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)
November 13, 2008
Santiago, Chile

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.9
CIM/REMIM-III/INF. 5/08
13 November 2008
Original: Spanish

SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AMBASSADOR CARLOS APPELGREN, AT THE THIRD MEETING OF MINISTERS OR OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE MEMBER STATES (REMIM-III)

Thursday, November 13, 2008

SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AMBASSADOR CARLOS APPELGREN, at REMIM-III

Thursday, November 13, 2008

INTRODUCTION

The Summit of the Americas process is the highest form of expression of hemispheric multilateralism.

The political dialogue between heads of state must therefore be expressed in an hemispheric agenda.

This agenda must include the priorities and sensitivities of all the subregions. That is the essence of an effort that aims to boost capacity in our region and make it more competitive in a world that has grown increasingly interdependent.

This is a strategic process, both culturally and politically. Sectors that are essential to the functioning of a society such as education, labor, justice, culture, health and technology, contribute to this process through the ministerial meetings.

Gender mainstreaming must be strengthened in this process and the agreements reached in the meetings of ministers or of the highest authorities responsible for the advancement of women must be part of the commitments made by heads of state and heads of government.

This is paramount for democratic sustainability, since gender mainstreaming and women's participation are essential elements of an inclusive society.

That is why the inter-American system, which acts as technical secretariat of the summits, wants to mainstream this perspective in the areas dealing with democracy, human rights, multidimensional security and integral development.

This path was laid down in the previous four summits, but the struggle for equal opportunity must not stop and the summit of Trinidad and Tobago must offer a new opportunity to make further progress in a process of change and effective integration.

The challenge facing this meeting of ministers is to send a strong message to the highest political authorities.

http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2008/CIM02452E01.ppt