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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (May 2016 to February 2017)

The present report details the activities of the President and Executive Secretariat of the CIM as of the 37th Assembly of Delegates of the CIM in May 2016.

1. Presidency of the CIM

In accordance with Article 19 of the Statute of the CIM, the Government of Peru, through its Permanent Mission to the OAS,¹ informed the Principal Delegates and the Executive Secretariat of its intent to continue with the Presidency of the CIM and accredited Ana María Romero-Lozada Lauezzari, Minister for Women and Vulnerable Populations, as its Principal Delegate.

2. XXXVII Assembly of Delegates of the CIM

The Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM was held in Lima, Perú from May 24th to 25th 2016. The Assembly included an informal meeting of Heads of Delegation, an inaugural session, four plenary sessions, including a thematic panel, and a closing session.²

The Assembly was organized around the theme “Equality and Autonomy in the Exercise of Women’s Rights,” as a strategic key to their physical and sexual autonomy. An initial round table discussed both significant progress and persistent challenges in achieving full economic citizenship for women at the regional level, followed by an exchange among the CIM Delegates on good practices on the thematic axis of the Assembly.³

The main results of the Assembly were:

- Adoption of the "Lima Declaration on Equality and Autonomy in the Exercise of Women’s Economic Rights" (CIM / DEC. 15 (XXXVII-O / 16));⁴

1. Note 7-5-M/155 of August 12th 2016

2. For more information on the development and results of the Assembly, see CIM / doc.18 / 16 "Minutes of the Thirty-seventh Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women" at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/CIM-doc18.16.ing-ActaAoD37.doc>

3. Details of these good practices can be found in the above-mentioned document CIM/doc.18/16

4. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/DeclaracionLIMA-ENG.pdf>

- Adoption of the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 of the Inter-American Commission of Women;⁵
- Adoption of the Triennial Program of Work 2016-2019 of the Inter-American Commission of Women;⁶ and
- Election of a new Executive Committee of the CIM for the 2016-2019 period, with the following composition:

President	Peru
Vice-Presidents	Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay
Members	Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Panama

3. Strategic Plan 2016-2021 of the Inter-American Commission of Women

Taking into account the challenges of achieving full citizenship for women and respect for their rights, in 2011 the Thirty-Fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM adopted the *Strategic Plan 2011-2016 of the CIM*⁷ with a view to:

- positioning the CIM as a hemispheric policy forum and as reference point for forging the full citizenship of women from a human rights perspective;
- coordinating and harmonizing the actions of the CIM with those of the OAS; and
- institutionalizing the rights and gender equality approach in the main forums and programs and in the institutional planning of the Organization.

The Plan was structured around four programmatic areas in order to harmonize and coordinate the CIM's actions with the four strategic pillars of the OAS: democracy, human rights, development and security:

- i. Substantive political citizenship of women for democracy;
- ii. Human rights of women and gender-based violence;
- iii. Women's economic security and citizenship; and
- iv. Citizen security from a gender perspective.

In addition, the Plan addressed what the CIM considers to be a fifth "pillar" and one of its main mandates: institutionalizing the rights and gender equality approach in the work of the OAS.

Following the initial exercise of coordination, harmonization, strengthening and optimization of resources, which had a significant impact on the work of the Commission and its visibility in the hemisphere, the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 was prepared and should be carried out, from both a conceptual and methodological point of view, from a human rights approach, which seeks to re-establish the specificity of women's human rights within the general framework of international and inter-American conventions, which are the normative benchmark for supporting harmonization of legislation in the area of women's rights. This approach also takes into account the relationship between gender, class, ethnicity, age, geographic location, sexual orientation and disability as central factors that condition and shape the possibilities and opportunities of people in the economic, social, political and cultural spheres

In addition to providing a roadmap for the work of the CIM over the next five years, the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan seeks to place the Commission and its work in the broader context of the ongoing hemispheric debates on the Organization of American States (OAS), its relevance, its strategic orientation and its financial situation. Current discussions on the strategic vision of the OAS have focused on the need to:

- Seek further sources of funds to enable the Organization to continue operating with the staff and resources it needs to meet its current mandates; and

5. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/CIM-StrategicPlan2016-2021-EN.pdf>

6. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/CIM-doc7.Rev1.16.ing-ProgramaTrienal2016-2018.doc>

7. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/CIM/docs/CIM-StrategicPlan2011-2016-ENweb.pdf>

- Rationalize the work of the OAS in order to maximize its comparative advantages and to curtail some of the activities that have contributed to an excessive dispersion of limited resources and, in some cases, a duplication of tasks.

These two objectives are of absolute relevance to the Inter-American Commission of Women and provide the guiding framework for this Strategic Plan, whose purpose is to prioritize and continue the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2016 in order to make the most of limited resources, and to focus both the work of the Commission and its fundraising activities on certain issues.

4. Mandates from the OAS General Assembly

The forty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly was held from June 13th to 15th 2016 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The President of the CIM (Peru) delegated to the Executive Secretary the presentation of the annual reports of the CIM:⁸

- Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to the General Assembly (CIM/doc. 131/16 corr.1);
- Report on the Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) (CIM/doc.132/16);
- Report on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belem do Para,” in accordance with AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14) (CIM/doc.133/16.corr1).

The Assembly adopted the following declarations and resolutions that are relevant to the work of the CIM:

- AG/DEC. 81 (XLVI-O/16) “Declaration on Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development in the Americas”⁹
- AG/RES. 2887 (XLVI-O/16) “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights”¹⁰
- The Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and their Families;¹¹ and
- AG/DEC. 84 (XLVI-O/16) “Declaration on Zika Virus: Inter-American Cooperation to meet a Global Health Threat.”¹²

5. Mandates in force from the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015

On May 7th and 8th 2015, the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015 held its Fifth Regular Session in Washington, D.C., and 7 agreements were adopted. The status of implementation of these agreements is as follows:

Agreement	Status of implementation
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8. The full texts of these reports are available on the CIM Website at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/reports.asp>

9. In particular, paragraph 6 “Promote and strengthen the formulation and implementation of public policies, strategies, and actions to foster gender equity and equality and the effective empowerment of women as necessary conditions for the full respect of human rights of all women and girls in all spheres of public and private life; likewise, advance actions and combine efforts in the fight against all forms and manifestations of violence against women, including femicide/femicide, and discrimination against women and girls.”

10. In particular, section xxi on “Strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for the promotion of gender equity and equality, women’s human rights, and the elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence,” and section xxii on “Strengthening the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI)”

11. In particular, paragraphs 12 to 14 on the role of the CIM in the implementation of the program

12. In particular, paragraphs 2d,f,g in relation to the vulnerability and participation of pregnant women

Agreement	Status of implementation
<p>1 The CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015, at its Fifth Regular Session held in Washington, DC, on May 7, 2015, agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit to the Secretary General-Elect of the Organization of American States (OAS) the two candidacies presented for the post of CIM Executive Secretary, in keeping with Article 28 of the CIM Statute; 2. Attach thereto the candidates' résumés, notes from their respective Foreign Ministries, and the Minutes of the Fifth Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015, which reflect the delegations' presentations and subsequent comments, as a mechanism for the process' transparency; 3. Affirm that both candidacies comply with the requirements provided for in the four pertinent legal instruments: the Statute of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the 1978 Agreement between the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Program-Budget of the Organization for 2015-2016 [AG/RES. 1 (XLVIII-E/14)], and Executive Order No. 08-01 Rev.7, Annex I of December 1, 2014; and <p>Underscore that these procedures were carried out in strict adherence to Article 28 of the Statute of the CIM.</p>	<p>Fulfilled</p> <p>The candidacies were submitted to the Secretary General of the OAS and the Executive Secretary was appointed on June 25th 2015.</p>
<p>2 Recommend to the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM that regulation of the process for receiving candidacies for appointment to the post of Executive Secretary of the CIM be adjusted in the future.</p>	<p>Fulfilled</p> <p>With the support of the OAS Legal Services Department, the CIM Executive Secretariat prepared a draft amendment to the CIM Statute, which was submitted to the consideration of the 37th Assembly of Delegates (May 24th and 25th 2016, Lima).¹³</p>
<p>3 In view of the CIM's progress in providing greater visibility to the phenomenon of violence and harassment of women in the political sphere, the Executive Committee agrees to request that the Executive Secretariat:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute the draft project proposal for preparation of the Model Law on Political Violence against Women to Delegates for their comments; 2. Submit the draft project to the OAS Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) for approval; 3. Continue with and strengthen this line of work, including the mobilization of resources for preparation of the draft Model Law on Political Violence against Women, and other tools provided for in the project document, in collaboration with UN Women, IDEA Internacional, UNDP, and other relevant partners; and 4. Present the results of this work during the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM. 	<p>In progress</p> <p>The CIM Secretariat prepared a project proposal that has passed the PEC approval process and funds are currently being sought. It has received initial support of US\$100,000 from the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID).</p> <p>The Model Law is currently under final review by the MESECVI Committee of Experts and will be launched on the conclusion of this phase.</p>

13. The revised version of the CIM Statute is available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/about.asp>

Agreement	Status of implementation
	The status of this project was presented to the 37 th Assembly of Delegates (May 24 th and 25 th 2016, Lima)
<p>4 In preparation for the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, the Executive Committee agrees to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank the Delegation of Peru for offering to host the Assembly at the beginning of 2016; and 2. Request that the Executive Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide the necessary technical and logistical support to ensure a successful meeting; b. Create the Working Group for the Preparation of the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, open to all delegations and to be chaired by the delegations of Costa Rica and Peru, to consider the draft declaration and resolutions, as well as other relevant documents; c. Hold the first meeting of this Working Group after the OAS management transition process concludes; d. Include the changes suggested by the Delegates to the draft Agenda (CIM/CD/doc.26/15) and Organization of Work (CIM/CD/doc.27/15) and redistribute these documents to the Delegates; and e. Prepare the draft declaration and resolutions, distribute them to the Delegates with due time in order to obtain their comments, and submit them to the Working Group's consideration. 	<p>Fulfilled</p> <p>The Assembly was held on May 24th and 25th 2016, in Lima (see previous section for details).</p> <p>Five meetings of the Working Group were held between February 9th and May 9th to consider the documents of the Assembly. The final versions of the documents were submitted to the Assembly.</p>
<p>5 In reference to the draft CIM Triennial Program of Work 2016-2018 (CIM/CD/doc.28/15), the Executive Committee agrees to request that the Executive Secretariat:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Redistribute this document so that Delegates may provide their comments within 30 days; 2. Include the suggestions and comments received from Delegates and submit the document to the consideration of the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM through the Preparatory Working Group; and <p>Ensure that the CIM work plans and programs are coordinated with the priorities set by the Organization to achieve full integration of a gender perspective in the framework of the change in OAS leadership and the process of implementing a new strategic vision.</p>	<p>Fulfilled</p> <p>The draft CIM Triennial Program of Work was revised by the Preparatory Working Group and adopted at the Assembly (CIM/doc.7/16 Rev.1)</p>
<p>6 Reaffirm the existing resolutions regarding gender and recommend to the General Assembly and the OAS General Secretariat that gender equality be considered a criteria in appointments to OAS management positions and the election of high-level positions at Inter-American bodies.</p>	<p>Permanent</p>

6. Other activities in the framework of the implementation of the 2011-2016 and 2016-2021 Strategic Plans

6.1. Substantive political citizenship of women for democracy

Over the last five years, the OAS has been fostering consensus on the main challenges to strengthening democracy and governance in Latin America and the Caribbean through national dialogue and consultations in order to generate a common view on the kind of democracy that citizens of the region aspire to have, as well as renewed thinking on the democratic system and new forms of political participation.

As part of this process, the CIM has strengthened its role as the main hemispheric political forum for the promotion of women's full citizenship and rights in the Americas, by organizing a series of hemispheric forums on women's rights and citizenship in democratic systems (April 2011, July 2012, September 2013, December 2014, February 2015) with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and other partners. These events aim to identify policy and institutional reforms needed to ensure women the full exercise of their political rights and to eliminate violence and harassment against them in the political sphere.

These hemispheric dialogues have brought together a large and varied group of women who work in women's rights, politics, and democracy in the region, including women ministers, parliamentarians, ambassadors, and authorities from local government, human rights organizations, women's organizations and networks, as well as intergovernmental and academic organizations.

The CIM, in collaboration with International IDEA has published a series of studies:

- ***Women's Citizenship in the Democracies of the Americas (2013)***¹⁴ presents a critical reflection on democracy based on diverse perspectives, visions, concerns, and proposals and contributes to the analysis of democratic systems not limited to the dimension of representation and institutions, encompassing other spheres of life not included in the classic notion of citizenship, such as gender, inter-culturalism, pluri-ethnicity, sexual and reproductive citizenship, and global citizenship; and
- ***Betting on Parity: The Democratization of Political Systems in Latin American*** (Case studies from Ecuador, Bolivia, and Costa Rica)¹⁵ documents and analyzes from a critical and systematic perspective the processes that led to the adoption of the principle of parity, identifies the pertinent factors involved that influenced these processes, and assesses its implementation.
- ***Parity and democracy in Latin America: The Cases of Mexico and Nicaragua*** (CIM and IDEA, 2017, with the support of the Electoral Tribunal of Mexico), which analyzes and documents the key aspects of the adoption and implementation of parity in order to identify lessons learned and extract useful teachings for the promotion of parity in other countries and as a complement to the first study of 2013.

In this regard, the CIM has focused its attention on analyzing the exercise of women's political rights in the Hemisphere, with particular emphasis on the issue of parity. Given the persistent political exclusion of women and the slow pace of change, in recent years the States have recognized the urgency of making headway and are beginning to rethink democracy from the perspective of parity, as a general democratic principle and a strategy aimed at resolving the current inadequacies of representative democracies. This trend is supported by data: today four Latin American countries that adopted parity are among the top fifteen countries in the world with more women parliamentarians, with percentages over 40% of women deputies. These countries are Bolivia (53.1 %); Mexico (42.4%); Ecuador (41.6 %) and Nicaragua (41.3 %). Based on the path initiated by Latin American countries and having seen the high impact of parity in

14. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/CiudadaniaMujeresDemocracia-Web.pdf> (only in Spanish)

15. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/CIM/docs/ApuestaPorLaParidad-Final-Web.pdf> (only in Spanish)

the election of more women, CIM 's work has focused on two major areas, which the Commission intends to expand in the coming years:

1. To go beyond the quota system and advance toward parity between men and women in all institutions of the State and all arenas of public and political life; and
2. Ensure that democracies promote and guarantee equal conditions for the exercise of political rights to women free from discrimination and gender violence. Among these conditions, the work of the CIM has prioritized the elimination of violence and harassment in the political arena, as a fundamental component of the full exercise of women's political rights.

Promotion of a regional political parity agenda from an integral perspective

This line of work prioritizes the preparation of regulatory guidelines on parity between women and men in the political and public spheres. This Law seeks to include existing legislative provisions concerning political rights of women in the hemisphere, as well as the proposals and recommendations that have been made in this area by different actors in the region: women's mechanisms, ombudsmen, the broad women's movement, electoral institutions, international and regional agencies, among others. This instrument aims to provide States with a practical tool for the promotion and effective implementation of laws and other rules of parity in political representation.

Developing tools to address political violence, with emphasis on legislation

The Belém do Pará Convention focuses on legislation because it can provide the basis for a comprehensive and effective way to combat violence against women as an indispensable requirement to eliminate impunity. In other words, legal frameworks are required to effectively combat violence against women. The MESECVI has noted the progress of countries regarding the enactment of legislation on violence against women in the private sector, however, has also emphasized the absence of laws that sanction this violence in the public sphere, as in the case of political violence. As follow up on the recommendations of the MESECVI, the priority in this area is the development of a Model Law of Political Violence Act against Women. This law, based on the Declaration on violence and political harassment against women adopted by the Sixth Conference States Parties (CEP) of the Belém do Pará Convention in 2015, will adopt a definition and approach agreed at regional level, and serve as an instrument to promote legislation and strengthen the full exercise of women's political rights

The development process of the Model Law of political violence against women started on February 15, 2015, when the CIM and the MESECVI organized two events in Washington, D.C. (i) a meeting of experts to analyze the challenges countries in the region face to effectively respond to the problem of political violence against women, particularly through provisions that punish such violence; and (ii) the round table "Political Violence against Women: A Hemispheric Challenge," aimed at highlighting the different manifestations of violence that women experience in the political sphere and strengthening the hemispheric and institutional response to them. As a result of the meeting, the CIM/MESECVI has identified the main elements that a provision on this matter is to contain—analysis that will provide guidance for the Commission's future work on this topic. The discussions focused on a rights-based approach; the international, Inter-American legal framework and States Parties' obligations; and advances in national legislation. As a result of the meeting, the CIM / MESECVI have identified the main elements a provision on this issue that should include. Following this consultation process, an event was held in July 2015 in Lima, Peru, in collaboration with International IDEA, which featured a discussion with experts of political parties; in the framework of the VIII Latin American Congress of Political Science. The aim of the roundtable discussion was to promote a dialogue on best strategies and challenges to address the issue of political violence against women in political parties.

As part of its Action Plan to Prevent Political Harassment and Violence against Women, Parliaments for the Americas (ParlAmericas), held a workshop from January 26th to 27th 2016 in Saint Lucia on Gender-Based Political Harassment: Building Awareness in Parliaments. The workshop brought together participants - including current and former parliamentarians from 12 CARICOM countries and Canada, and included presentations from representatives of the CIM, UN Women the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWiL) and the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies (UWI). The ParlAmericas workshop also developed collective and individual work plans to prevent political harassment.

A second meeting of experts was held in La Paz, Bolivia, on May 30th and 31st to validate the draft Model Law, after which the revised draft was transmitted to the Committee of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) for eventual approval.

On November 16th and 17th, with the support of the National Electoral Institute (INE) of Mexico, the "Regional Dialogue: The role of electoral institutions in the face of political violence against women" was organized in Mexico City. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the actions carried out by electoral administrative institutions and the challenges of addressing political violence against women within the framework of their competencies, based on a dialogue between regional experts and members of autonomous electoral bodies, in order to contribute to the development of a work agenda that allows for an effective response to cases of political violence. The main outcome of the meeting was the identification of a broad range of problems and concrete recommendations for addressing this issue in four main areas: i) Addressing political violence against women at the various stages of the electoral process and in the exercise of elected office; ii) the role of electoral administrative institutions in resolving cases of political violence against women; iii) the role of electoral institutions in the prevention of political violence against women; and iv) work with political parties on prevention and attention to political violence against women.

Strengthening the regional legislative agenda on women's rights

In July 2012 and October 2013, the CIM organized hemispheric consultations with Parliamentarians organized in collaboration with the Network of Parliamentarians of the Americas of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA). These consultations brought together Presidents of the Commissions of gender equality of legislative bodies and parliamentarians from the Americas, in order to identify the main problems, priorities and strategies to introduce the rights of women and gender equality into the legislative agenda in the context of international and Inter-American commitments made by the States.

On September 10 2015, the *Third Consultation with Women and Men Parliamentarians of the Americas* took place in Guanajuato, México, the aim of which was to identify specific lines of work and policy reform in two areas: (i) Political violence and/or harassment of women; and (ii) Striking a balance between one's parliamentary work and one's personal life. As a result of this meeting, a document was adopted that included conclusions and recommendations in which the parliamentarians highlighted the following priorities:

- To enact legislation to prevent, punish, and eradicate political violence and/or harassment against women, taking into account the definition of "violence against women" set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Belém do Para Convention, as well as women's political rights as provided for under Article 7 of CEDAW;
- Public policies on this issue must consider the diversity of women in the Americas, and thus, the overlapping of different kinds of inequality related to race, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, among others;

- To promote initiatives for awareness raising and lobbying strategies to achieve approval of legislation on political violence and/or harassment;
- To note greater incidence of this violence in sub-national political spheres;
- To highlight the essential role of political parties and the need to provide mechanisms to prevent, address, and punish political violence and/or harassment against women within political parties;
- To underscore the importance of creating partnerships with the media and stopping violence against women in the media, as well as on social networks.
- To note the absence of formal rules in parliaments that regulate the timetables of political activities and other important aspects; and
- To promote reforms within parliaments so women and men may exercise their right to maternity/paternity leave.

The Fourth Consultation was held in Salta, Argentina from October 13th to 14th 2016. This new edition focused on debate and inter-parliamentary work on two key issues for the legislative agenda on women's rights: i) parity; and ii) sexual and reproductive rights.

the discussion and validation of the aforementioned Model Law on Parity. In the framework of collaboration with the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, COPA; and as a response to the request of the parliamentary Network, the CIM is evaluating the implementation of a virtual platform that allows connectivity and transfer of experience between parliamentarians in the region, as well as follow up of the results of parliamentary consultations and other initiatives developed by the CIM that may be of interest to parliamentarians.

6.2. Women's human rights and gender-based violence¹⁶

Evaluating national initiatives to produce comparable data about violence against women in OECS countries

With the support of the Governments of Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname, this project mapped the main strategies of the six countries that comprise the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS – Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) as part of a comparative study of the sub-region to analyze violence against women. This sub-regional analysis will enable OECS policymakers to better identify and address gaps in their response to violence against women at both the national and sub-regional levels, in accordance with their acquired commitments under the Belém do Pará Convention. This strategic resource to address violence against women highlights the need for more and better data and for proper standardized tools for data collection across the sub-region. With sufficient financing, this would be the second phase of the current project.

To date, the project has completed the following activities:

- A compilation of data for each country of the OECS;
- Two focus groups for domestic violence service users held in two of the project countries: Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- A validation workshop held jointly with the Second OECS Round Table on Violence against Women, at which the findings of the project's research phase were reviewed. A report was prepared on this workshop, which was held in Saint Lucia on September 23-24, 2014. At this meeting, in observance of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Belém do Pará Convention, attendees heard presentations from OECS and CEVI experts

16. For a full account of the activities of the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) during this period, refer to the "Report on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI) "CIM / doc.133 / 16

and deliberated on the achievements and challenges of implementing the Convention in the Caribbean. A round table discussion was also held about the role of men as perpetrators and victims of gender violence – a topic of great interest to the Caribbean region;

- A consolidated sub-regional report that includes national data and information on violence against women in the OECS sub-region;
- Validated results to be published as country reports as well as a consolidated sub-regional report.

Indicators on the exercise of women’s human rights

As a follow-up to the *System of progress indicators for measuring the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention*¹⁷ and with the support of the Government of Canada, the CIM has made progress in the implementation of the project “Bringing women’s rights and gender equality instruments to public policy formulation in the Americas.” The objectives of this project are to: (i) Strengthen the capacity of OAS member states to effectively monitor and evaluate the impact of public policies on women’s human rights; and (ii) evaluate and support the role of national machineries for the advancement of women in their capacity as the main bodies responsible for discharging the aforementioned functions of monitoring and evaluation.

In this context, a series of diagnostic assessments were conducted in Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago in 2013 in order to identify: (i) To what extent national reports and plans about women’s rights and gender equality took into account commitments undertaken at both an inter-American and international level; and (ii) existing sex-disaggregated data that could support monitoring of the exercise of women’s rights. On the basis of these assessments, a Regional Group of Experts on Indicators of the Exercise of Women’s Rights was established, which prepared a first version of draft indicators that could be used by States for more effective monitoring of the exercise of women’s rights.

The initial proposal for the Integrated System of Indicators on Women’s Human Rights (ISIWHR) has served as the basis for a series of validation and capacity-building workshops with national machineries for the advancement of women, national statistics institutes, and other relevant actors in the countries participating in the project, which were held in 2014 in: Brazil (June 2-3), Ecuador (June 18-19), Costa Rica (July 29-31), Guatemala (August 26-28), Bolivia (September 9-11), the Dominican Republic (October 7-9), and Panama (March 25-27, 2015). The results of each of these workshops have been incorporated into the ISIWHR, which is currently being edited and translated for future publication.

On the basis of this progress, the CIM has prepared a follow-up proposal to the current project for the consideration of donors. With adequate funding, this proposal will allow the CIM, on the one hand, to expand the current project to other countries in the region and, on the other hand, to continue providing technical assistance to those countries that have already participated in the project, with a view to making the ISIWHR an integral part of processes to monitor women’s human rights at the national level.

Child and Forced Marriage and Motherhood in the Americas

On November 29th 2016, the CIM held an international forum on child and forced marriage and motherhood in the Americas. Child, early and forced marriage is not well understood in the Americas region, although UNICEF estimates that 29% of girls in Latin America and the Caribbean, or almost 1 in

17. See: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/indicators.asp>

3 girls, are married before the age of 18.¹⁸ Some countries surpass that figure at the national level (the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Brazil, Honduras and Guatemala), while others face the issue only within certain ethnic groups. One of the main problems in the Americas is the number of informal or “de facto” unions which may not be classified as marriage, with the result that the extent of child, early and forced marriage in the region is probably underestimated.

On the other hand, the issue of child, adolescent and forced motherhood has received growing attention in recent years due to an increase in the number of girls younger than 15 that are giving birth. UNFPA projects that these births will continue to rise through 2030,¹⁹ and the data on girls who give birth does not include those that undergo risky and often fatal unsafe abortions.

A plethora of issues underlie the prevalence of child, early and forced marriage and motherhood in the Americas, including gender inequality, the concentration of women among the poorest segment of the population, continuing disparities between boys and girls in the minimum age for marriage, gender-based and sexual violence, including incest, restrictive abortion laws and a lack of access to contraception and sexual and reproductive health information and services.

The objectives of the international forum were to:

1. Review what we know about child, early and forced marriage and motherhood in the Americas and identify those information and data gaps that still need to be filled; and
2. Formulate preliminary legislative, policy and program recommendations, on the basis of existing good practices and lessons learned, in order to begin a joint, comprehensive and effective response.

The event positioned the CIM as an ideal hemispheric forum for addressing this issue. Among the results of the forum are:

- The creation of a regional group of allies, including representatives of government, academia, civil society and the international community;
- The commitment of several OAS Member States to continue working on this topic in the context of the Organization;
- A concrete role for the CIM as a convener of future work.

6.3. Women’s economic security and citizenship

Over the last three years, the CIM has broadened its collaboration with the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), including the inter-American committees and ministerial meetings of various sectors, their technical secretariats and cooperation networks that fall under SEDI. In this regard, the technical advice and assistance provided by the CIM is reflected in terms of its incidence in the formulation and implementation of policies, programs, and projects.

In addition to the economic area, which has focused primarily on the issue of labor, the CIM has worked with other sector areas including social development, disaster management, competitiveness, ICTs, and ports, as well as with the Educational Portal of the Americas and the OAS Scholarships Program.

In the area of labor, the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment (DDHEE) is in constant coordination with the CIM to follow up on the “Strategic guidelines of the XV IACML for

18. UNICEF (2014). *State of the World’s Children 2015: Executive Summary and Statistical Tables*, p.89

(http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2015_Summary_and_Tables.pdf)

19. UNFPA (2013). *State of the World Population 2013, Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy*, p.5
(<http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EN-SWOP2013-final.pdf>)

advancing gender equality and non-discrimination within a decent work framework” (2007),^{20/} the conclusions of the First Inter-Ministerial Meeting between Ministers of Labor and Ministers of Women or senior authorities in this sector in the Hemisphere regarding Gender Equality in Decent Work (2011), and the results of the CIM project “Advancing Gender Equality in the Context of Decent Work” (2009-2011).^{21/} The CIM-IACML collaboration is reflected in the consolidation of a gender and women’s rights perspective on the technical and political agenda of this Conference. The CIM has also worked very closely with DDHEE through the Educational Portal of the Americas in the preparation and delivery of OAS online courses and management of the OAS’ Gender Community of Practice. Additionally, as a result of the open competitions in which it participates with the OAS Scholarships Program, the CIM receives scholarships that it can offer in the region for online training.

With the then-Department for Economic and Social Development (DDES), currently the Department for Social Inclusion, the CIM is supporting the implementation of Participatory Gender Audits (PGAs) in various Social Ministries in collaboration with the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, in the framework of the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN), and with the support of the Government of the United States of America. To date, PGAs have been carried out with the Social Ministries of Guatemala (March-April 2014), Uruguay (July-August 2014), and Paraguay (September 2014). This technical assistance includes training on the PGA methodology from a team of facilitators that includes personnel from the Social Ministry and the National Machinery, followed by the PGA itself over a two-week period under the guidance of experts and with the participation of the team that has been trained. The PGA concludes with an Action Plan for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the Social Ministry. As a follow-up to this project, in 2014 the CIM developed a proposal to be presented to donors, which contemplates the transfer of the PGA methodology to the National Machineries for replication in other sectors. Since then, the project has received funds from the Government of Liechtenstein (2015 and 2016) to implement the methodological transfer in Paraguay (2016) and Guatemala (2017).

The CIM has continued its collaboration with and technical support to the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), through the meetings of its Consultative Committee on Gender Issues in the Americas (CCP1), which in 2015 adopted resolution PCC.I/RES. 243 (XXVI-15) “Collaboration Request Between CITEL and the Inter-American Commission of Women to Address Issues Related to the Benefit of the Use of ICTs as Tools for the Empowerment of Women, Particularly to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women.” This resolution envisions close coordination with the CIM for implementation of a work program on harassment and violence against women in cyberspace, including through the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI).

Along these same lines, on October 29-30, the CIM worked with the Autonomous University of Chihuahua (Mexico) to hold Campus Link 2015, an annual inter-university forum for digital culture and innovation, which was held in Ciudad Juarez (Mexico) and Las Cruces, New Mexico (USA). The CIM organized and moderated a panel entitled “Women in tech,” which brought together a group of prominent women from the world of technology to discuss their experiences and share their reflections on what women’s participation in the information technology industry is like. In addition, the CIM sponsored IDEAHack, “ICTs vs. Gender Violence,” a forum via which young college students can have a positive influence on their communities by means of ideas and solutions that address the issue of gender violence in cyberspace. The IDEAHack winners will present their ideas during the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.

On the issue of ports, the CIM has strengthened the collaboration that was initiated in 2013 with the Inter-American Committee of Ports (CIP). Such collaboration resulted in the “Hemispheric Seminar on Public

20. Available at: [http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/ddse/documentos/trabajo/15cimt/doc10%20ing%20\(Genero\).doc](http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/ddse/documentos/trabajo/15cimt/doc10%20ing%20(Genero).doc).

21. The results of this project are available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/labour.asp>.

Policies and the Visibility of Women in the Ports Sector in the Americas,” which was held on March 14-15, 2013 in the Dominican Republic, with the participation and technical advice of the CIM. The CIM was also invited to take part in the Hemispheric Seminar on “Corporate Social Responsibility and Gender Equality in the Port Sector: From Awareness to Action,” which will be held on April 27-29, 2016 in Panama City and will include a ceremony to award the “Maritime Award of the Americas: Outstanding Women in the Maritime and Port Sectors.”

In coordination with the Department of Social Inclusion of the OAS Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity and with UN Women, the CIM organized the roundtable "Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Care: Seeking a Balance," as a side event in the framework of the III Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development (REMDDES), on July 14th in Asunción, Paraguay. The event brought together experts and representatives of States to identify concrete public policy and program measures to promote co-responsibility and ensure that both men and women participate on an equal footing and free from discrimination in the labor market and in the family

6.4. Institutionalization of a rights-based and gender-equality approach in the work of the OAS

On March 7th 2016, the OAS General Secretariat adopted *The General Secretariat's Institutional Policy on Gender Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights*, via Executive Order No. 16-03. This policy seeks to advance equality and equity in the exercise of rights, equal opportunities, and equal treatment for men and women in all GS/OAS work by strengthening its management, culture, and institutional capacity. The GS/OAS, under the coordination of the CIM Secretariat, is currently preparing a plan of action for implementing this policy.

An essential part of the implementation of this Policy has been the implementation of a Participatory Gender Assessment in the OAS, which was carried out in November and December 2016 with a team of external consultants. The results of this Assessment process, which will be presented to OAS staff on March 28th 2017, will form the basis of the Plan of Action for the implementation of the Policy.

As part of the CIM's efforts to advance the institutionalization of a gender and rights perspective in the work of the OAS, it has continued with: (i) Coordination of the OAS Gender Program; (ii) ongoing collaboration with the Department of Planning and Evaluation (DPE) through technical assistance and recommendations to ensure that gender and women's rights dimensions are integrated into project and programming cycles; and (iii) the provision of technical advice and assistance to other secretariats and departments of the OAS, including inter-American committees and their secretariats, in order to advance women's rights and gender equality in the formulation and implementation of their policies, projects, and initiatives.

An essential part of these efforts is a continuous online training offer to OAS staff, State officials and other interested persons. In 2016, the CIM carried out:

- The 7th and 8th editions of the "Virtual Course on Rights and Gender Equality in Policies, Programs and Projects." The 9th edition of this course is currently in progress (March 9th to May 11th).
- The 1st edition of the "Virtual Course on Gender-Sensitive Strategic Planning." The 2nd edition of this course will start on March 21st and continue through June 1st.
- The 2nd edition of the “Graduate Diploma in Communication, Gender and Human Rights,” in collaboration with the Civil Association Communication for Equality (Argentina). The 3rd edition will start on March 14th and will last until the end of November 2017.
- In February 2017, a Specialization and International Course: Public Policies and Gender Justice was launched in collaboration with the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), whose first edition began in March 2017 and will continue until February 2018.

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

- With the **Strategic Counsel for Organizational Development and Management for Results** (CEDOGR), there has been ongoing cooperation with the Department of Planning and Evaluation (DPE), via the active participation of the CIM in the OAS's Project Evaluation Committee and its Working Group to ensure that a gender and human rights approach is integrated into the Organization's projects and the evaluation thereof, as well as in the classification of and accountability regarding OAS mandates from a gender perspective.

In this area, the growing tendency of different areas to integrate a gender perspective into the formulation and implementation of their projects stands out, including projects designed specifically to advance the empowerment and participation of women in different sectors.

- With the **Secretariat for Multidimensional Security** (SMS), specific support has been given to integrating gender issues into the projects and reports of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and the Department of Public Security.
- With the **Secretariat for Political Affairs** (SPA), the CIM has continued its ongoing collaboration with the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) with respect to implementing its electoral observation methodology with a gender perspective and analyzing the outcomes. Similarly, support has been provided to the Department of Effective Public Management in connection with the preparation and implementation of specific projects and programs. In addition, during its course on gender and rights, the CIM has trained personnel at both the headquarters and field levels from the main programs that make up the SPA.
- With the **Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity** (SARE), the CIM is working in close coordination on the implementation of various projects, particularly from the Department of Social Inclusion.
- With the autonomous specialized organizations, the CIM has continued its cooperation and advisory services at the request of those bodies. With PAHO, through participation in the meeting of the technical advisory group on gender equality in health (TAG/GEH). These and other autonomous specialized organizations provide yearly inputs to the CIM for the preparation of the Annual Report of the OAS Secretary General in follow-up to the IAP.

7. Financial situation and budget execution through December 31st 2016

In the analysis of the human resources and financial situation of the CIM Secretariat, the following should be highlighted:

- Of the regular budget of the OAS, the CIM currently receives 1.7% of the funds; and
- Of the staff of the OAS (Regular Fund), the CIM has 1.8% (7 employees).

Table 1 - CIM Regular Budget

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
OAS Regular Budget	\$85,350,800	\$83,870,500	\$82,978,100	\$84,324,100	\$84,300,000	\$72,499,900

CIM Regular Budget	\$1,254,000 (1.5%)	\$1,295,100 (1.5%)	\$ 1,355,400 (1.6%)	\$1,353,600 (1.6%)	\$1,413,600 (1.7%)	\$1,261,600 (1.7%)
	\$237,000 (Non-personnel)	\$237,000 (Non-personnel)	\$223,500 (Non-personnel)	\$223,500 (Non-personnel)	\$285,500 (Non-personnel)	\$218,500 (Non-personnel)
OAS Staff (regular budget)	464	431	435	405	389	398
CIM Staff (regular budget)	6 (1.3%)	8 (1.9%)	8 (1.8%)	8 (2.0%)	8 (2.0%)	7 (1.8%)

Table 2 – Execution of the CIM Regular Budget through December 31st 2016

Exepnditure line	Funds executed	Available balance
Personnel	\$1,042,303	\$0
Inter-agency assistance	\$59,440	\$0
Documents	\$14,764	\$0
Supplies and equipment	\$6,155	\$0
Contracts and conferences	\$118,062	\$0
Other expenses	\$17,068	\$0
Total	\$1,257,794	\$0
Personnel	\$1,042,303	\$0
Non-personnel	\$215,491	\$0

Table 3 - CIM 2017 Budget

Programs/Products/Services (PPS)	Regular Budget
Program	
Institutionalization of a rights and gender equality approach	
Technical and administrative support	33,000
Conference services (includes translation/interpretation)	17,450
Printed documents for meetings	3,000
Inter-agency assistance	4,200
Computing and office equipment	2,500
Publicity, printing and reproduction of documents	6,500
Internet, LAN, telephone and fax services	4,400
Mail and courier	1,850
Sub-Total	72,900
Program	
Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belem do Para Convention (MESECVI)	
Technical and administrative support	44,500
Conference services (includes translation/interpretation)	21,110
Printed documents for meetings	2,000
Inter-agency assistance	4,040
Publicity, printing and reproduction of documents	6,500
Internet, LAN, telephone and fax services	4,400
Mail and courier	1,850
Sub-Total	84,400
Program	

Women's political citizenship for democracy and governance	
Technical and administrative support	33,000
Conference services (includes translation/interpretation)	2,520
Printed documents for meetings	1,310
Inter-agency assistance	2,020
Sub-Total	38,850
Program	
Citizen security from a gender perspective	
Technical and administrative support	16,500
Conference services (includes translation/interpretation)	2,520
Printed documents for meetings	1,310
Inter-agency assistance	2,020
Sub-Total	22,350
TOTAL	218,500