



Gender equality and decent work: CIM works with authorities to build awareness and capacity

[Washington, DC, 7 May, 2010] With the participation of high-level officials from the Ministries of Labor and National Machineries for the Advancement of Women of Central America (including the Dominican Republic) and Mexico, CIM concluded a sub-regional workshop on gender-responsive strategic planning (San Salvador, 4 to 6 May, 2010).

This workshop, which was organized with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency and brought together circa 40 participants, was jointly organized by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Department of Social Development and Employment (DDSE/SEDI) at the OAS, the Ministry of Labour and Social Provision of El Salvador, the Salvadoran Institute of Women (ISDEMU) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The event was part of a CIM regional project on gender and decent work, which aims to strengthen the capacity of participating countries to institutionalize a gender perspective in their Ministries of Labour (or equivalent), with the objective of achieving gender equality in the world of work. In particular, the CIM project seeks to address the specific needs identified in a recent study conducted by the Inter-American Network of Labour Administration (RIAL) on the institutionalization of a gender perspective in the Ministries of Labour of the Americas. The training aims to contribute to institutional strengthening within the Ministries in terms of gender mainstreaming in the policies and programmes that address the issue of decent work; the identification of indicators for monitoring and evaluating the actions of Ministries in this area; and strengthening inter-sectoral coordination at the national and sub-regional level.

As was mentioned during the closing session, this workshop was a clear example of high-level political will translated into concrete action. Beyond the methodologies and the knowledge shared, the renewed commitment and cooperation between countries, through the participating institutions, will be key to moving forward the gender equality in decent work agenda of CIM and the OAS.

This workshop was the second in a series of four sub-regional workshops. The first was held in Georgetown Guyana (April 2010) for the Caribbean, and the remaining two will be held in Asuncion, Paraguay (August 2010) for the MERCOSUR region and Quito, Ecuador (October 2010) for the Andean region.

For more information, visit: <http://www.oas.org/cim>



**Victoria Marina Velásquez de Aviles
Minister of Labour and Social
Provision of El Salvador, during the
inauguration of the workshop**



Workshop participants

*The **Organization of American States (OAS)** is the world's oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American State (October 1889 to April 1890). It was established in 1948 with the aim of achieving among the States of the Americas "an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen*

their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence.” The OAS prioritizes four pillars - democracy, human rights, security, and development – that support each other and are intertwined through political dialogue, inclusiveness, cooperation, and legal and follow-up instruments that provide the OAS with the tools to maximize its work in the Hemisphere.

*Established in 1928, the **Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)** was the first official inter-governmental agency in the world created expressly to ensure recognition of the civil and political rights of women. CIM is made up of 34 Principal Delegates, one for each member state, and has become the principal forum for debating and formulating policy on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Americas*