoting the advancement of women, and creating a system that promotes equity, equality, and access for women and men to the benefits of democracy through the development of policies that integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue into all policy areas;

Emphasizes that since the First Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States, in 2000, the CIM has implemented the actions mandated to it by the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), especially ensuring the integration of a gender perspective within the inter-American system;

Reiterates that the Quebec Summit of the Americas has reinforced the role of the CIM as the technical advisor to the Summit process on all aspects of gender equity and equality, and has specifically endorsed the CIM as the principal policy-generating forum in the Hemisphere for the advancement of women; and that the CIM is increasingly called upon as a partner and/or technical advisor by the different organs, commissions, and committees of the Organization;

Recalls that the 1978 Agreement between the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Commission of Women states that the "Commission shall enjoy the broadest technical autonomy but must bear in mind the recommendations of the General Assembly and of the Councils of the Organization";

Further recalls that the function of the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM is to perform the administrative, technical, and executive functions of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and that, as such, it receives its mandates from the Assembly of Delegates and the Executive Committee.

The Assembly therefore views with concern the proposed restructuring of the OAS, which assigns the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM to the Human Rights Area, although it is aware that the restructuring is necessary and that changes are taking place in all departments and units of the OAS.

It strongly urges the Acting Secretary General to consider, in the restructuring, the unique status of the CIM and the fact that the Permanent Secretariat, given the nature of its work, must have a position in the Organization that enables it to relate horizontally to all organs of the inter-American system, allowing it to execute its mandates efficiently and to contribute to the commitment made by the OAS to integrate a gender perspective into all the Organization's policies and programs.