INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

THIRD MEETING OF MINISTERS OR OF THE
HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN
THE MEMBER STATES (REMIM-III)
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OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT OF PORT OF SPAIN

(Argentina)

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OF COMMITMENT OF PORT OF SPAIN

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Permanent Mission of Argentina
to the Organization of American States

The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the Organization of American States (OAS) presents it compliments to the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee of Women (CIM) and is pleased to submit the following comments regarding the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain "*Securing our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security, and Environmental Sustainability.*"

1. The text reflects the renewal of agreements reached regarding the need to promote and secure equal access for all men and women to basic social services such as water, housing, healthcare, food, and sanitation. Nonetheless, the gender perspective in each of the commitments listed is not consistent throughout the text.

2. For example, references to children [*niños*] (paragraphs 10 and 25) should also include girls in order to avoid excluding them and to avoid a sexist approach.

3. In addition, women should not be included as "vulnerable groups" (paragraph 16), bearing in mind the international consensus reached on this point and the urgent need to reverse this assimilation.

4. Similarly, women and children cannot be included in the same category when implementing strategies to protect them against economic and labor exploitation, since women are part of the labor force while children should be excluded, in all ways possible, as agents of production.

At this time, the Permanent Mission of Argentina wishes to express the Government of Argentina's appreciation for the opportunity to express its opinion regarding a subject it considers important and to reiterate its availability to continue its collaboration with the CIM to achieve inclusion of the gender perspective in the Summits of the American process.

The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the Organization of American States takes this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM the assurances of its highest consideration.

Washington, D.C., September 8, 2008

Permanent Secretariat of the
Inter-American Commission of Women

Washington, D.C.