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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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE III MEETING OF MINISTERS OR OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE MEMBER STATES TO THE V SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Santiago, Chile November 13, 2008

1. WE, THE MINISTERS OR HIGHEST-RANKING AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE MEMBER STATES, express our deepest satisfaction for the convening of this III Meeting of Ministers, as it represents the firm commitment of the OAS and its Member States to develop and implement a hemispheric policy to promote the advancement of women and gender equality and equity.

2. We underscore the importance of promoting gender equality and equity at the national and hemispheric levels, in accordance with the mandates of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (PIA), adopted by the General Assembly of the OAS and endorsed by the Quebec Summit in 2001.

3. We ratify the commitments made by our governments in the Summits of the Americas, with regard to the objectives of equality and equity of rights and opportunities between women and men, which are also identified as priorities in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and in international and regional efforts aimed at the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of society.

5. We consider that although there has been an increased focus in the Summits of the Americas on gender equality and equity as central and important for all member states, the issue has yet to be fully integrated as a cross cutting theme into all areas addressed in these forums.

6. We stress the need to enhance the concept of gender so that women are not included only among disadvantaged or vulnerable populations; but rather, that recognition be given to the problems they face in exercising full citizenship so that they can assume their appropriate role in society.

7. We recall that the achievement of sustainable development is based on concerted efforts in the economic, political, social and environmental spheres. We underscore that the unremunerated labor of women, including housework, contributes significantly to development by creating value, producing wealth, and generating resources and social well being. Nevertheless, we highlight the fact that the unequal distribution of the work in the home constitutes an obstacle to the full participation of women and the exercise of their rights.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND**:**

7. That the National Coordinators of the V Summit of the Americas, with the support of the national machineries for women, carry out an exhaustive review on the orientation, perspective and inclusive and non sexist language, so as to integrate the gender perspective throughout the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain.

8. That the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) integrate the gender perspective in each one of the themes of the Draft Declaration of Commitment

9. That paragraph 56 be modified and included as number 7 under "Promoting Human Prosperity" as follows:

> *We commit to strengthen the institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women. We encourage the full and equal participation of women in the political life in our countries at all levels through laws and public policies that promote respect for women´s human rights as well as gender equality, equity and parity.*

10. That a new paragraph be included in the Draft Declaration of Commitment of the V Summit of the Americas: *Securing our Citizens' Future by Promoting Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability,* under "Promoting Human Prosperity" as follows:

> *We recognize the importance of considering the differentiated needs of women and men in promoting and ensuring the integration of the gender perspective as a cross cutting issue in national and Hemispheric policies, plans and programs to be implemented in the political, economic, labor, social and cultural spheres. These should emphasize social protection, decent work, education, health, access to justice and participation in the economy and in power and decision-making structures to attain development with equality.*

11. That a new paragraph be included under "Strengthening the Summit of the Americas Follow Up and Implementation Effectiveness" as follows:

> *We will continue our efforts to produce regional studies and statistics disaggregated by sex for measuring and monitoring and for promoting cooperation and the sharing of good practices, experiences and policies on gender equality and equity among States, in the context of human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability.*

WE COMMIT*:*

12. To urge the SIRG to continue promoting in the future the mandate to mainstream gender within all ministerial meetings and to ensure that all processes and documents leading up to the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009 recognize the central role that gender equity and equality plays in the achievement of all other development goals.

13. To create strategic alliances with the National Coordinators of the Summit process to integrate the gender perspective in the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State and government.

14. To urgently send these Recommendations to the National Coordinators of our countries with the purpose of influencing the Summit process

    We request the President of REMIM III to urgently send these Recommendations to the National Coordinator of Trinidad and Tobago, along with the Declaration of Santiago and Resolution CIM/RES. 248 (XXIV-O/08) "Integration of the Gender Perspective in Hemispheric Polices and the Summit of the Americas," adopted by the XXXIV Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.