



Organization of  
American States



## **INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN**

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM)  
TO THE FORTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

## CONTENTS

Introduction.....	
Executive Summary.....	
I. Origin, legal bases, structure and objectives.....	
II. Activities of the officers of the CIM.....	
III. Fulfillment of the mandates issued by the OAS General Assembly at its Forty-Fourth Regular Session.....	
IV. Fulfillment of the agreements adopted at the regular sessions of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015.....	
V. Activities of the CIM Secretariat: Implementation of the CIM Triennial Program of Work 2013-2015	
a. Women's Substantive Political Citizenship for Democracy and Governance.....	
b. Women's Human Rights and Gender Violence.....	
c. Citizen security from a gender perspective.....	
d. Integral development and women's economic citizenship.....	
e. Institutionalization of the Human Rights and Gender Equality Approach in the Work the OAS.....	
f. Strengthening the visibility of the CIM.....	
Annex 1: Budget execution - regular funds (through 31 December 2014).....	
Annex 2: Budget execution – specific funds (through 31 January 2015).....	

## INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions contained in Articles 91.f and 126 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) hereby presents its Annual Report to the General Committee of the Permanent Council for subsequent submission to the General Assembly at its forty-third regular session with the observations and recommendations the Council may deem appropriate.

This report provides a summary of activities carried out by the CIM between March 2012 and February 2013. To better coordinate its work with its existing mandates, in particular that of the *Inter-American Program on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality* (IAP), the CIM formulated its Strategic Plan 2011-2016. This Plan, adopted by the CIM Executive Committee for 2011-2012 at its first regular meeting (April 7 and 8, 2011), seeks to strengthen the CIM's core role as the Hemisphere's political forum for women's human rights and gender equality, as well as its coordination with the other the organs and agencies of the OAS, international organizations, civil society, and other key sectors.

The CIM Strategic Plan 2011-2016, adopted by the CIM Executive Committee 2011-2012 during its First Regular Session (April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2011), seeks to strengthen the pivotal role of the CIM as a hemispheric policy forum for women's rights and gender equality, as well as its coordination with other OAS entities and agencies, international organizations, civil society and other key sectors.

During the period covered by this report, the CIM worked to promote women's full political citizenship as a prerequisite for democratic governance and eliminating gender violence--both essential to the exercise of human rights and public security. It continued to support the incorporation of the gender perspective as a precondition for sustainable and inclusive human development, and strengthened the image of the OAS as an organization responsive to the demands of the women in the Hemisphere.

From May 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2014, with the support of the Government of the State of Hidalgo, Mexico, the CIM held the First Belém do Pará +20 Hemispheric Forum "Good practices in the prevention of violence." The objective of the Forum was to highlight the issue of prevention as a priority for an effective and sustainable response to violence against women, yet one in which we have made little progress due to a lack of attention, systematized knowledge and evaluation of existing efforts. The Forum considered 13 good practices in the area of violence prevention that touched on such diverse issues as legislation and public policy, education and communication. This event continued the initiative of the CIM to identify, systematize and disseminate good practices in the main areas of work of the Commission, including the strengthening and protection of women's political rights, the response to violence against women and the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention.

As a follow-up to the agreements adopted by the First Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015 (February 28<sup>th</sup> 2013), in the framework of the 43<sup>rd</sup> regular session of the General Assembly of the OAS (June 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2013, La Antigua, Guatemala) and with the aim of raising awareness among OAS Delegates and other stakeholders, the CIM organized the round-table discussion "Women and drugs in the Americas: A working situation analysis."<sup>1</sup> As a follow-up to this round-table and with the aim of beginning to fill the information gap on women's participation in the world of drugs, the CIM prepared the study *Women and drugs in the Americas: A policy working paper*,<sup>2</sup> which was launched

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1. The final report of this round-table is available at : <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/womenanddrugs.asp>

2. CIM. *Women and drugs in the Americas: A policy working paper*. Washington, D.C.: Inter-American Commission of Women, Organization of American States, 2014. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/WomenDrugsAmericas-EN.pdf>

during a policy round-table on “Women, drug policy, and incarceration in the Americas” on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 in Washington, D.C.

As a follow-up to the initial proposal for the Integrated System of Indicators on Women’s Human Rights (ISIWHR), the CIM has organized a series of validation and capacity-building workshops with national machineries for the advancement of women, national statistics institutes and other relevant actors in the participating countries - Brazil (June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>), Ecuador (June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>), Costa Rica (July 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>), Guatemala (August 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>), Bolivia (September 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>), the Dominican Republic (October 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>), and Panama (March 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 2015). The results of each of these workshops have been incorporated into the ISIWHR, which will be published in early 2015 along with a guide for its utilization.

In December 2014, the CIM in coordination with the LAC offices of UNAIDS and Development Connections, published the *Manual para fortalecer el ejercicio de los derechos humanos de las mujeres que viven con el VIH en América Latina*<sup>3</sup> [Manual to strengthen the exercise of the human rights of women living with HIV in the Latin America]. This manual is based on initiatives at the international, regional and national levels, which over the last decade have formed the basis for advancing national-level responses from the perspective of gender equality and constitutes a tool to support the analysis of progress in different sectors on knowledge generation, advocacy and promotion of the human rights of women living with HIV

The CIM will continue to work to fulfill the mandates it has received and strengthen its ability to meet the demands of women and to make respect for human rights and gender equality a reality throughout the hemisphere.

Alejandra Mora Mora  
President, 2013-2015  
Inter-American Commission of Women

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3. Available at: [http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/Manual\\_CIM\\_ONUSida\\_ES.pdf](http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/Manual_CIM_ONUSida_ES.pdf)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the activities carried out by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in compliance with its mandates between March 2013 and February 2014 stemming from the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), the CIM's Strategic Plan 2011-2016, specific OAS General Assembly resolutions, decisions by the CIM Executive Committee for 2011-2012 at its third regular meeting (April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2012, Washington, D.C.), and the declaration and resolutions adopted by the Thirty-sixth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2012, San José, Costa Rica).

In compliance with the different mandates entrusted by the OAS General Assembly to the General Secretariat in terms of strengthening the CIM,<sup>4/</sup> during this period the Secretary General lent important political support to the CIM through his participation, and that of the Assistant Secretary General, in various events organized by the Commission. The CIM also received support in seeking resources for existing or new projects.

Fulfillment of the mandate to strengthen the CIM involves improving internal coordination with all the areas of the Organization and ongoing participation in their activities to ensure inclusion of the rights and gender equality perspective. It also includes implementation of a Gender Program for the OAS General Secretariat, as well as technical support to the different Secretariats and member countries of the Organization.<sup>5/</sup>

The CIM made progress in coordinating and collaborating with the principal areas of the OAS, improving understanding of the negative impact of gender inequalities in each of the thematic areas, to ensure that government policies and action strategies will help eliminate inequalities between women and men in the countries of the Americas.

In this period, the CIM received two mandates from the General Assembly and ten specific mandates from its Executive Committee. Of these, the three General Assembly mandates are permanent, that is, their execution is ongoing. Of the Executive Committee decisions, two have been fulfilled totally and eight are in progress.

A series of activities were conducted under those mandates. They are presented in the report in accordance with the areas identified as “pillars” of the Organization of American States: (a) democracy and governance, (b) human rights, (c) multidimensional security, and (d) integral development. In addition, information is provided on an area of work that is central to the mandate of the CIM: (e) Institutionalization of the Human Rights and Gender Equality Approach in the Work the OAS.

4. AG/RES. 1451 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1592 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1625 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1777 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1941 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2021 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2161 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2323 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2441 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2560 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2685 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2710 (XLII-O/12), AG/RES. 2770 (XLIII-O/13), and AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14).

5. For more information on progress at the OAS General Secretariat in mainstreaming the rights and gender equality perspective, see the *Report by the Secretary General on the Implementation of the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality,” Pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14)*, document CIM/doc.130/15.

## **I. ORIGIN, LEGAL BASES, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECTIVES**

The 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.”

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 OAS to establish the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM.

In 1953, the Commission signed an agreement with the OAS Permanent Council under which the CIM was recognized as a permanent inter-American specialized organization having 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 permanent specialized organization. It also expanded its powers and authorized it to amend its own Statute in the future.

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.

As the principal hemispheric forum for women’s rights and gender equality, the CIM links the commitments undertaken at the international level on women’s human rights with effective public policies at the national level, in order to support the full political, economic, and social citizenship of women. The CIM addresses the rights and demands of women in five key areas: (i) democracy and governance; (ii) human rights; (iii) multidimensional security; (iv) integral development; and (v) mainstreaming the rights and gender equality perspective at the OAS and in its member states. In these areas, the CIM provides technical support at the legal, political, and programming levels, manages specific regional projects, and uses participatory knowledge management to ensure that political and programming discussions and decisions are evidence-based.

The CIM pursues its objectives through the following organs: the Assembly of Delegates; the Executive Committee, composed of the president, three vice presidents, and five representatives of member countries, all elected by the Assembly; 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, establish the guidelines for the CIM’s work.

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. ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE CIM**

In compliance with resolution CIM/RES. 257 (XXXV-O/10), adopted by the Thirty-Fifth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2010, Mexico City), from October 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2012, the Thirty-Sixth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM was held in San José, Costa Rica.

During this Assembly, the CIM Executive Committee was elected for the 2013-2015 period:

President:	Costa Rica (Alejandra Mora Mora)
Vice-Presidents:	Haiti (Yves Rose Morquette) Panama (Liriola Leoteau) Uruguay (Beatriz Ramírez Abella)
Miembros:	Barbados, Estados Unidos, Guatemala, México y Perú

During this period, the President of the CIM, María Isabel Chamorro (Costa Rica), resigned from her position as a result of the change in government in Costa Rica, which took place on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2014. The new Government of Costa Rica expressed its willingness to continue with the Presidency of the Commission and the new Principle Delegate, Alejandra Mora Mora (Minister for the Status of Women and Executive Director of the National Institute for Women/INAMU), was duly accredited on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2014.

The President of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora, participated in the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly of the OAS, which was held from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 in Asunción, Paraguay. This participation included both a side-event in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention), as well as the plenary session of the General Assembly in order to present the CIM Annual Reports. In her speeches, the President highlighted the achievements that have been spurred by the Belém do Pará Convention at the national level, as well as the persistent challenges that remain to the guarantee and protection of women's right to live free of violence. She also urged the OAS Member States to prioritize the integration of a women's rights and gender equality perspective in their deliberations during the Assembly and in subsequent actions to implement the Declaration.

From September 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, the President of the CIM participated in the XVIII Annual Conference of the CAF, in a panel on "Women Rising: Influential Decision Makers in Latin America," during which she emphasized that women are still more involved with the distribution of wealth and social policy and stressed that women's participation in decision-making is not only a right but an indicator of the quality of democracy and inclusion. "When one woman enters politics, she changes, but when many women enter, politics change," she concluded.

From September 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, the President of the CIM participated in the International Seminar Belém do Pará.uy, which was chaired by the Vice-President and Principle Delegate of Uruguay to the CIM, Beatriz Ramirez, and organized by the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES) of Uruguay in the context of the twentieth anniversary of the Convention. In her speech, the President highlighted that in establishing women's right to live free of violence, the entry into force of the Convention laid the groundwork for the creation of, among other things, a new generation of integrated laws, legal standards and public policies., which have marked a milestone in the protection of women's human rights. She also presented a regional overview of compliance with the provisions of the Convention and the gaps that persist in its implementation. She discussed the comprehensiveness with which the fight for women's rights must be undertaken and stressed that "(...) no institution alone can assume the challenge posed by violence against women," reiterating the role of the State in the implementation of the Convention.

From October 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, the President of the CIM participated in the V Forum on Latin American Democracy, which was held in Mexico City. During her participation, the President highlighted that inequality between women and men in terms of their participation and representation at all levels and in

all branches of politics continues to thwart the legitimacy and effectiveness of democracy in the region, and prioritized parity as the way forward – both for the region and for the work of the CIM.

From October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, the President of the CIM chaired the First Special Conference of the States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention, and the Fourth Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015, both of which were held in Mexico City with the support of the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES).

From September 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Secretary of the CIM, by invitation of the ASEAN Commission on the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), an entity of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), participated in an institutional strengthening workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia. The aim of the workshop was to exchange experiences and good practices in the strengthening of both the national machineries for women and the legal and policy framework on women's and children's rights. In this context, the Executive Secretary shared the experiences of the CIM over its 86-year history, as well as the process of adoption and implementation of the Belem do Para Convention. Similarly, she offered the ongoing support of the CIM to the ACWC institutional strengthening process.

From November 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Secretary of the CIM, on behalf of the Secretary General of the OAS, participated in the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls in Bangkok, Thailand. The aim of the meeting was to discuss ways and means to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls, with a view to making practical recommendations, drawing also on current best practices, in consultation with relevant United Nations entities and human rights mechanisms.

### III. FULFILLMENT OF THE MANDATES ISSUED BY THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

Mandate	Status of implementation	Comments
<b>AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14)</b> “Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará””	Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CIM serves in a permanent capacity as Secretariat of the MESECVI.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>- The Second Follow-up Round to the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts was finalized with the adoption of the Second Follow-up Report on the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts</li> <li>- The First Special Conference of States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention was held (Mexico City, October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>- The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI was held (Montevideo, September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>)</li> </ul>

6. For more information on the work of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), see the *Report on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará”” in fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14)*, document CIM/doc.129/15.

Mandate	Status of implementation	Comments
<b>AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14)</b> “Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women”	Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CIM continues with the implementation of the IAP.<sup>7</sup></li> <li>- Continued implementation of the CIM Strategic Plan 2011-2016</li> <li>- Continued implementation of the Triennial Program of Work 2013-2015</li> <li>- Initiated agreements and activities in collaboration with international organizations, civil society groups, and academic and research institutions</li> <li>- Strengthened the profile of the CIM in the region through communications and dissemination initiatives</li> </ul>

#### IV. FULFILLMENT OF THE AGREEMENTS ADOPTED AT THE REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE CIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013-2015

At its first regular meeting (April 2011), the CIM Executive Committee for 2011-2012 adopted the CIM Strategic Plan for 2011-2016, the main strategies of which are:

1. coordination and harmonization of the CIM's activities with those of the OAS; and
2. mainstreaming of the rights and gender equality perspective in the main forums, programs, and institutional planning of the Organization. The Plan is built on four program areas, to harmonize and coordinate the CIM's activities with the four thematic pillars of the OAS and their programs, forums, and strategies:
  - a. Women's substantive political citizenship for democracy and governance;
  - b. Women's economic security and citizenship;
  - c. Women's human rights and gender violence; and
  - d. Citizen security from a gender perspective.

##### *Third Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015*

(May 16th 2014 – Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico)

	Agreement	Status of implementation
<b>1</b>	In light of the celebration of the Belem do Para +20 Hemispheric Forum “The Belem do Para Convention and the prevention of violence against women: Good practices and proposals for the future,” the Executive Committee agrees to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Through the President, conveys its warmest thanks and appreciation the Government and the people of Hidalgo for their extraordinary efforts in welcoming the Delegates and making the Forum a success; and</li> <li>2. Urge the States Party to the Convention, and those that are</li> </ol>	<b>In progress</b>  The President of the CIM sent a letter of appreciation to the Governor of the State of Hidalgo  According to the information received by the Secretariat, Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay held national and/or regional

7. For more information on progress at the OAS General Secretariat in mainstreaming the rights and gender equality perspective, see the *Report by the Secretary General on the Implementation of the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality,” Pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14)*, document CIM/doc.130/15.

	<b>Agreement</b>	<b>Status of implementation</b>
	not party, to organize events in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Convention, in order to raise its visibility and give States the opportunity to renew their commitment to its full implementation.	events to commemorate the 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.  In addition, some States have published flyers and other commemorative materials.
2	In light of the kidnapping of over 200 girls in Nigeria, the Executive Committee agrees to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Condemn, in the strongest possible terms, this act of violence against women, and to urge the Government of Nigeria to increase its action to secure their safety and freedom; and</li> <li>2. Condemn the kidnapping and trafficking of women and girls in all its forms in those countries in the world where it occurs.</li> </ol>	<b>Fulfilled</b>
3	In view of the current debates on the Strategic Vision of the OAS, and the progress report transmitted by the President of the Working Group on the Strategic Vision of the OAS, Ambassador Emilio Rabasa, the Executive Committee agrees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To send, through the President, a communication to the Chair of the Working Group on the Strategic Vision of the OAS in order to transmit the comments of the Delegates and to highlight the importance of the work of the CIM and of allocating the human and financial resources from the regular budget that are necessary to allow the Commission to fulfill its program of work; and</li> <li>2. Request that the Executive Secretariat keep the Delegates informed of the results of the work of this Group.</li> </ol>	<b>In progress</b>  The CIM, through the Executive Secretariat, has participated in the debates on the strategic vision of the OAS and, at the request of the Chair in August 2014, prepared a note on the progress made in gender mainstreaming in the work of the OAS, as well as the persistent challenges (CIM/CD/inf.1/14).
4	In view of the draft Strategy for strengthening coordination between the CIM and civil society, contained in document CIM/CD/doc.6./13 rev.2, the Executive Committee agrees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt the strategy, incorporating the comments of the Delegates, and request the Executive Secretariat to prepare a plan for its implementation, including a budget, for the consideration of the next session of the Executive Committee 2013-2015</li> </ol>	<b>In progress</b>  In accordance with the provisions of the <i>Strategy for strengthening coordination between the CIM and civil society</i> (CIM/CD/doc.6/13 rev.3), the CIM continues its outreach to encourage women's and human rights organizations to register with the OAS.  To-date, as a result of these efforts, two organizations – the Centre for Reproductive Rights and Just Associates/JASS – requested and were granted registration. <sup>8</sup>
5	Following up on the CIM report “Women and drugs in the Americas: A policy working paper,” the Executive Committee agrees to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instruct the Executive Secretariat to continue working on the</li> </ol>	<b>In progress</b>  See section IV (iii) for a summary of the activities undertaken in this area.

8. The full list of civil society organizations registered with the OAS is available at: [http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/civil\\_society/registry.shtml](http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/civil_society/registry.shtml)

Agreement		Status of implementation
	<p>different aspects of this issue in order to provide Member States with timely and relevant information on its gender dimensions, with a particular focus on the Caribbean, through their national machineries;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through the President, present this report to the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Permanent Council of the OAS; and</li> <li>Prepare a proposal for a side-event, which will formulate concrete recommendations on the impact of the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on women and girls, in the framework of the next Special Session of the General Assembly of the OAS, to be held on September 19th of this year in La Antigua, Guatemala, and to keep Delegates informed of its organization and results.</li> </ol>	<p>A proposal was prepared for a side-event in the context of the 46<sup>th</sup> special session of the OAS General Assembly, however the Chair of the Assembly decided not to hold any side-events.</p> <p>The Declaration adopted during the Assembly (AG/doc.5 (XLVI-E/14))<sup>9</sup> includes mention of the importance of integrating a gender perspective into work on this issue.</p>

***Fourth Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015***  
(October 24th 2014, Mexico City)

Agreement		Status of implementation
<b>1</b>	<p>In preparation for the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, which will be held during the last trimester of 2015, the Executive Committee agrees to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the Member States to consider offering to host the Assembly; and</li> <li>In the event that no offer is received, request that the Executive Secretariat carry out the necessary preparations to host the Assembly of Delegates at OAS Headquarters in Washington, DC.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Cumplido</b></p> <p>The Government of Peru offered to host the 37th Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, as well as the 6th Conference of States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention. Both meetings will be held during the final trimester of 2015.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>As a follow-up to the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the Second Belém do Pará +20 Hemispheric Forum, the Executive Committee agrees to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through the President, convey its thanks to the Government of Brazil for the offer and save the dates of April 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 for the celebration of the Forum; and</li> <li>Urge all of the States Party to the Convention, and those that are not Party, to consider making a contribution to the celebration of the Forum by covering the costs of the participation of their Principal Delegates to the CIM, their Principal Experts to the MESECVI and other relevant authorities.</li> </ol>	<p><b>In progress</b></p>
<b>3</b>	<p>In view of the progress of the CIM in terms of the promotion of parity in politics, including the preparation of studies, the celebration of events and the requests for technical assistance received from various States, the Executive Committee agrees to request that the</p>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>An inter-agency meeting was held in December 2014 in Panama between the CIM,</p>

9. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/consejo/sp/AG/46SGA.asp>

Agreement	Status of implementation
<p>Executive Secretariat:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Circulate the draft project proposal for the development of a Model Law on Parity to the Delegates for their comments;</li> <li>2. Continue and strengthen this line of work, including through the mobilization of resources for the development of the Model Law on Parity, in collaboration with UN Women, International IDEA, UNDP and other relevant partners;</li> <li>3. Present the results of this work, including the draft Model Law on Parity, during the Thirty-Seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM; and</li> <li>4. Carry out the activities and consultations necessary to advance the issue of political harassment/violence and circulate a project proposal in preparation for the next session of the Executive Committee.</li> </ol>	<p>UN Women, International IDEA, UNDP and PARLATINO in order to discuss the proposed Model Law on Gender Parity and identify next steps in this collaboration.</p> <p>A project proposal has been prepared on this topic and will be circulated to Delegates for their comments after its approval by the OAS' Project Evaluation Committee.</p>
<p><b>4</b> In view of the progress of the CIM in the construction of a System of Indicators on Women's Human Rights (SYSWHR) and the need to bring more resources to its full implementation, the Executive Committee agrees to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Express in writing to the Executive Secretariat its requests for technical assistance in the dissemination and implementation of the SYSWHR; and</li> <li>2. Request that the Executive Secretariat prepare a proposal for a project to follow-up and continue the work carried out to-date, both to broaden the scope of the work carried out in the States that have already participated in the project, and to replicate the project to other States that have not had the chance to participate, upon their request.</li> </ol>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Costa Rica has formally requested technical assistance for the implementation of the SYSWHR.</p> <p>Although it was not part of the pilot project, Panama funded a workshop on the SYSWHR from March 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 2015.</p>
<p><b>5</b> The Executive Committee agrees to include on the agenda of each of its sessions and of the regular and special sessions of the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM a space for the exchange of good practices and experiences among the representatives of each of the Member States, in response to previous requests made to the Executive Secretariat of the CIM.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b></p>

**V. ACTIVITIES OF THE CIM SECRETARIAT:  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRIENNIAL PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE CIM 2013-2015**

**a. Women's substantive political citizenship for democracy and governability**

Over the past five years, the Organization of American States and the United Nations Development Programme have been promoting consensus-building on the main challenges the countries encounter in seeking to strengthen democracy and governance in Latin America and the Caribbean, through national dialogues and consultations. This process is intended to help build a shared perspective on democracy to which the region's citizens aspire, as well as fresh thinking on the democratic system and new forms of political participation.

In this process, the visions, rights, and aspirations of women and the gender perspective need to be addressed in greater depth. The present framework should be broadened to encompass women's exercise of their human rights and fulfillment of the binding commitments assumed by the countries in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará).

In this context the CIM, in collaboration with UN Women and International IDEA, has published two studies: i) *Women's citizenship the democracies of the Americas* (2013),<sup>10</sup> which presents a critical reflection on democracy from diverse perspectives, visions, concerns and proposals and contributes to the analysis of democratic systems beyond the dimension of representation and institutions, addressing other spheres of life that are not included in the classical notion of citizenship – including gender, interculturalism, pluri-ethnicity, sexual and reproductive citizenship and global citizenship, among others; and ii) *Banking on parity: Democratizing the political system in Latin America (Ecuador, Bolivia and Costa Rica)*,<sup>11</sup> which documents and analyzes, from a critical and systematic perspective, the processes that led to the adoption of parity, identifying the relevant factors and stakeholders that influenced these processes and evaluating their implementation.

As a follow-up to these studies, the CIM has continued its analysis of the exercise of women's political rights in the hemisphere, with particular emphasis on the issue of parity. In the face of persistent political exclusion of women and the slow pace of change, in recent years States have recognized the urgency of moving forward and are beginning to re-think democracy from the perspective of parity as a comprehensive strategy that aims to resolve the deficits of representative democracies, as well as a general democratic principle. Ecuador and Bolivia were the first countries in the region to adopt parity at the constitutional level, respectively in 2008 and 2009, including the entire public sector and political parties. Subsequently, between 2009 and 2013, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Mexico adopted parity, though applied mainly to elected offices and the leadership of political parties. In this context, parity has emerged as the most plausible solution to the political exclusion of women, and the work of the CIM has focused on two important areas:

### ***Parity in politics***

First, moving beyond quota laws and advancing towards parity between women and men in all the institutions of the State and all spaces in public and political life. In this sense and in response to requests for technical assistance from various countries in the region, the CIM has prepared a project proposal for the development and validation of a Model Law on Parity in Politics, with a view to using the experiences of those countries that have already adopted parity (Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Nicaragua) to provide concrete technical tools to other countries in the region. In collaboration with UN Women, International IDEA, and UNDP, the CIM has presented this proposal to various donors.

In this context, the CIM participated in the “Meeting of Women Parliamentarians: Parity in democracy,” organized by UN Women and the National Forum of Women in Political Parties (FONAMUPP) in collaboration with the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO) from December 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> in Panama. The aim of the meeting was to advance towards parity in democracy and substantive equality in Latin America. Accordingly, the CIM presented on “Parity between women and men in public and political life: Advancing the search for solutions,” and highlighted the need to strengthen

10. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/democracy.asp> (only in Spanish)

11. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/democracy.asp> (only in Spanish)

institutional capacities of the OAS Member States in order to ensure the exercise of women's political rights through the promotion of parity.

The view of parity that the CIM proposes is based on a holistic perspective that includes, on the one hand, women's access to representational positions in all branches of the State (executive, legislative, judicial), and at all levels of government (international, national, sub-national) and, on the other hand, the conditions in which women develop their political careers and hold positions of power. The CIM proposes gathering the experiences of regulating parity that are being advanced in the region, as well as the lessons learned thus far, and developing a practical tool that includes general guidelines for the effective application of parity, as well as gathering lessons learned and good practices on this issue from the region.

The Meeting brought together 173 participants, including parliamentarians, magistrates of Electoral Courts and representatives from different States institutions, as well as women from political networks in 16 countries of the region. During the meeting, the participants adopted by consensus a Political Declaration that makes a firm commitment to parity in democracy, and each working group identified recommendations to begin the development of a Model Regulation on Parity in Democracy for Latin America, and a proposal was made to strengthen the regional alliance of the CIM, UNDP, UNFPA, International IDEA and other around this issue.

### ***Political violence and harassment***

Second, a fundamental part of the full exercise of women's political rights is ensuring that they can develop their political careers and exercise their public responsibilities free from discrimination and violence and in conditions of the equality with men. This refers not only to ensuring their access to positions of power, but also to the State's responsibility to ensure that women and men can fulfill their roles and exercise this power in conditions of equality. Specifically, the CIM, particularly in the context of the MESECVI, has gradually incorporated the issue of political violence and harassment, which thus far has been absent from the political agenda of the region and the work of monitoring and evaluating the application of the Belém do Pará Convention.

On February 25<sup>th</sup> two events were organized in Washington, DC: i) a meeting of experts, with a view to analyzing the challenges facing countries in the region in terms of an effective response to the problem of political violence against women, particularly through regulations that punish such violence; and ii) a round-table on "Political Violence against Women: A Hemispheric Challenge," with a view to highlighting the various manifestations of violence that women experience in the political sphere and strengthening the hemispheric and institutional response to said violence. As a result of this meeting, the CIM/MESECVI has identified the main elements that a regulation on political violence should contain, an analysis that will pave the way for the future work of the Commission in this area.

These activities are also carried out within the framework of the commitments assumed by the OAS Member States in the Declaration of the Inter-American Year of Women, "Women and Power: For a World of Equality," (CIM/DEC. 10 (XXXV-O/10), and the mandates received in terms of strengthening the CIM as the hemispheric policy forum for promoting women's full rights and citizenship in the Americas.

### **b. Women's Human Rights and Gender Violence**<sup>12</sup>

12. For more information on the work of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), see the *Report on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'* in fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14), document CIM/doc.129/15.

### ***Evaluating National Initiatives to Produce Comparative Data on Violence against Women for the OECS States***

With the support of the Governments of Chile, Trinidad and Tobago; and Suriname, this project mapped the main national strategies of the 6 countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) - Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines - as part of a comparative study on the sub-region to analyze violence against women (VAW). This sub-regional assessment will enable OECS policy-makers to better identify and address gaps in their response to violence against women at both the national and sub-regional levels, in accordance with their acquired commitments under the Belém do Pará Convention. This strategic resource to address violence against women, highlights the need for more and better data and developing proper tools for standardized data collection across the sub-region. With funding identified, this would form the basis for a second phase of the project.

To-date, the project has completed the following activities:

- A compilation of information for each country of the OECS
- Two focus groups for domestic violence service users held in two of the project countries: Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- A validation workshop held jointly with the Second OECS Roundtable on VAW at which the findings were reviewed. A rapporteur's report was prepared on the conclusions and recommendations of that meeting held in Saint Lucia from September 23-24, 2014. At this meeting, in observance of the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the Convention of Belem do Para, participants received presentations from OECS-CEVI experts and deliberated on the achievements and challenges of the implementing mechanism in the Caribbean. A Roundtable was also held which introduced the topic of: Men as Perpetrators and Victims of Gender-based Violence - a topic of great interest to the Caribbean sub-region.
- A consolidated draft sub-regional report is being finalized that includes national data and information on VAW from the OECS sub-region.

The final phase of the project, scheduled for 2015, will prepare the validated findings for publication, followed by a launch of the OECS sub-regional report at a meeting of policy-makers. This will help to publicize the results and provide feedback for developing a follow-up proposal to respond to some of the knowledge and capacity gaps identified in the report.

### ***Incorporation of policies and programs on HIV and violence against women from a human rights perspective in Central America and the Caribbean***

Pursuant to the Declaration of San Salvador, adopted by the CIM in November 2007, the CIM implemented this project from September 2008 through January 2012, with funding from AECID. Although the project has formally ended, in response to requests from the project partners, particularly the community of women living with HIV, the CIM has continued working in this area, with the following concrete results:

- Adoption by the OAS General Assembly of resolution AG/RES. 2802 (XLIII-O/13) "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of People Vulnerable to, Living With, or Affected by HIV/AIDS in the Americas," which seeks to foster action in various areas:
  - Analysis, by the CIM and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) of the legal and regulatory framework governing HIV/AIDS in the region, in the context of the international and inter-American commitments acquired by the member states – in order to

- identify obstacles faced by people living with or affected by HIV to the full exercise of their rights;
- The work of the OAS, in collaboration with its strategic Partners, including groups of women living with HIV, to support States in the formulation and application of laws and public policies that protect the human right of people living with HIV;
  - Access of people living with HIV, in particular pregnant and lactating women, to anti-retrovirals; and
  - The participation of people living with HIV, including young women, in the decision-making and dialogues spaces of the OAS.
- The signing of a collaboration agreement between the OAS and UNAIDS in January 2014 in order to strengthen the guarantee and protection of the human rights of people vulnerable to, living with, or affected by HIV/AIDS in the Americas;
  - The development, in coordination with the LAC offices of UNAIDS and Development Connections, of the *Manual para fortalecer el ejercicio de los derechos humanos de las mujeres que viven con el VIH en América Latina*<sup>13</sup> [Manual to strengthen the exercise of the human rights of women living with HIV in the Latin America], which was published and launched during the Round-table on “Violence against women and sexual and reproductive rights in the Americas: Progress and persistent challenges” (December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Washington, DC). This manual is based on initiatives at the international, regional and national levels, which over the last decade have formed the basis for advancing national-level responses from the perspective of gender equality and constitutes a tool to support the analysis of progress in different sectors on knowledge generation, advocacy and promotion of the human rights of women living with HIV; and
  - The preparation, in coordination with the LAC offices of UNAIDS, of a report on “The Social and Human Rights Dimension of HIV in the Americas,” which will serve to inform discussions among OAS Member States and their allies on the challenges faced in the response to HIV and the actions needed to scale up and sustain integrated care, prevention, care-giving and support. The CIM has taken on the preparation of a chapter of this report on “The human rights of women living with HIV in the Americas,” for which a questionnaire was circulated to OAS Member States and key civil society organizations on four topics: i) laws, plans and programs, ii) access to services and support; iii) inter-sectoral coordination and participation; and iv) information and statistics. The Secretariat is currently compiling and analyzing the responses to this questionnaire in order to finalize its chapter of the joint report.

### ***Good practices in addressing violence against women and gender justice***

On March 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, in the framework of the First Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015, a round-table discussion was organized on the gap between women’s rights in the law and in practice, with a view to highlighting the fact that the international and national legal framework on women’s rights is not yet a reality for the majority of women of the hemisphere.

In continuation of this line of work and with the support of the Government of Canada, the CIM organized an international meeting on “Women’s human rights: Good practices in gender justice,” from September 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in collaboration and with the support of the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina. The meeting identified 17 good practices in gender justice and the response to violence against women, including experiences from such diverse sectors as the police, the attorney general’s office, supreme courts, the executive branch, civil society and the international community.

13. Available at: [http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/Manual\\_CIM\\_ONUSida\\_ES.pdf](http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/Manual_CIM_ONUSida_ES.pdf)

During the period under review, this initiative has spurred two new areas of work for the CIM. First, the identification systematization and dissemination of good practices in the response to violence against women and the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. From May 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2014, with the support of the Government of the State of Hidalgo, Mexico, the CIM held the First Belém do Pará +20 Hemispheric Forum “Good practices in the prevention of violence.” The objective of the Forum was to highlight the issue of prevention as a priority for an effective and sustainable response to violence against women, yet one in which we have made little progress due to a lack of attention, systematized knowledge and evaluation of existing efforts. The Forum considered 13 good practices in the area of violence prevention that touched on such diverse issues as legislation and public policy, education and communication.

These and other practices form the basis of a virtual platform of good practices in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention (<http://www.belemdopara.org>), whose aim is to facilitate concrete tools to those responsible for protecting women’s right to live free of violence. As it systematizes the work carried out to-date, the platform also serves as a permanent space for technical support and exchange of information and experiences, including good practices. In addition to the section on good practices, the platform will also present a data visualization tool on the implementation of the Convention during the different phases of evaluation and follow-up of the MESECVI, beginning with the results of the Second Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention (2010) and the Second Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (2014).

The second area of work generated by the meeting in Buenos Aires is strengthening the capacity of justice officials from a perspective of human rights and gender equality. In this area, the CIM has worked with the Supreme Courts of Argentina and Mexico, the Office of the United Nations’ High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Latin American Council on Social Sciences (CLACSO) in order to develop and launch a Diploma program on “Justice, Gender and Violence.” Oriented towards judges, prosecutors, public defenders and forensic specialists, as well as other interested professionals, the Diploma program aims to provide the basic knowledge and analytical and practical tools necessary to the effective protection of women’s human rights, on the basis of constitutional, regional and international obligations acquired by the States. The first edition of the Diploma program was launched on September 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 with support from the Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico and the Governments of Lichtenstein, Kazakhstan and Monaco and will continue until November 2015 with the participation of 40 representatives from the justice sectors in Argentina, El Salvador and Mexico.

### ***Indicators of the exercise of women’s human rights***

As a follow-up to the *System of progress indicators for measuring the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention*<sup>14</sup> and with the support of the Government of Canada, the CIM has made progress in the implementation of the project “Bringing women’s rights and gender equality instruments to public policy formulation in the Americas.” The objectives of this project are to: i) strengthen the capacity of participating OAS Member States to identify and analyze women’s rights and gender equality concerns and integrate them in public policies; and ii) evaluate and support the role of the national machineries for the advancement of women in their capacity as the main bodies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of public policies on gender equality and women’s rights.

In this context, during 2013 assessments were conducted in Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago in order to identify: i) to what extent national

14. See: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecevi/docs/CEVI10-Indicators-EN.doc>

plans and reports on women's rights and gender equality take into consideration the commitments acquired at the inter-American and international levels; and ii) existing sex-disaggregated data that could support monitoring of the exercise of women's rights. On the basis of these assessments, a Regional Expert Group on Indicators of the Exercise of Women Rights was established in order to develop an initial proposal of indicators that could be used by States to more effectively monitor the exercise of women's rights.

During this period, the initial proposal for the Integrated System of Indicators on Women's Human Rights (ISIWHR) has served as the basis for a series of validation and capacity-building workshops with national machineries for the advancement of women, national statistics institutes and other relevant actors in the participating countries - Brazil (June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>), Ecuador (June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>), Costa Rica (July 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>), Guatemala (August 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>), Bolivia (September 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>), the Dominican Republic (October 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>), and Panama (March 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 2015). The results of each of these workshops have been incorporated into the ISIWHR, which will be published in early 2015 along with a guide for its utilization.

On the basis of this progress, the CIM has prepared a follow-up proposal to the current project for the consideration of donors. With adequate funding, this proposal will allow the CIM, on the one hand, to expand the current project to other countries in the region and, on the other hand, to continue providing technical assistance to those countries that have already participated in the project, with a view to making the ISIWHR an integral part of processes to monitor women's human rights at the national level.

### **c. Citizen security from a gender perspective**

#### ***Women's participation in the world of illicit drugs***

Claims by the media, paired with the scarce data available suggest that in recent years, the participation of women in the international drug problem has increased significantly. Nevertheless, while this participation is visible in the news, it has been largely absent from the research and other activities of most governmental and inter-governmental bodies in the Americas.

As a follow-up to the agreements adopted by the First Regular Session of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015 (February 28<sup>th</sup> 2013), in the framework of the 43<sup>rd</sup> regular session of the General Assembly of the OAS (June 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2013, La Antigua, Guatemala) and with the aim of raising awareness among OAS Delegates and other stakeholders, the CIM organized the round-table discussion "Women and drugs in the Americas: A working situation analysis."<sup>15</sup> During the round-table discussion, panelists stressed the importance of incorporating differentiating criteria in the analysis of the situation of women and men within the issue of drugs

As a follow-up to this round-table and with the aim of beginning to fill the information gap on women's participation in the world of drugs, the CIM prepared the study *Women and drugs in the Americas: A policy working paper*,<sup>16</sup> which was launched during a policy round-table on "Women, drug policy, and incarceration in the Americas" on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 in Washington, D.C.

As a continuation of these activities, the CIM organized the round-table "Women, drug policy

15. The final report of this round-table is available at : <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/womenanddrugs.asp>

16. CIM. *Women and drugs in the Americas: A policy working paper*. Washington, D.C.: Inter-American Commission of Women, Organization of American States, 2014. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/WomenDrugsAmericas-EN.pdf>

and incarceration in the Americas,” within the context of the XVII World Congress of Criminology on August 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Monterrey, Mexico, with a view to strengthening the analysis of the situation of women incarcerated for drug-related crimes from the perspective of human rights.

The CIM was also invited to participate in the V Latin American and I Central American Conference on Drug Policy, which was held in Costa Rica from September 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> 2014. In the context of this Conference, the CIM organized a side-event on “Women, drug policy and incarceration in the Americas,” on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and also participated in a panel on “Drugs and Social Inclusion,” during which emphasis was placed on the inherent contradiction of talking about the social inclusion of people who in general come from a position of exclusion that is then made worse by their participation in illicit activities and the time they may spend in prison. The CIM also highlighted the importance of applying a human rights perspective and prioritizing preventive actions and programs with populations that face a high risk of becoming involved in the commercialization of illicit drugs.

During 2014, the CIM, in collaboration with the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), DeJusticia, the Costa Rican Association for the Study of and Intervention with Drugs [Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas/ACEID] and Corporación Humanas/Colombia developed a project proposal on “Women, Drug Policy, and Incarceration: Promoting humane and effective policies and practices.” This project has since been financed by the Open Society Foundation for implementation in 2016-2016 in Colombia and Costa Rica, with the following activities:

- Establishment of a Working Group to analyze and share good practices on the situation of women incarcerated for drug use and/or participation in the illegal drugs trade;
- Working meetings in Colombia and Costa Rica;
- Development of guidelines for public policy reform in Colombia and Costa Rica;
- On the basis of these experiences, development of hemispheric-level guidelines for public policy reform; and
- Development of a civil society version of the guidelines.

#### **d. Integral development and women’s economic citizenship**

Over the last three years, the CIM has broadened its collaboration with the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the OAS, including the Inter-American Commissions and Ministerial Meetings of various sectors, their technical secretariats and cooperation networks. In this regard, the technical advice and assistance provided by the CIM is reflected in terms of its incidence in the formulation and implementation of policies, programs and projects.

In addition to the economic area, which has focused primarily on the issue of labour, the CIM has worked with other sectoral areas including Social Development, Disaster Management, Competitiveness, ICTs and Ports, as a well as with the Educational Portal of the Americas and the OAS Scholarships Program.

In the area of labour, the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DDHEE), is in constant coordination with the CIM pursuant to the “Strategic guidelines of the XV IACML for advancing gender equality and non-discrimination within a decent work framework ” (2007),<sup>17</sup> the conclusions of the First Inter-Ministerial Meeting between Ministers of Labour and National Machineries for the Advancement of Women (2011), and the results of the CIM project “Advancing Gender Equality in the Context of Decent Work” (2009-2011).<sup>18</sup> The CIM-IACML collaboration is

17. Available at: [http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/ddse/pages/cpo\\_trab\\_15minist.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/ddse/pages/cpo_trab_15minist.asp)

18. The results of this project are available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/cim/labour.asp>

reflected in the consolidation of a gender and women's rights perspective on the technical and political agenda of this Conference. CIM has also worked very closely with DDHEE through the Educational Portal of the Americas in the preparation and realization of OAS online courses and the management of the OAS' Gender Community of Practice. In addition, with the OAS Scholarships Program, and as a result of the participation of the CIM in the review and selection of Professional Development Scholarship recipients in the OAS Member States, scholarships slots have been awarded to cover participation of selected candidates in the CIM/OAS virtual course on gender.

With the then-Department for Economic and Social Development (DDES), currently the Department for Social Inclusion, the CIM is supporting the implementation of Participatory Gender Audits (PGAs) in various Social Ministries and in collaboration with the National Machinery for the Advancement of Women, in the framework of the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN) and with the support of the Government of the United States of America. To-date, PGAs have been carried out with the Social Ministries of Guatemala (March-April 2014), Uruguay (July-August 2014) and Paraguay (September 2014). This technical assistance includes training on the PGA methodology from a team of facilitators that includes personnel from the Social Ministry and the National Machinery, followed by the PGA itself over a two-week period, under the guidance of experts and with the participation of the team that has been trained. The PGA concludes with an Action Plan for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the Social Ministry. At the moment, the three participating countries are working on the implementation of their Action Plans, in which the participation of the National Machinery is crucial. On the basis of this project, the CIM has prepared a proposal for presentation to potential donors, which contemplates the transfer of the PGA methodology to the National Machineries for replication in other sectors.

With the Department of Economic Development (DED), on the issue of Science and Technology, inputs were provided to the Plan of Action of the Fourth Meetings of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology, which was held in Guatemala from March 10th to 11th 2015, which served to enrich the discussions of the meeting through the preparation of a document with specific recommendations ("Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation"). Similarly, on the issue of Competitiveness, the CIM has contributed to the 2014 Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Report, which was prepared by the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) and launched during the VIII Americas Competitiveness Forum and Annual Meeting of the RIAC, held from October 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in Trinidad and Tobago. Part of the CIM's contribution to this report included the preparation of an article on "Gender Equality for Innovation and Competitiveness." In Science and Technology, collaboration with DDES is being discussed in the context of preparation of the next meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Science and Technology, which will be held in Guatemala in March 2015.

With the Department of Sustainable Development (DDS), CIM has participated in the series of meetings chaired by the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS on disaster mitigation in the Americas, with the participation of international and inter-American organizations, as well as the Group of Friends of Disaster Mitigation, which now includes the participation of the OAS Member States and Permanent Observers. The CIM and DDSE prepared a technical and policy document on integrated disaster risk management, on the basis of which a project proposal was also developed and for which both Departments are actively seeking funding. The project is oriented towards combating the vulnerability of women and children to disasters through capacity-building with the offices charged with integrated disaster risk management and the national machineries, in order to incorporate a gender and rights perspective in the formulation and implementation of their policies and programs on this issue. Similarly, the CIM provides continuous technical advice and support to the disaster management area of DDS, including in the preparation of publications.

The CIM has continued its collaboration with and technical support to the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), through the meetings of its Consultative Committee on Gender Issues in the Americas (CCPI). As a follow-up to these activities, a number of Webinars (virtual seminars) have been held on the CITEL platform with a view to facilitating dialogue, the exchange of experiences and the identification of joint initiatives between the offices charged with telecommunications, the national machineries, international organizations and CITEL partners. A virtual session on “Women’s contribution to sustainable development and economic growth” was held on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2014.

On the issue of Ports, the CIM has strengthened the collaboration that was initiated in 2013 with the Inter-American Commission of Ports (CIP), including participation in the IX Regular Meeting of the CIP in Washington, DC from June 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 2014. During this meeting, Member States emphasized that importance of CIP follow-up to the recommendations and guidelines on improving the status of women in the ports sector and integrating the gender perspective into the CIP, adopted by CIP authorities as a result of the “Hemispheric Seminar on Public Policies and the Visibility of Women in the Ports Sector in the Americas,” which was held from March 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 in the Dominican Republic with the participation and technical advice and assistance of the CIM.

**e. Institutionalization of the Human Rights and Gender Equality Approach in the Work the OAS<sup>19</sup>**

As part of the CIM’s efforts to advance the institutionalization of a gender and rights perspective in the work of the OAS, it has continued with: (i) coordination of the OAS Gender Program; (ii) continuous collaboration with the Department of Planning and Evaluation (DPE) through technical assistance and recommendations to ensure that gender and women’s rights dimensions are integrated into project and programming cycles; (iii) the provision of technical advice and assistance to other secretariats and departments of the OAS, including inter-American commissions and their secretariats, in order to advance women’s rights and gender equality dimensions in the formulation and implementation of their policies, projects and initiatives. In addition, as part of the institutionalization efforts, (iv) the Executive Secretariat of the CIM has been preparing the draft of an institutional policy on gender, diversity and rights at the OAS.

Within the framework of the OAS Gender Program, whose third phase began with the project “Incorporation of Gender Analysis and Gender Equity and Equality as Crosscutting Topics and Objectives in OAS Programs,” executed as part of the OAS/CIDA 2008-2011 Program, the CIM provides ongoing online training to personnel from the OAS and other organizations in gender and rights; manages a Gender Community of Practice for OAS personnel; and monitors, evaluates and reports annually on the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) within the OAS General Secretariat and its autonomous and decentralized entities.

In the area of capacity-development, the CIM offers the online course “Gender Equality and Rights-based approach to Policies, Programs and Projects,” which is currently seeking applications for its sixth edition. The course arose in response to the need of the OAS to advance more systematically and substantively in the integration of a gender and rights perspective in the work of the Inter-American System. In collaboration with the Educational Portal of the Americas, a strategic partner in this project,

19. For more information on progress in gender mainstreaming at the level of the OAS General Secretariat, see: *Report by the Secretary General on the Implementation of the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality” in Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2770 (XLIII-O/13)*, document CIM/doc.130/15.

the CIM is currently developing a second online course on “Strategic Planning from a Gender Perspective,” on the basis of a CIM methodology that has already been validated in the region.

The current online course, which also includes the Community of Practice, has graduated professionals from the five OAS Secretariats, including personnel that coordinate key programs in the region at both the headquarters and field levels, including the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators (PIFJ), the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP-OEA), and the Universalization of Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA). From the first edition (January 10<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup> 2013) to the fifth (October 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup> 2014), the course has graduated 302 professionals, including 51 from the GS/OAS and 251 from other organizations. The GS/OAS participants received full scholarships. Similarly, during 2014, 20 professionals from outside the OAS received full scholarships.

During the period covered by this report, the CIM continued its theoretical and technical advisory services to the other secretariats and departments of the OAS, including other bodies of the inter-American system, to support the mainstreaming of a human rights and gender equality perspective in the work of the Organization. Its activities included:

- With the **Secretariat of Administration and Finance (SAF)**, ongoing cooperation with the Department of Planning and Evaluation (DPE) through active CIM participation in the OAS Project Evaluation Committee and its working group to ensure that the human rights and gender equality perspective is mainstreamed into the Organization's projects and their evaluation, as well as into the classification of, and accountability for, OAS mandates from a gender perspective. Similarly, several sessions of the OAS Gender Community of Practice (CoP) have been carried out, including two sessions in coordination with DPE (July 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014), which served to present a proposed tool for the classification and presentation of OAS mandates and the results of its work from a gender perspective, which allows the Organization to highlight to what extent it complies with the commitments it has acquired through resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and other directing bodies. Similarly, during an online session (June 27<sup>th</sup> 2014), CoP participants shared the efforts that they have carried out as part of their work, as well as the challenges and opportunities encountered, as a follow-up to the learning and tools that were previously shared.

In this area, it is worth noting the growing tendency in the various areas to integrate the gender perspective into project formulation and implementation, including projects designed specifically to empower women and increase their participation in various sectors.

- With the **Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)**:
  - (i) Support to the integration of gender issues in projects and reports of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and of the Department of Public Security.
  - (ii) With the CICTE, the CIM has provided technical support and assistance and participated in the “Regional Workshop to Enhance the Capacity of Women Involved in Major Events Security,” which was held in Ottawa, Canada from March 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2014, as well as the inauguration of the “Annual Meeting of National Focal Points on Major Events,” held in Ottawa on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Both events were organized by the CICTE, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Among the results, recommendations and guidelines were generated for advancing gender equality and rights in this sector.
  - (iii) With the Department of Public Security, technical support has been provided to a project on strengthen community relationships and coordination in the context of an integrated response

to violence against women, which is currently being implemented as a pilot project in the region of Limón, Costa Rica.

- With the **Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA)**, the CIM has continued its ongoing collaboration with the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) in implementing its electoral observation methodology with a gender perspective and analyzing the outcome. Similarly, support has been provided to the Department of Effective Public Management in the preparation and implementation of specific projects and programs. In addition, the CIM has trained personnel at both the headquarters and field levels from the main programs that make up the SAP.
- With the **Secretariat for External Relations (SER)**, with the Department of International Affairs, the CIM works with the OAS Model Assembly program, providing a technical assistance professional upon request; and in organizing specialized meetings and roundtables.
- With the **Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA)**, the CIM has provides technical support and assistance to the Department of International Law in their efforts to promote the adoption of the principles of a Model Inter-American Law on Secured Transactions and its Model Registry Regulation, in particular on issues of financial inclusion. In this context, the CIM Secretariat, along with national and international experts, participated in three seminars: “Regional Training Seminar on Secured Transactions Reform,” in San Salvador, El Salvador from May 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014; “International Seminar on Reform of Secured Transactions and their Impact on Credit in Peru,” in Lima, Peru from November 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>; and “Capacity Building Workshop on Secured Transactions and Asset-Based Lending,” in Kingston, Jamaica, from February 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2015. Among the international organizations participating in these seminars were the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITL), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).
- With the autonomous specialized organizations, the CIM has continued its cooperation and advisory services at the request of those bodies. With PAHO, through participation in the meeting of the technical advisory group on gender equality in health (TAG/GEH). These and other autonomous specialized organizations provide yearly inputs to the CIM in the preparation of the Annual Report of the OAS Secretary General in pursuance of the IAP.

#### **f. Strengthening the visibility of the CIM**

In accordance with the new dynamics of communication, the CIM has dedicated efforts in 2014 to strengthening its links with civil society, multi-lateral organizations, foundations, government institutions, including the justice sector, parliamentarians, media, and youth, and to bringing greater visibility to the regional agenda for gender issues in order to advance its goals in the areas of democracy, human rights, security and development. As stated in the *Strategy for strengthening coordination between the CIM and civil society* (CIM/CD/doc.6/13 rev.3), the CIM continues to encourage women’s and human rights organizations from the region to register with the OAS Civil Society Registry. Several organizations expressed their interest in this process and to-date, as a result of these efforts, two organization – the Centre for Reproductive Rights and Just Associates/JASS – requested and obtained their registration.<sup>20</sup>

In 2014, the CIM signed collaboration agreements with the following entities:

- The National Institute of Women of Mexico;
- The Supreme Courts of Costa Rica, El Salvador and Mexico, pursuant to the work initiated with the

20. The full list of civil society organizations registered with the OAS is available at: [http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/civil\\_society/registry.shtml](http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/civil_society/registry.shtml)

- Supreme Court of Argentina on the issue of gender justice;
- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); and
- Comunicar Igualdad (Communicate Equality).

These efforts were carried out through different tools that have allowed for the promotion of the work of the CIM and strengthening its relevance in the promotion and protection of women's rights. The Red CIM (CIM Network), which is an electronic database used for mass e-mailing was expanded. To-date, the Network includes 2,697 participants – an increase of 133% since 2013 – which includes CIM Delegates, the National Authorities and Experts of the MESECVI, the Permanent Missions and offices of the OAS in the Member States, civil society organizations dedicated to the promotion of women's rights, the OAS Gender Community of Practice, academic and research centres, media, and youth networks, among others. During 2014, 1,598 messages were sent via the network to inform on the activities of the CIM, present its publications, news, and press releases, and to circulate questionnaires and request information.

The CIM's Twitter feed (@CIMOEA / @CIMOAS) includes more than 1,000 followers and its Facebook page has received more than 2,000 "likes." It is important to note that these pages are highly visible, that the content is available to anyone, without their having to be accepted as "friends" of the CIM, and that they are highly ranked in related internet searches. Social media have been used to promote CIM events, as a result of which both in-person attendance at such events and followers of the live transmissions have increased markedly.

As part of the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Belém do Pará Convention, various initiatives were undertaken to involve young people from the region: awareness-raising campaigns, cultural and educational activities centred on the prevention of violence against women and the importance of modifying socio-cultural patterns of behaviour in order to eradicate this problem:

- The CIM carried out the "Wear Red for Women" campaign on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Hall of the Americas, in order to raise awareness of gender-based violence and promote the implementation of the Convention. More than one hundred people attended the event, including representatives of OAS Member States, Observer States, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations and staff of the Organization, wearing items of red clothing and accessories, similar to the "red shoes" campaign surrounding the disappearance and murder of women in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.
- With a view to eliminating inequalities and preventing gender-based violence, in October the CIM launched the Youth Network for Equality and Non-violence through its Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/jovenesCIM>). This hemispheric network seeks to promote the principles of equality, non-discrimination and non-violence, and to prevent violence in relations among young people in the Americas. To-date, the network includes over 400 young people from different countries.
- On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the CIM engaged in a dialogue with approximately 100 interns participating in the OAS internship program in order to let them know about its work, raise awareness of gender and violence issues through video and interactive images on gender stereotypes with a view to highlighting and de-normalizing the first manifestations of violence.
- As part of the activities of the Youth Network for Equality and Non-violence and in preparation for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, the CIM designed and launched the "Delete Virtual Violence" campaign for students between the ages of 18 and 25, who prepared their own audio-visual and graphic materials to address this issue. The CIM analyzed the submissions received and announced the winners on March 9<sup>th</sup>, in the framework of international women's day. The winners will also be invited to the CIM Assembly of Delegates in October 2015 in order to present their work, which is available on the CIM's blog site at: <http://dialogocim.org/>.

At the beginning of 2014, the CIM spurred the creation of and OAS Theatre Group with a view to promoting gender equality and raising awareness of violence against women through the arts. With the support of the CIM and the Government of Argentina, the Greek comedy by Aristophanes (411 CE), *Lysistrata* was presented on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Hall of the Americas, as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, whose theme for 2014 was “From peace in the home to peace in the world: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!” The aim of the presentation was to use art to promote respect for women’s rights and to increase the visibility of their contributions to peace-building and to social and political life.

Similarly, for the first time, in July 2014 the CIM co-sponsored the Graduate Diploma in Gender and Communications, a virtual learning initiative of the Civic Association Communication for Equality, with a view to eliminating discriminatory stereotypes and sexist content in communications. The second edition of this Diploma co-sponsored by the CIM began on March 16<sup>th</sup> 2015.

**Annex 1: Budget execution - regular funds (through 31 December 2014)**

	USD \$			
	Balance	Assigned allotment	Budget execution	Available funds
Salaries of CIM staff	1,031,084.04	0.00	1,031,084.04	0.00
Interagency assistance	89,734.40	162.30	89,572.10	0.00
Documents	8,349.92		8,349.92	0.00
Equipment and supplies	12,007.23	150.33	11,856.90	0.00
Conference services / contracts	84,961.35	5,061.69	79,899.66	0.00
Other	21,566.83	212.76	21,354.07	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,247,703.77</b>	<b>5,587.08</b>	<b>1,242,116.69</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Total (Personnel)	1,031,084.04	0.00	1,031,084.04	0.00
Total (Non-personnel)	216,619.73	5,587.08	211,032.65	0.00

**Annex 2: Budget execution – specific funds (through 31 January 2015)**

Bringing women's rights and gender equality instruments to public policy formulation in the Americas

<b>Donor:</b>	Government of Canada		
<b>Duration:</b>	September 2012 to August 2015		
<b>Total budget:</b>	\$573,492		
	<b>Budgeted Appropriation</b>	<b>Execution</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>RESULT 1</b> Strengthen the capacity of OAS member states to effectively monitor and evaluate the impact of public policies on women's human rights	\$399,832	\$399,831	\$ 1.00
<b>RESULT 2</b> Assess and support the role of the national mechanisms for the advancement of women as the main national bodies charged with these monitoring and evaluation functions	173,660	107,233	66,427
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>573,492</b>	<b>507,064</b>	<b>66,428</b>

Enhancing the capacity of OAS Member States to implement the Belem Do Para Convention

<b>Donor:</b>	Government of Canada		
<b>Duration:</b>	September 2012 to August 2015		
<b>Total budget:</b>	\$894,466		
	<b>Budgeted Appropriation</b>	<b>Execution</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>RESULT 1</b> Strengthen the capacity of OAS member states to effectively monitor the implementation of the Belem do Para Convention and CEDAW General Recommendation 12	\$548,409	\$491,111	\$57,298
<b>RESULT 2</b> Provide training to government officials and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Belem do Para Convention and CEDAW General Recommendation 12	346,057	220,513	125,544
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>894,466</b>	<b>711,624</b>	<b>182,842</b>