

PERMANENT COUNCIL



OEA/Ser.G
CP/doc.3424/01
15 March 2001
Original: Spanish

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This document is being distributed to the permanent missions
and will be presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

March 12, 2001

Excellency:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to forward the note of March 5, 2001, with which Ms. Carmen Lomellin, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), presents the annual report of the CIM for the period from February 29, 2000, to February 28, 2001, in keeping with Article 91.f of the OAS Charter.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

César Gaviria

His Excellency
Ambassador Esteban Tomic Errázuriz
Permanent Representative of Chile and
Chair of the Permanent Council of the
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN



No. 03-025/01

March 5, 2001

Excellency:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to present the annual report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for the period from February 29, 2000, to February 28, 2001, in keeping with Article 91.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Carmen Lomellin
Executive Secretary

César Gaviria
Secretary General
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	5
II. MANDATES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY	8
III. MANDATES OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE CIM	12
A. Assembly of Delegates of the CIM	12
B. Executive Committee	14
IV. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES	14
A. Implementation of the 1998-2000 and 2000-2002 CIM Work Plans	14
1. Strengthening and Modernization of the CIM	15
2. Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality	16
3. Summit of the Americas.....	16
4. CIM Strategic Plan of Action - Priority Areas of Action.....	17
a. Elimination of violence	17
b. Education/Participation of Women in Power and Decision-Making Structures	18
c. Eradication of poverty	18
B. Seed Fund	18
V. RELATIONS WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS	19
A. The Inter-American System	19
1. Within the OAS	19
2. Other Inter-American Entities	20
B. United Nations System	20
C. Other regional entities and organizations	21
D. Civil society organizations.....	21
VI. FINANCIAL SITUATION	21
VII. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	22

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 91.f and 126 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) presents its annual report to the Permanent Council, so that the Council may submit to the General Assembly, for consideration at its thirty-first regular session, any observations and recommendations it deems appropriate.

This report summarizes the activities carried out by the CIM from February 29, 2000, to February 28, 2001. During this period, the CIM implemented mandates received from the Twenty-ninth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM and from the OAS General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session. In addition, it held the Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM. The holding of the *First Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States* marked an important milestone. It produced both the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and recommendations for the integration of a gender perspective into the Summit preparatory process, which were adopted by the General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session.

Comment [ejy1]: EJYoder

The initiatives of the past year have significantly expanded the scope of activity of the CIM and have given new orientation to its work. In particular, they have reaffirmed its role as a forum for hemispheric policies to promote women's human rights and gender equality and as an organ for follow-up on and coordination of the Inter-American Program. The CIM's role as adviser on gender issues in the preparatory process for the Summits of the Americas was established as well.

Indranie Chandarpal
President

I. ORIGIN, LEGAL BASIS, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECTIVES

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) was established at the Sixth International Conference of American States (Havana, 1928) to prepare "juridical information and data of any other kind which may be deemed advisable to enable the Seventh International Conference of American States to take up the consideration of the civil and political equality of women in the continent."

Comment [ejy2]:

The Ninth International Conference of American States (Bogotá, 1948) approved the first Statute of the Commission, which consolidated its structure and authorized the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) to establish the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM.

Comment [ejy3]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy4]: EJYoder

In 1953, the Commission signed an agreement with the OAS Permanent Council under which the CIM was recognized as an inter-American specialized organization with permanent status and technical autonomy in the pursuit of its objectives.

The Tenth Inter-American Conference (Caracas, 1954) amended the CIM's Statute and confirmed it as a specialized organization with permanent status. It also expanded its powers and authorized it to amend its own Statute in the future.

Comment [ejy5]: EJYoder

Subsequently, in 1978, in accordance with Article 134 of the OAS Charter and the Standards for the Implementation and Coordination of the Provisions of the Charter Relating to the Inter-American Specialized Organizations, a new agreement between the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Organization of American States was signed.

Comment [ejy6]: Contained in AG/RES. 87 (II-0/72).

The purpose of the Commission is to promote and protect the rights of women, and to support member states in their efforts to ensure full access to civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, so that women and men may participate on an equal footing in all spheres of society, enjoy fully and equally the benefits of development, and share responsibility for the future.

The CIM fulfills its objectives through the following organs: the Assembly of Delegates; the Executive Committee, composed of the president, vice president, and five member countries, all elected by the Assembly; the delegates appointed by governments; the national committees of cooperation, chaired by the principal delegates, who perform the Commission's function on the national level; and the Permanent Secretariat, which performs the Commission's administrative, technical, and executive functions. The Assembly of Delegates is the supreme authority of the CIM, and its resolutions, together with those of the OAS General Assembly, set the guidelines for the work of the CIM.

Comment [ejy7]: Source: Statute of the CIM and Regulations of the CIM

The CIM Statute authorizes governments with a permanent observer accredited to the OAS to have permanent observer status with the Inter-American Commission of Women as well.

II. MANDATES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The following OAS General Assembly resolutions have oriented the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women:

- AG/RES. 587 (XII-O/82), "Day of the Women of the Americas," which declared February 18 as the DAY OF THE WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS in commemoration of the date in 1928 on which the Inter-American Commission of Women was created in Havana, Cuba. Since 1983, the CIM has carried out different commemorative activities both at its headquarters and in member states.

Comment [ejy8]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), "Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000"¹¹, which established that the Secretary General would present a report to the General Assembly at subsequent sessions every two years on the status of compliance with this resolution, explaining how the various areas of the General Secretariat had cooperated toward that end.

Comment [ejy9]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy10]: All references in this footnote checked. EJYoder

The last biennial report of the Secretary General on compliance with this resolution was presented during the thirtieth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, as discussed further in this report [AG/RES. 1729 (XXX-O/00) "Seventh Biennial Report of the Secretary General on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), 'Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000' "].

Comment [ejy11]: EJYoder

- AG/DEC. 1 (XX-E/94) "Commitment on a Partnership for Development and Struggle to Overcome Extreme Poverty," and AG/RES. 1 (XX-E/94) "General Policy Framework and Priorities: Partnership for Development," which defined the new concept and practice of partnership for development that the OAS would henceforth implement and also the cooperation priorities of the OAS system: among others, to promote greater participation by women and underprivileged groups in political and civic affairs, in full exercise of their rights, and to eradicate extreme poverty.

Comment [ejy12]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 1257 (XXIV-O/94) "Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" by which the Convention was adopted, and which marked the achievement of one of the Commission's

Comment [ejy13]: EJYoder

1. The Secretary General reports to the General Assembly every two years on the progress made in compliance with this resolution. See, in this regard, AG/RES. 933 (XVIII-O/88), "First Biennial Report on Compliance with AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), 'Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000' "; AG/RES. 1061 (XX-O/90), "Second Report of the Secretary General on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), 'Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000' "; AG/RES. 1192 (XXII-O/92), "Third Report of the Secretary General on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), 'Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000' "; AG/RES. 1303 (XXIV-O/94), "Fourth Biennial Report of the Secretary General on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), 'Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000' "; AG/RES. 1431 (XXVI-O/96), "Fifth Biennial Report of the Secretary General on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), 'Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000' "; and AG/RES. 1588 (XXVIII-O/98), "Sixth Biennial Report of the Secretary General on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), 'Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000' ."

principal goals. The Convention came into effect on March 5, 1995; at the time of this report, 30 countries had ratified it.

- AG/RES. 1422 (XXVI-O/96), "Cooperation within the Inter-American System to Ensure Full and Equal Participation by Women in the Development Process," which invited the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system to work with the CIM by drawing up joint action programs within their respective spheres. Moreover, it requested the Secretary General to establish the mechanisms required to ensure coordination on women's issues between the different areas of the General Secretariat and the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, as necessary.

Comment [ejy14]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 1432 (XXVI-O/96), "Status of Women in the Americas," which urged member states that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará. It recommended to member states that they either strengthen existing measures or, if appropriate, create new ones for the advancement of women, and that they take into account gender analysis in devising and executing public policy. It urged the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to consider the gender perspective in the formulation and execution of development projects. It reiterated the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

Comment [ejy15]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" which instructed the CIM Permanent Secretariat to report every two years to the OAS General Assembly on the progress made in its application, and on experiences and results achieved through the initiatives and programs pursued in the member states to counter violence against women. It encouraged member states to take appropriate measures to modify any legislation of a discriminatory nature in their legal systems.

Comment [ejy16]: EJYoder

The First Biennial Report on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém Do Pará'" [AG/RES. 1626 (XXIX-O/99)], was presented to the OAS General Assembly for consideration at its twenty-ninth regular session.

Comment [ejy17]: EJYoder

- AG/DEC. 18 (XXVIII-O/98), "Declaration on Equal Rights and Opportunity for Women and Men and Gender Equity in Inter-American Legal Instruments," which declared that all inter-American legal instruments relating to the rights of individuals should be applied by the member states of the OAS as well as by its organs, specialized agencies, and departments, in such a way as to ensure equality of women and men before the law, equal opportunity for women and men, and gender equity. It called upon the member states to take concrete steps to promote equality of women and men before the law, equal opportunity for men and women, and gender equity, and recommended that any relevant inter-American instruments adopted in the future on the rights of individuals expressly ensure the equality of women and men before the law, equal opportunity for men and women, and gender equity.

Comment [ejy18]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 1586 (XXVIII-O/98) "Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies and Entities of the Organization," which requested the Permanent Council to consider the possibility of examining these reports with the assistance of the technical areas of the General Secretariat. It instructed the General Secretariat to make every possible effort to improve, within allocated resources approved in the program-budget and other resources, the financial status of the organs, agencies, and entities, *and in particular the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM).*
- AG/RES. 1625 (XXIX-O/99), "Status of Women in the Americas and Strengthening and Modernization of the Inter-American Commission of Women," which called a meeting of ministers or of the highest-ranking authorities responsible for the advancement of women in the member states, during the first three months of the year 2000. In that resolution the General Assembly requested the CIM, acting as coordinator for the aforementioned meeting, to prepare a draft agenda that was to include, among other things, approval of the "Draft Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Rights and Gender Equity," and consideration of the commitments adopted by the Summit of the Americas. It reiterated to the General Secretariat and the Permanent Council the contents of its resolution AG/RES. 1586 (XXVIII-O/98), with a view to improving the financial condition of the Inter-American Commission of Women. It decided to include on the agenda of the thirtieth regular session of the General Assembly the item: Approval of the "Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Rights and Gender Equity," and to request the Permanent Council to report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session.
- AG/RES. 1626 (XXIX-O/99), "First Biennial Report on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" which noted with satisfaction the First Biennial Report to the General Assembly on compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" encouraged governments that had not yet done so to ratify the Convention, and urged the CIM and the member states to continue to develop strategies for attaining the objectives of this Convention.
- AG/RES. 1627 (XXIX-O/99), "Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the OAS," which urged the Secretary General to establish as an objective that, by the year 2005, women should occupy 50% of posts in all categories of the OAS system, particularly at the P-4 grade and above, and to offer assurances that gender equality would be one of the priorities in his continuing efforts to establish a new management culture in the Organization. It requested the Secretary General to establish policies of gender equality in the workplace and make each manager accountable for the application of these policies.
- AG/RES. 1635 (XXIX-O/99), "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man," which extended the mandate given to the Permanent Council in resolution AG/RES. 1591 (XXVIII-O/98) to study and propose, if appropriate, changing the title "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man" to "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Persons," or any other agreed term, and replacing the word "man" in the text with "person,"

Comment [ejy19]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy20]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy21]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy22]: EJYoder

or any other agreed term, where appropriate. It requested the Permanent Council to report on the fulfillment of this mandate to the General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session.

Comment [ejy23]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 1669 (XXIX-O/99), "Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization," which requested the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to include in the annual report to be presented to the General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session the draft resolutions they saw fit to transmit to the Assembly, *and that they include in their annual reports, if appropriate, consideration of a gender equity approach.*

Comment [ejy24]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 1707 (XXX-O/00), "The Organization of American States and Civil Society," which instructed the General Secretariat to continue to take the necessary steps for the implementation and dissemination of the Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, reiterated the mandates assigned to the General Secretariat in resolution AG/RES. 1668 (XXIX-O/99), and instructed the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its next regular session on CSO participation and on the implementation of that resolution.

Comment [ejy25]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 1729 (XXX-O/00), "Seventh Biennial Report of the Secretary General on Compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 829 (XVI-O/86), 'Full and Equal Participation of Women by the Year 2000,'" in which, as pointed out earlier, the General Assembly received the last biennial report of the Secretary General; urged the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system to continue working to achieve full and equal participation by women in development and in the decision-making process, in coordination with the Commission; and instructed the Secretary General to increase his efforts to guarantee equal opportunity for women in access to senior executive positions in the OAS, taking into account the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality.

Comment [ejy26]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), "Adoption and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality," in which the General Assembly adopted that instrument and instructed the CIM to serve as the organ for follow-up, coordination, and evaluation of the Inter-American Program and the actions taken to implement it. It urged the OAS General Secretariat to see that the gender perspective was included in all work, projects, and programs of the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, in fulfillment of the Program. It instructed the Permanent Council to propose to the OAS General Assembly, at its thirty-first regular session, the allocation of technical, human, and financial resources, within the program-budget of the Organization, so that both the General Secretariat and the CIM could implement this Program. Moreover, it requested the General Secretariat to allot to the CIM, in the program-budget for 2001, the human and material resources needed to implement both this Program and resolution AG/RES. 1592 (XXVIII-O/98), "Status of Women in the Americas and Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women." And it urged the organs of the OAS and specialized organizations of the inter-American system to provide the support necessary to implement the Inter-American Program.

Comment [ejy27]: EJYoder

- AG/RES. 1740 (XXX-O/00), "Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" which urged the governments of those member states of the Organization of American States that had not already done so to ratify or accede to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," and encouraged them to continue promoting measures to eradicate violence against women in all its forms, in the public and private arenas, in keeping with the objectives established in the Strategic Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women, in the plans of action of the First and Second Summits of the Americas, and in the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality.
- AG/RES. 1741 (XXX-O/00), "Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Summits of the Americas," which requested the member states in the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) to take concrete action to integrate a gender perspective as a cross-cutting theme in the Proposed Political Declaration and Plan of Action for the Third Summit of the Americas. It requested the SIRG to consider including a specific section related to women's issues within the area of "democracy and human rights." It recommended that the Meetings of Ministers or of the Highest-ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States be held every four years in order to contribute to the preparatory and follow-up activities of the Summits of the Americas. It encouraged the governments to consider the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission of Women in the process of preparing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of the third Summit of the Americas, and requested the CIM to prepare recommendations and provide technical support for this purpose. It instructed the General Secretariat and the CIM to transmit this resolution to all the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system to ensure that they would take it into account in the preparation and implementation of their work plans and programs. It instructed the OAS General Secretariat to allocate to the CIM the necessary resources for the implementation of these mandates, within the resources allocated in the program-budget and other resources.
- AG/RES. 1752 (XXX-O/00), "Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process," which instructed the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS to continue to give top priority to carrying out the initiatives assigned to them by the General Assembly, pursuant to the mandates of the Summits of the Americas; to present regular progress reports to the Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management on the implementation thereof; and to support the member states that so requested in considering and preparing the topics for the Third Summit of the Americas.

Comment [ejy28]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy29]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy30]: EJYoder

III. MANDATES OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE CIM

A. Assembly of Delegates of the CIM

The Assembly of Delegates, the highest decision-making organ of the CIM, holds a regular meeting every two years. The Twenty-ninth Assembly of Delegates was held in 1998, and established the mandates for the 1998-2000 biennium. Some information on the fulfillment of those mandates is provided in this document.

The Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates took place in Washington, D.C., on November 15 and 16, 2000. During that event, the Executive Committee for the 2000-2002 term was elected. Program guidelines were adopted for the biennium, with priority assigned to the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, which includes the strengthening and modernization of the CIM; to the follow-up to the Summits of the Americas; and to continued efforts in the areas of violence, leadership, education, and poverty, which are priorities established in the Strategic Plan of Action of the CIM.

The following resolutions were adopted:

- CIM/RES. 210 (XXX-O/00), "Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality," which urged the principal delegates to continue their efforts to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the strategies and objectives of the Inter-American Program.
- CIM/RES. 211 (XXX-O/00), "Updating the Strategic Plan of the Inter-American Commission of Women," in which the Assembly extended the period covered by this Plan to 2005 and decided to adopt the necessary measures to ensure that the Plan would complement the Inter-American Program on Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality with regard to the role of the CIM within the inter-American system.
- CIM/RES. 212 (XXX-O/00), "2001 Seed Fund Distribution Criteria," which instructed the Executive Committee that, in the distribution of 2001 Seed Fund resources, preference should be given to projects aimed at implementing the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality.
- CIM/RES. 213 (XXX-O/00), "Biennial Work Program of the Inter-American Commission of Women:- Program Guidelines 2000-2002," in which proposals were established for implementation during the two-year period.
- CIM/RES. 214 (XXX-O/00), "Amendments to the Legal Instruments of the Inter-American Commission of Women," which finalized the process of reform and modernization of these instruments.
- CIM/RES. 215 (XXX-O/00), "Support for the Special Rapporteur of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the Rights of Women," which reiterated the CIM's support for the Special Rapporteur of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the Rights of Women and instructed the Executive Committee to continue cooperating with the Special Rapporteur in following up on and implementing the recommendations contained in the Special Rapporteur's report presented to the General Assembly of the OAS at its twenty-eighth regular session.
- CIM/RES. 216 (XXX-O/00), "Vote of Thanks to the Government of Nicaragua," which thanked the Government of Nicaragua for offering to host the Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates and conveyed to the people and Government of Nicaragua the sincere solidarity of the CIM in the face of the difficult situation that country was experiencing.

Comment [ejy31]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy32]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy33]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy34]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy35]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy36]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy37]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy38]: EJYoder

- CIM/RES. 217 (XXX-O/00), "Meetings of the 2000-2002 Executive Committee," which authorized the President of the CIM to convene up to three regular meetings of the Executive Committee each year.
- CIM/RES. 218 (XXX-O/00), "Place and Date of the Thirty-first Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women," in which it was decided to hold the Thirty-first Assembly of Delegates at the headquarters of the OAS, in November 2002, unless an offer was received to host it elsewhere.

Comment [ejy39]: EJYoder

Comment [ejy40]: EJYoder

The implementation of the mandates given in these resolutions is outlined in this report.

B. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the CIM for the 2000-2002 term, elected at the Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates, is made up of the following members: President, the Honorable Indranie Chandarpal (Guyana); Vice President, Nora Uribe Trujillo (Venezuela); and representatives from the following member countries: Canada, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, and Uruguay.

Meetings of the Executive Committee held during this reporting period:

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
July 20-21, 2000	Fourth Regular Meeting 1998-2000 Executive Committee	Washington, D.C.
February 15-16, 2001	First Regular Meeting 2000-2002 Executive Committee	Washington, D.C.

Information on the implementation of Executive Committee decisions adopted by means of agreements at each meeting is included in the different sections of this report.

IV. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

A. Implementation of the 1998-2000 and 2000-2002 CIM Work Plans

CIM activities during this reporting period were aimed at implementing its 1998-2000 and 2000-2002 Biennial Work Plans, which incorporated the mandates of the OAS General Assembly, the First and Second Summits of the Americas, and the CIM Strategic Plan of Action, and decided on action to be taken.

In the 1998-2000 Biennial Work Plan, the topic of strengthening and modernization of the CIM was added to the list of priorities. For 2000-2002, priorities also include the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and follow-up related to the Summit of the Americas process.

The CIM Strategic Plan of Action, adopted in 1994 and extended to 2005 by the Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates, established strategies for promoting and strengthening the role of women in society, with priority assigned to four specific topics: the participation of women in power and decision-making structures, the elimination of violence, the eradication of poverty, and education. These areas have constituted the four pillars of CIM work over the past six years.

A summary follows of the activities conducted by the CIM in compliance with the mandates established within the context of the priorities mentioned above:

1. Strengthening and Modernization of the CIM

During this reporting period, the CIM focused its efforts on strengthening its role as the main forum for generating hemispheric policies on the promotion of women's human rights and gender equality. It accomplished the following:

Convening of the first ministerial meeting on women's issues. In April 2000, the CIM organized the *Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States*, which was convened by the OAS General Assembly in support of a CIM initiative. It was the first event of its kind held at the OAS. Approximately 200 persons participated in the meeting. The heads of delegation included a vice president, secretaries of state, ministers, ambassadors, a first lady, and Principal Delegates to the CIM. Also participating were representatives of observer countries, regional and international agencies, and nongovernmental organizations, as well CIM advisors emeritus and officials from the OAS and permanent missions to the OAS.

Adoption of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality. The Program was approved by the ministers and authorities at the aforementioned meeting and subsequently adopted by the OAS General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session in June 2000 [see AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00)]. Its main objectives are the promotion of women's human rights and gender equity and equality in all areas of public and private life in the OAS member states and the systematic integration of a gender perspective into the entities of the inter-American system. The Program makes recommendations to governments and establishes mandates for the OAS and the CIM with a view to accomplishing its objectives.

Establishment of a mechanism for consultation and ministerial work. At its thirtieth regular session, the OAS General Assembly recommended that the Meetings of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States be held every four years in order to assist with preparatory and follow-up work related to the Summits of the Americas and to follow up on work related to the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality [AG/RES. 1741 (XXX-O/00)].

Linkages with the Summit process. The recommendations of the meeting of ministers on follow-up to and fulfillment of the commitments of the Summits and its proposals aimed at a cross-cutting approach to gender in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas were endorsed by the OAS General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session, which adopted resolution AG/RES. 1741 (XXX-O/00), and subsequently forwarded by the CIM to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

Promotion and dissemination. To provide easy access to information on women's issues and to publicize activities of the CIM, a major effort was made to update and improve the CIM Website (<http://www.oas.org/cim>) by adding numerous documents, legal information, and videos. In addition, the third CIM information bulletin, "*Mujer Interamericana*" ["Inter-American Women"] was published and may be found in English and in Spanish on the Web page. Efforts have continued to organize and classify bibliographical material in the CIM Specialized Library on Women. A total of 500 bibliographical records were incorporated into the computerized system, PROCITE, including all documents published by the CIM, other important materials, and periodicals.

2. Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality

The CIM has undertaken many activities to begin to implement the Program's objectives:

- **Dissemination of the Inter-American Program.** In order to publicize the Inter-American Program, it was distributed to all participants in the ministerial meeting; Principal Delegates; the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization; ambassadors to the OAS; ministers of foreign affairs; national coordinators; national mechanisms; and specialized organizations of the Inter-American system. In addition, the Executive Secretary distributes the Program in all the meetings in which she participates.
- **Integration of a gender perspective at the OAS.** Plans are in place to carry out a project, in conjunction with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), to train officials of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization in integrating a gender perspective into their programs and actions and their work.
- **Integration of a gender perspective into ministerial meetings.** During the next three years, the CIM, in conjunction with other specialized entities, will develop a project to integrate a gender perspective into the agendas of the ministerial meetings on labor, education, and justice. Starting with the labor ministerial, to take place in October 2001, proposals will be submitted to the preparatory meetings for the ministerial meetings, and meetings of experts will be convened to draft recommendations on implementing a cross-cutting gender approach where needed.

3. Summit of the Americas

The CIM played an active role in preparatory work related to the upcoming Summit, to be held in Canada in April 2001, by promoting discussion of the topic at the Meeting of Ministers and supporting the implementation of proposals on the incorporation of a gender perspective made at the ministerial meeting and approved by the OAS General Assembly.

In its capacity as the technical adviser on gender issues for the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), the CIM participated in the XIX, XX, and XXI Meetings of the SIRG held in October 2000 in Quebec City and in November 2000 and January 2001 in Washington, D.C. At the first meeting, the CIM presented an initial document with recommendations.

Also, in compliance with the mandates of the Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates, in November 2000 the CIM submitted to the Chairman of the SIRG the recommendations of the Assembly of Delegates for the incorporation of a gender perspective into the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Third Summit and asked national coordinators to include a gender perspective in the third basket of the Plan of Action, under the education initiative.

4. CIM Strategic Plan of Action - Priority Areas of Action

a. Elimination of violence

The CIM continued to promote ratification by all OAS member states of the Convention of Belém do Pará and implementation of its objectives. In February, Grenada became the 30th country to ratify the Convention.

During this reporting period, the CIM continued development of two important projects in this area, for which external financing was received.

Project: "Violence against Women: A regional analysis, including a review of the Convention of Belém do Pará"

This project, which received USAID financing, is being executed by the CIM in conjunction with Canada's International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR) and the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD). The phase involving the collection of information for the project was completed in August 2000. This marked the conclusion of two subregional diagnostic exercises, one for Mexico and Central America and the other for South America. In March 2001, the investigation and analysis phases will be concluded. In order to present the project in each subregion, the CIM organized the first of four subregional meetings of experts in Montevideo, Uruguay, December 7-8, 2000, to examine research findings, make recommendations, and establish priorities agreed upon at the regional level for the implementation of measures aimed at eradicating violence against women. The final report containing the results of this meeting has already been published and is available from the CIM.

The other subregional meetings will be held in 2001. Ecuador will host the meeting for the Andean subregion, to be held on June 21 and 22.

Project: "Trafficking in Women and Children in the Americas for Purposes of Sexual Exploitation"

In partnership with the International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI) of DePaul University in Chicago and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI), research is being done on trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation in the region. Under the project, studies are to be conducted in the following areas: (1) laws on trafficking in women and children; (2) analysis of existing provisions in family law and criminal codes, and in other codes establishing sanctions where such trafficking exists; (3) proposed legislation or advocacy in every country where the project is being implemented, so that laws to prevent this practice will be passed; (4) statistical data on the enforcement of such laws; and (5) analysis of the prevalence of the problem in each country in which the project is being implemented. It is expected that, as a result of this project, the countries of the Hemisphere will be provided with a report that gives a broad perspective of the phenomenon of

trafficking in the Americas. The CIM coordinated a meeting of experts in April 2000 in Washington, D.C., at which OAS representatives as well as representatives of nongovernmental organizations and specialized agencies with expertise in this area were told about the project and called upon to express their comments. At the moment, the project is being phased in, with the assistance of government agencies and civil society organizations, in 14 pilot countries. The final report will be submitted at a meeting of experts, which will examine its results and make recommendations to the CIM and the Inter-American Children's Institute on measures conducive to the eradication of this problem. These recommendations will be submitted to the member states and be published and disseminated throughout Hemisphere.

This project, which was started with financing from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS (USOAS), has received funding from USAID and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

b. Education/Participation of Women in Power and Decision-Making Structures

Business Leadership Training Program

The main objective of this program, developed in conjunction with the Young Americans Business Trust (YABT) of the OAS Unit for Social Development and Education, is to provide business leadership training to men and women, with emphasis placed on non-traditional careers. The pilot experiment, co-sponsored by the Office of the Under Secretary for Equal Opportunity of the Buenos Aires provincial government in Argentina, will begin there in April 2001 with a training course. It is hoped that the program will be expanded to other countries.

c. Eradication of poverty

Project: "Health and Quality of Life Profiles from a Gender Perspective in the Mexico-USA Border Area"

The project "Health and Quality of Life Profiles from a Gender Perspective in the Mexico-USA Border Area" was conducted jointly by the CIM and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Its objective was to describe the health status of women who live in the Mexican-USA border area or are part of its transient population, in the context of the globalization and economic integration affecting this subregion. Because of delays in the analysis of the data compiled, submission of the final report has been postponed to mid-2001. The findings of the work and resulting recommendations will be submitted later to the respective governments and Principal Delegates for information purposes.

B. Seed Fund

The Seed Fund of the CIM was established in 1991 to provide member states with a source of funding to support activities aimed at promoting women in the priority areas established in the CIM Strategic Plan of Action and in the Program Guidelines approved by the Assembly of Delegates. Its funds are distributed in the first year of each biennium and proposals may be regional or national.

In accordance with resolution CIM/RES. 212 (XXX-O/00), "2001 Seed Fund Distribution Criteria," adopted by the Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates, the resources of the Fund for the 2000-2002 biennium will be earmarked, on a priority basis, for projects aimed at implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality. Funds will be distributed in June 2001, during the Second Regular Meeting of the CIM Executive Committee.

V. RELATIONS WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

A. The Inter-American System

1. Within the OAS

Permanent Council. The Executive Secretary attended several meetings of the Permanent Council to report on the Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States, and its organization and accomplishments. An oral report was also given on the work done by the Thirtieth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM and on its achievements.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The IACHR announced the appointment of a new Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights, Dr. Marta Altolaguirre, who reiterated her desire to engage in an ongoing exchange of information with the CIM, to establish a close working relationship to support the work of the Rapporteur on Women's Rights, and to collaborate with the CIM on the subject of trafficking in women and children. The Special Rapporteur has begun to update the report on the status of women in the Americas approved by the IACHR in 1998. During the First Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, the Principal Specialist of the IACHR gave a progress report on this subject.

Office of Summit Follow-up. The CIM maintains close contact with the Office of Summit Follow-up.

Unit for Social Development and Education (USDE) of the OAS. The CIM and the USDE will work together to develop the Business Leadership Training Program, outlined in section IV.A.4.b of this report. Moreover, they have been invited to participate in the process to integrate a gender perspective into ministerial meetings, outlined in section IV.A.2.

Unit for the Promotion of Democracy. The CIM and the UPD have begun to exchange information with a view to greater collaboration. The Principal Specialist of the UPD participated in the First Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, reported on activities conducted by that Unit that have a gender component, and suggested possible joint actions that may be undertaken by the two entities.

Department of Public Information. In order to support marketing initiatives and to promote CIM activities, the Permanent Secretariat is putting out a video/documentary produced by the OAS Department of Public Information. This video is part of the *Serie América Viva* and deals with the status of women in the Americas.

2. Other Inter-American Entities

In order to promote a gender perspective at the regional and international levels, the CIM is carrying out cooperation activities with various entities of the inter-American system. Invitations have been extended to the Inter-American Development Bank, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to participate in all regular meetings of the Executive Committee to enable them to continue exchanging information and exploring joint initiatives.

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The CIM cooperates closely with the IDB, in particular to follow up on the Program for the Support of Women's Leadership and Representation (PROLEAD), co-sponsored by the CIM. In May 2000, the Executive Secretary attended the meeting of the Governing Board held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Since the start of the program in 1998, 42 projects have been financed.

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The CIM is also one of the co-sponsors of the Conference on Women, Violence, and Health, organized by PAHO, to be held in Mexico in May 2001. In addition, the CIM attended the 126th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organization.

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). IICA is involved in an interesting process to integrate a gender perspective into its basic documents. A meeting was held with Ms. Leonor Calderón, an IICA expert in rural sustainable development, in order to address possible areas of cooperation. Ms. Calderón submitted to the CIM a preliminary version of the recently drafted documents that integrate a gender perspective into the Institute's basic documents.

Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI). Together with the CIM and the International Human Rights Law Institute of DePaul University, the Inter-American Children's Institute is participating in the project entitled "Trafficking in Women and Children in the Americas for Purposes of Sexual Exploitation," as described in section IV.A.4.a. of this report. The Executive Secretary attended the annual meeting of the IACI, held in Ottawa, Canada, June 8-9, 2000.

B. United Nations System

In the context of the United Nations, the CIM attended the 44th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York (March 2000). It also attended the twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the topic "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century," held in New York, and two ECLAC meetings: the Eighth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development Process in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Lima, Peru, and the Regional Meeting on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, Chile. The CIM is continuing to provide assistance with the campaign to combat violence against women and promote human rights, sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In conjunction with the ICCLR of Canada, the CIM and ILANUD are developing the project: "Violence against Women. Regional analysis, including a study of the Convention of Belém do Pará" (See section IV.A.4.a of this report).

World Bank. A relationship has been established with the World Bank involving the exchange of information. During the First Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, Ms. Teresa Genta-Fons of the Office of the Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean presented a report on activities with a gender focus conducted in the area of economic development and proposed the establishment of a partnership agreement in areas of common interest. She also invited the President of the CIM to participate in the Conference on Gender and Law to be held by the World Bank in June 2001.

C. Other regional entities and organizations

The Tenth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. The CIM Executive Secretary took part in the preparatory meeting for the Tenth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, held in June 2000 in Peru, at which she presented a paper on the project, "Trafficking in Women and Children in the Americas for Purposes of Sexual Exploitation."

D. Civil society organizations

The Trust for the Americas. The CIM and the Trust for the Americas are exploring the possibility of preparing projects in the areas of democracy and leadership. Established in 1997 to promote partnerships among corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and academic institutions operating in the Americas, the Trust is linked to the central goals of the Organization of American States (OAS) and to the mandates of the Summits of the Americas.

VI. FINANCIAL SITUATION

The CIM notes once again that the human and material resources assigned to it are insufficient if it is to achieve its objectives, carry out its activities, and fulfill its mandates as the principal forum for generating hemispheric policies for the promotion of the human rights of women and gender equality and as the organ for follow-up and coordination of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirtieth regular session. Indeed, the Program urges the General Secretariat to strengthen the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM by providing it with the necessary human and financial resources and to support it in obtaining private funding (section 2.1.5).

Moreover, it should be pointed out that operative paragraphs 4 and 6, respectively, of resolutions AG/RES. 1451 (XXVII-O/97) and AG/RES. 1586 (XXVIII-O/98), "Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization," adopted by the OAS General Assembly at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth regular sessions, instructed the General Secretariat to make every possible effort to improve the financial situation of the Inter-American Commission of Women so that it will be better equipped to carry out its essential activities. Also, resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), "Adoption and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality"

(operative paragraphs 4 and 6), instruct both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to allot technical, human, and financial resources to the CIM.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The CIM asks the Permanent Council to transmit to the General Assembly, through the appropriate entities, for consideration the following recommendations for inclusion in draft resolutions on the topics indicated below:

1. To urge the Secretary General to continue to make every effort possible to implement the mandates of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and, in particular, to ensure the integration of a gender perspective into all activities, projects, and programs of the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS.
2. To improve the financial status of the Inter-American Commission of Women, as provided for in section 2.1.4 of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality; in operative paragraphs 4 and 6 of resolutions AG/RES. 1451 (XXVII-O/97) and AG/RES. 1586 (XXVIII-O/98), "Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies and Entities of the Organization"; and in operative paragraphs 4 and 6 of resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), "Adoption and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality."
3. To implement resolution AG/RES. 1627 (XXIX-O/99), "Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the OAS," also addressed in section 2.1.6 of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, which reiterated the need to implement measures to ensure full and equal access by men and women to all categories of posts in the OAS system, in particular decision-making positions.