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

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OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT OF PORT OF SPAIN COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF PORT OF SPAIN

(Haiti)

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As we pointed out in our previous communication, the emergency situations caused by the hurricanes that devastated Haiti have prevented us from reviewing the draft Declaration of Port of Spain in the time allowed. For the moment, let us just say that we agree with the decision to incorporate a gender perspective explicitly in the text. In addition, we would like to make one general observation and a reference to a report we consider useful.

1. The Declaration focuses on the Millennium Development Goals and, in respect of certain precise commitments, establishes deadlines between 2010 and 2015. Since the attainment of those goals depends on the involvement of citizens of both sexes, care should be taken to make explicit mention of women throughout the text of the Declaration.

   Thus, point 4, should include "violence specifically directed against women" and call for broader civic participation by both male and female citizens (last 3 lines).

2. ECLAC's 2006 Report on the equality of men and women and on women's autonomy and access to decision-making spheres with regard to the Millennium Development Goals points to the persistence of deep-seated inequalities that violate women's rights and hamper the achievement of those goals. The conclusions and recommendations of that report should inspire the contents of the commitments to be undertaken at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, especially as regards education, health, and employment.

Meanwhile, the Ministry is making arrangements to work with the National Coordinator in charge of preparing the Summit of the Americas to ensure that Haiti makes a substantial contribution to the Declaration of Port of Spain.

September 18, 2008