

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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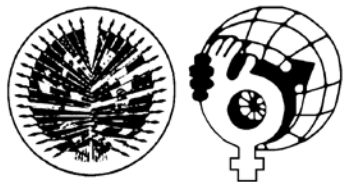
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FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM)
ON COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "PROMOTION OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT,
AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
'CONVENTION OF BELIM DO PAR;' "

This document is being distributed to the permanent missions and will be
presented to the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly.

CIM

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN



No. 04-064/99

April 20, 1999

Excellency:

On instructions from the President of the CIM, Dulce María Sauri Riancho, I have the honor to address Your Excellency, in your capacity as Chair of the Preparatory Committee of the twenty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, and to enclose the documents listed below, to be presented to your Committee for its consideration:

1. First Biennial Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) 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,' " item 48 on the draft agenda (AG/doc.3734/99).
2. Draft resolution on the topic, prepared by the working group established for that purpose and open to participation by all permanent missions to the OAS.

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

Carmen Lomellin
Executive Secretary

Dr. Julio César Araoz
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Argentina
to the Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.

FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM)
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. 1456 (XXVII-O/97)]

A. CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ: BACKGROUND AND STATUS OF
SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS

1. Background

The Inter-American Commission of Women has devoted particular attention to the subject of violence against women since the end of the 1980s, when it began the process of drafting a convention on the subject. Within the Commission, this process culminated in the convocation of the Sixth Special Assembly of Delegates, held on April 18 and 19, 1994, which approved the text of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women.

On June 9, 1994, in Belém do Pará, Brazil, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, at its twenty-fourth regular session, adopted by acclamation the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará."

2. Status of signatures and ratifications

With the Convention adopted, the CIM set out to achieve the ratification of this international legal instrument by all member states of the Hemisphere and its entry into force. The Commission carried out educational activities and a public information campaign to achieve these objectives. On March 5, 1995, after ratification by the required number of countries, and pursuant to the provisions of its Article 21, the Convention of Belém do Pará entered into force. To date, it has been ratified by 29 countries (Appendix I).

3. National law

Prior to the Convention of Belém do Pará, few countries had domestic violence laws. Together with the signature and ratification process, and immediately after entry into force of the Convention, the member states adopted laws on domestic violence or defined it as an offense (Appendix II).

B. STRATEGIC MEASURES TO PURSUE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION

1. Background

1.1. The Inter-American Commission of Women

The Twenty-seventh Assembly of Delegates of the CIM, held from November 7 to 11, 1994, a few months after the adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará, adopted the Strategic Plan of Action for presentation at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995.

The Strategic Plan states in its introduction that violence against women is one of its areas of priority interest. The chapter on this topic establishes as an objective the promotion of programs to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women and also proposes some strategies to that end (Appendix III).

1.2. The Convention of Belém do Pará

Chapter III of the Convention, Duties of the States (Articles 7 and 8), establishes the responsibilities of the states and the specific measures or programs to be adopted progressively by them to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women. These articles provide not a restrictive list but a basis for devising programs and plans for attaining the objectives of the Convention.

Article 10 provides that “the States Parties shall include in their national reports to the Inter-American Commission of Women information on measures adopted to prevent and prohibit violence against women, and to assist women affected by violence, as well as on any difficulties they observe in applying those measures, and the factors that contribute to violence against women.”

2. Follow-up efforts by the CIM

After the Convention had been adopted by the OAS General Assembly, and given the lack of rules governing the presentation of national reports by the delegates, the Executive Committee adopted an agreement setting out guidelines for the preparation of reports to the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM on the topic of violence against women (Appendix IV).

The Twenty-eighth Assembly of Delegates adopted resolution CIM/RES. 191 (XXVIII-O/96), "Unified Standards for Preparation of Delegates' Reports," which provides that reports should include a description of measures taken to implement the Convention of Belém do Pará.

At the three most recent Assemblies of Delegates of the CIM, resolutions on promotion of the Convention were adopted [CIM/RES. 170/94 (XXVII-O/94) (Appendix V); CIM/RES. 186/96 (XXVIII-O/96) (Appendix VI); and CIM/RES. 200/98 (XXIX-O/98) (Appendix VII)]. These resolutions call for the design and implementation of programs to prevent and eradicate violence against women.

3. Resolutions adopted by the OAS General Assembly

The OAS General Assembly has also adopted resolutions for the promotion of the Convention. In resolution AG/RES. 1432 (XXVI-O/96), "Status of Women in the Americas" (Appendix VIII), it urges member states, *inter alia*, to ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará. In resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97) (Appendix IX), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" it instructs the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, in order to ensure follow-up of the Convention of Belém do Pará, to report to the General Assembly every two years on progress made in its application and on the results achieved through the initiatives and programs pursued in the member states in the area of violence against women.

4. Summary of results

Significant achievements over the past 10 years:

- The topic of violence against women is being debated by society, calling attention to the problem and helping to demonstrate the magnitude and scope of this phenomenon in our nations.
- In most countries, the public has become aware of the ineffectiveness of government institutions dealing with the needs of women victims of violence and the need to establish and/or strengthen such institutions.
- Progress has been made on the legislative front in terms of the reform of discriminatory laws already on the books and the adoption of new laws on domestic violence.
- The defense of human rights has acquired great momentum at the regional and international levels; in this context, the problem of violence has received attention, and violence against women is now considered a violation of human rights.
- Women's movements have taken on prominence and transcended national boundaries. Women's issues are being discussed at the international level; this means they can be dealt with as a specific topic and regional strategies may now be envisaged.

Obstacles that remain:

- Lack of resources with which national organizations may develop and implement appropriate work plans.
- Lack of adequate and comprehensive support for women victims of violence.
- Incomplete harmonization of national law with international law.

5. Report of the Rapporteur of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on the Status of Women in the Americas

This IACHR initiative was launched in 1994. Dr. Claudio Grossman was designated Special Rapporteur for women's rights, with the task of studying and reporting on the extent to which law and practice in the member states regarding women's rights are consistent with the obligations enshrined in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights.

Recommendations

The report presented by the IACHR to the OAS General Assembly at its twenty-eighth regular session concludes with recommendations for remedying instances of *de facto* and *de jure* discrimination which prevent women from fully exercising their rights; for dealing with the consequences of such discrimination; and for preparing additional proposals for achieving these objectives in the framework of the regional system. The states are urged to take steps forthwith to identify and reform law and practice having discriminatory intent or effect on the basis of gender, so that all such instances may be remedied by the year 2000.

The report urges those OAS member states that have not yet done so to ratify the regional human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, as a demonstration of their commitment to observing and protecting the human rights of women victims of violence.

Moreover, in its recommendations to the states on specific rights, it says: "The Commission endorses General Recommendation 19 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1992 through which it is affirmed that violence against women constitutes a violation of human rights, stressing that the States may be liable for private acts if they fail to act with due diligence to prevent violations of rights, or to investigate and punish acts of violence, or fail to provide measures of reparation or compensation (E/CN.4/1996/53, 5 February 1996, Commission on Human Rights, p. 10, para. 34). In keeping with the criterion set out by the CEDAW, the Commission recommends that the States revise and amend domestic legislation for the purpose of reflecting the progress achieved in international law with respect to the rights of women, punishing conduct that has not yet been defined as a crime such as sexual harassment, amending procedures in the investigation stage that are discriminatory and/or prejudicial because the victim is a woman engaging in 'immoral conduct' and to investigate and punish cases of domestic violence with due diligence through prompt and simple judicial remedies."

6. National reports

The national reports presented by the Delegates to the Twenty-ninth Assembly of Delegates, held in November 1998, show continued progress at the hemispheric level in dealing with the problem of violence against women.

These reports also show that comparable measures have been implemented by the countries:

- Laws on domestic violence and sexual harassment have been adopted, prompting more women to report their aggressors. This has also allowed more statistical information to be compiled on the topic.
- Support services have been implemented to assist women victims of violence (shelters, telephone hot lines, legal and health services)
- Training has been provided to justice, police, and health-service personnel who work on such cases, and special teams to protect women have been created within police forces.
- Radio and television programs have been conducted to raise public awareness and inform women of their rights.
- Women's movements and nongovernmental organizations are providing support and information on violations of women's rights.

The reports also indicate that, in addition to continued pursuit of the measures listed above, Delegates have proposed the following measures for future implementation:

- Conduct follow-up on laws enacted, to study their effectiveness and the obstacles to their application; conduct comparative studies of legislation as well.
- Promote programs to raise awareness of the gender issues involved in domestic violence, in all areas of public and private life, so as to eliminate prejudice and stereotypes.
- Promote programs about domestic violence that are geared toward men.

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND
ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
“CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ”**

**PLACE AND DATE
OF ADOPTION** *Belém do Pará, Brazil*
June 9, 1994

ENTRY INTO FORCE The Convention entered into force on March 5, 1995, 30 days after
the date of deposit of the second instrument of ratification.

STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OR ACCESSION

<i>STATES</i>	<i>Signatures</i> (25)	<i>Deposits of Instruments of Ratification or Accession</i> (29)
Antigua and Barbuda		*
Argentina	*	*
The Bahamas, Commonwealth of	*	*
Barbados	*	*
Belize	*	*
Bolivia	*	*
Brazil	*	*
Chile	*	*
Colombia		*
Costa Rica	*	*
Dominica, Commonwealth of		*
Dominican Republic	*	*
Ecuador	*	*
El Salvador	*	*
Guatemala	*	*
Guyana	*	*
Haiti		*
Honduras	*	*
Mexico	*	*
Nicaragua	*	*
Panama	*	*
Paraguay	*	*
Peru	*	*
Saint Lucia	*	*
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	*	*

Saint Kitts and Nevis	*	*
Trinidad and Tobago	*	*
Uruguay	*	*
Venezuela	*	*

APPENDIX II

LAWS ON VIOLENCE WITHIN THE FAMILY

Before the Convention of Belém do Pará was adopted, only a few governments had adopted laws on domestic violence:

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines adopted the Law on Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Procedures in 1984.

Jamaica adopted the Law on Domestic Violence in 1989.

Puerto Rico adopted Act No. 54, on the Prevention of and Intervention in Domestic Violence, in 1989.

Costa Rica, in 1990, adopted Act No. 7142, Promoting the Social Equality of Women, Chapter 4 of which addresses violence in the family.

The Bahamas adopted the Law against Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence in 1991.

Trinidad and Tobago adopted a law on domestic violence in 1991.

Barbados adopted the Law against Domestic Violence in 1992.

Belize adopted the Law on Domestic Violence in 1992.

Peru adopted Act No. 26260 of 1993, **amended in March 1997 by Act No. 26763.**

After the Convention was adopted, the following countries adopted laws on domestic violence:

<i>Saint Lucia</i>	Law on Domestic Violence, 1994.
<i>Chile</i>	Act No. 19.325, "Establishing Standard Procedures and Penalties for Acts of Violence within the Family," August 27, 1994.
<i>USA</i>	Act No. 103-322, September 1994, Title IV, Violence against Women.
<i>Argentina</i>	Act No. 24.417, "Protection against Family Violence," December 7, 1994.
<i>Panama</i>	Act No. 27, June 16, 1995.
<i>Uruguay</i>	Act No. 16707, "Law on the Safety of Citizens," July 1995, adds to the Criminal Code Art. 321 (bis), defining domestic violence as a crime and stipulating punishments.
<i>Ecuador</i>	Law against Violence toward Women and the Family, November 1995.
<i>Bolivia</i>	Act No. 1674, "Law against Domestic and Family Violence," December 15, 1995.
<i>Costa Rica</i>	Law against Domestic Violence, March 1996.
<i>Guyana</i>	Law on Domestic Violence, 1996.
<i>Mexico</i>	Law on Prevention of Family Violence and Provision of Related Assistance, April 26, 1996.
<i>Colombia</i>	Law on Domestic Violence, July 16, 1996.
<i>El Salvador</i>	Law against Family Violence, September 1996, Decree No. 902.
<i>Guatemala</i>	Law 97-96 to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Family Violence.
<i>Nicaragua</i>	Law containing amendments and additions to the 1996 Penal Code.
<i>Dominican R.</i>	Law 24-97, defining domestic violence, sexual harassment, and incest as crimes.
<i>Honduras</i>	Law against Domestic Violence, Decree No. 132-97.
<i>Venezuela</i>	Law on Violence against Women and the Family, September 1998.

ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE

*"Violence against women
is a violation of human rights..."
(Convention of Belém do Pará)*

A. Assessment

1. Violence against women transcends all levels of society and is basically a result of inequality in the relations between men and women. Although the prevalence of this problem may appear to be more recent, or more common today, this apparent "increase" in violence is basically due to the fact that women themselves began to raise the issue in public discussions, assuming their historic responsibility to confront the problem and to identify ways to resolve it.

2. In 1986, CIM began an analysis of violence affecting women and, among other things, approved the Plan of Action in which violence against women was considered in the chapter "Areas of special concern," together with other topics. The social importance and significance of this problem was perceived by CIM, which considers it one of its priority issues.

3. For that reason, CIM convened the Inter-American Consultation on Women and Violence in 1990, which thoroughly reviewed the topic of violence against women and the feasibility of drafting an inter-American convention on the subject. The conclusions and recommendations of the Inter-American Consultation on Women and Violence contain a wealth of information because they cover all aspects of violence, offering specific solutions in each of the areas dealt with, and were drawn up from the country reports submitted on the topic by the member countries. The meeting decided that an international treaty instrument on violence against women was urgently required.

4. After three years of study and consultation with the governments of the Region, based on a document drafted by experts convened by CIM, the Commission promoted and recently achieved the approval by acclamation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, (Convention of Belém do Pará), at the Twenty-fourth Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of America States on June 9, 1994, in Belém do Pará, Brazil. The approval of this Convention, the first international law ever adopted on women and violence, demonstrates the recognition by governments of the importance of the problem and their determination to make progress on this problem^{1/}.

1. Fourteen countries have already signed this Convention and one of them has also ratified it.

5. This effort to combat violence has been, to a greater or lesser degree, also undertaken by several countries that have developed legislation on family violence and sexual harassment, and some have amended their constitutions, raising the rights of family, women, and children to the level of constitutional laws, and eliminating aspects of discrimination still embodied on civil, penal, and labor laws.

6. Nonetheless, critical areas still remain to be addressed. It is therefore necessary to develop proposals to combat violence against women and to foster mechanisms to ensure implementation of the Convention, to reinforce the policies to be suggested with respect to these matters.

OBJECTIVE:

Promote programs to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women.

B. Strategies

1. Strategies to be undertaken to eliminate and prevent violence against women should be developed in a holistic manner and be designed to incorporate the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, in their design, implementation and evaluation.

Information, Education, and Dissemination

2. Promote, by all available means, the dissemination, signing, and ratification of the "Convention of Belém do Pará", including programs to highlight the magnitude and breadth of violence against women and the need to adopt measures to combat it.

Legal reform

3. Promote and support, where appropriate, the adaptation of national legislation to the international conventions and treaties to ensure that women can live free from violence of any kind, both in public and private.

4. Promote the enactment of legislation to eliminate violence wherever it occurs, whether in the workplace or in the family, to eliminate the ability of assailants to act with impunity, to speed up the meting out of punishment, and to establish effective measures to protect women who have been subjected to violence.

Support services

5. Promote and support the establishment of comprehensive legal services as well as other types of services that enable women to defend themselves, within the framework of respect for their human rights in all spheres (health, education, police).

6. Promote the strengthening of care resources for women subjected to violence and specialized treatment for assailants.

Statistical development and research

7. Promote statistical research to determine the nature and magnitude of violence against women, by geographic area and social group, in order to draw up plans, strategies, and work programs to prevent and eliminate it. CIM should coordinate research to determine advances in methodology both to understand and include data on these subjects within the national statistical and information services.

8. Determine the key risk factors for violence against women in general, in order to comply with the preventive intent of the Convention.

9. CIM should promote the undertaking of studies on the social and economic cost of gender-based violence.

Training

10. Develop plans to train and sensitize officials in the judicial, police, health, and education areas and all other personnel who, in one form or another, provide services directed at women.

11. Support education, training, information and communication plans to change socio-cultural patterns which, by defining power relations that subordinate women to men, legitimize violence against women in the family, society, or the state.

12. Support mass campaigns on the rights of women either in domestic or in international law and in the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, using means and languages adapted to the reality of women in each OAS member country: women in urban and rural areas, indigenous women, females of various ages (especially girls and young women), in order to raise public awareness of the gravity of violence and how it affects the family and the future of new generations.

ADDITIONAL SECTION FOR THE
BIENNIAL REPORTS TO THE CIM ASSEMBLY

MEASURES ADOPTED FOR THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT,
AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- A. Measures adopted for the prevention and prohibition of violence against women:
 - 1. Under national law, what penal, civil, administrative, or other procedures are in force to prevent violence against women?
 - 2. What legal and administrative mechanisms are in force to ensure that women victims of violence have access to restitution, redress, and other types of assistance?
 - 3. What programs have been undertaken to raise awareness of the problem; change social and cultural systems, education and training systems, specialized services, and the media; and to ensure research and the maintenance of statistical information on the causes of violence against women?
 - 4. What new laws and programs are being considered for implementation?
- B. Difficulties in applying the measures adopted
- C. Main factors contributing to violence against women in your country
- D. Trends in violence against women

CIM/RES. 170/94 (XXVII-O/94)

PROMOTION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION TO PREVENT, SANCTION, AND ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, 'CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ'

(Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session, held on November 11, 1994)

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," was adopted by acclamation at the twenty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States on June 9, 1994;

That the process for the signing and ratification of the Convention of Belém do Pará has begun in the region, and 14 countries have signed and the Congress of one country has approved its ratification;

That it is desirable to encourage all the states to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible; and

That measures to promote the text of the Convention and fulfillment of its objectives, which are the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women, need to be adopted as soon as possible,

RESOLVES:

1 . To promote and publicize the Convention with a view to its signing and ratification by all the member states as soon as possible.

2. To instruct the authorities of the Inter-American Commission of Women, in consultation with the CIM Principal Delegates where appropriate, to devise and conduct a program to publicize the Convention of Belém do Pará and promote fulfillment of its objectives—the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women—on the basis of the following principal activities:

- a. To organize, in consultation with the CIM Principal Delegates, visits by the President of CIM and other authorities of the Commission to publicize the importance of the Convention of Belém do Pará and to promote its signing and ratification in those countries where it has not been done;
 - b. To widely publicize the Convention of Belém do Pará in the region using to that end all communications media and the specialized networks of women's organizations;
 - c. To support the design of standard graphic materials, easy-to-understand visual aids, and programs on audio tape that can be aired on the radio;
 - d. To promote subregional meetings to share experiences regarding the measures taken regarding violence against women, and to publicize the positive results achieved;
 - e. To encourage the preparation of teaching materials in the languages of the CIM member countries, including indigenous languages, in order to publicize the contents of the Convention and its protection of rights;
 - f. To support mass media information campaigns on women's rights contained in domestic and international legislation;
 - g. To promote, where appropriate, full implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, through the adoption of legislative or administrative measures in the various member states of CIM, for the purpose of guaranteeing to woman a life free of violence;
 - h. To promote the training and sensitization of those involved in the administration of justice with respect to handling cases involving violence against women;
 - i. To strengthen ties of cooperation with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in order to foster respect for the human rights of women within the spheres of competence of each body; and
 - j. To ensure proper representation of CIM at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995.
3. To transmit the text of the Convention of Belém do Pará to the General Secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, requesting that it be included in the conference documentation for the topic violence against women.
 4. To present the Convention of Belém do Pará at the next meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in New York in March 1995.

CIM/RES. 186/96 (XXVIII-O/96)

PROMOTION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION TO PREVENT, SANCTION, AND ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, 'CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ'

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,
held on November 14, 1996)

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," was approved by acclamation on June 9, 1994, by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its twenty-fourth regular session;

That the Convention entered into force on March 15, 1995, and has since been signed by 25 countries and ratified or acceded to by 26;

That the Twenty-seventh Assembly of Delegates adopted resolution CIM/RES. 170/94 (XXVII-O/94), to promote the signing and ratification of the Convention by all member states as soon as possible and the adoption of measures to publicize the Convention and promote its implementation; and

That, since some countries have not signed or ratified the Convention or taken steps to achieve its purposes, additional measures are needed as quickly as possible to promote the Convention and fulfillment of its objectives, namely, the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Principal Delegates to the CIM to continue to promote and publicize the Convention with a view to its signing and ratification by all member states as soon as possible.

2. To reiterate to the officers of the Inter-American Commission of Women the mandate to design and implement new programs to publicize the Convention of Belém do Pará and promote fulfillment of its objectives—the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women—on the basis of the activities set forth in resolution CIM/RES. 170/94 (XXVII-O/94).

3. To recommend that special emphasis be placed on:
 - a. Making it possible for women subjected to violence to receive comprehensive and adequate support;
 - b. Completing the process of legal reform in the countries to bring national legislations into line with the principles and objectives of the Convention of Belém do Pará;
 - c. Promoting subregional meetings to allow for a sharing of experiences with measures taken to deal with violence against women, and publicizing the results obtained, within the framework of a partnership;
 - d. Supporting mass publicity campaigns on violence against women.

4. To entrust the officers of the Inter-American Commission of Women with promoting the following additional measures for the same purposes:
 - a. Holding specialized course to train members of the medical profession in providing care to battered women;
 - b. Encouraging the use of new technologies by tapping media resources to set up information centers that are preferably regional in scope;
 - c. Establishing a focal point in the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM to coordinate and follow up on national reports on the Convention presented to the Assembly of Delegates and any other available information. This will enable the CIM to report on implementation of the Convention, new experiences acquired and the results obtained, and new initiatives and programs in the member states to monitor them.

CIM/RES. 200 (XXIX-O/98)

STRATEGIC ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE OBJECTIVES
OF THE CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ

(Resolution adopted at the fourth plenary session,
held on November 18, 1998)

THE TWENTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
COMMISSION OF WOMEN,

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," was adopted by acclamation on June 9, 1994, by the OAS General Assembly at its twenty-fourth regular session;

That the Convention came into force on March 5, 1995, and that to date it has been ratified by 28 countries; and

That it is advisable to promote the signature and ratification of the Convention by all member states as soon as possible; and

RECOGNIZING:

That although efforts are being made throughout the Hemisphere to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women, it continues to exist on a scale that makes it imperative to continue to implement strategies designed to free the women of the Americas of this scourge;

That the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) have programs dedicated to eradicating violence against women;

That the Twenty-eighth Assembly of Delegates adopted resolution CIM/RES. 191 (XXVIII-O/96), "Unified Standards for Preparation of Delegates' Reports," which provides that there should be a description of measures taken to implement the Convention of Belém do Pará;

That at the last two Assemblies of Delegates, resolutions CIM/RES. 170 (XXVII-O/94) and CIM/RES. 186 (XXVIII-O/96) were adopted to promote the Convention; and that they recommend the design and implementation of programs to prevent and eradicate violence against women; and

That the OAS General Assembly has adopted the following resolutions to promote the Convention: resolution AG/RES. 1432 (XXVI-O/96), "Status of Women in the Americas," which, among other measures, urges member states to ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará; and 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 instructs the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, in order to ensure follow-up of the Convention of Belém do Pará, to report to the General Assembly every two years on the progress made in application of the Convention, and the results achieved through initiatives and programs pursued in the member states to combat violence against women,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states and the principal delegates of the countries that have not yet signed and/or ratified the Convention of Belém do Pará to continue promoting the signature and ratification of the Convention by all member states.

2. To recommend to the principal delegates and officers of the CIM that they implement the measures proposed in resolutions CIM/RES. 170 (XXVII-O/94), CIM/RES. 186 (XXVIII-O/96), AG/RES. 1432 (XXVI-O/96), and AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97).

3. To instruct the Executive Secretariat and Permanent Secretariat of the CIM to:

- a. Formulate and coordinate specific measures for cooperation with the IDB, PAHO, and other regional and international governmental and nongovernmental organizations concerned with violence against women;
- b. Report to the next Assembly of Delegates on the activities carried out in fulfillment of this mandate.

AG/RES. 1432 (XXVI-O/96)

STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE AMERICAS

(Resolution adopted at the eighth plenary session,
held on June 7, 1996)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The 1994 Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará";

The 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

The 1995 Strategic Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women; and

The Plan of Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China, in 1995; and

CONSIDERING:

That discrimination against women constitutes an obstacle to the social and economic development of our countries;

That member states are steadfastly committed to improving the status of women; and

That adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará, the first inter-American legal instrument on women and violence, demonstrates member states' recognition of the importance of the problem and their determination to make progress in this sphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará.

2. To recommend to the member states that they strengthen and, where necessary, create mechanisms for the advancement of women and that they bear in mind the need to use gender analysis in devising and executing public policy.

3. To urge the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to consider the gender perspective when devising and executing development projects.

4. To reiterate the importance of full compliance with the Strategic Plan of Action of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

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"

(Resolution adopted at the sixth plenary session,
held on June 4, 1997)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," which was adopted by acclamation on June 9, 1994, at the twenty-fourth regular session, and is the first convention in the world on violence against women; and

CONSIDERING:

That in the Plan of Action adopted at the Summit of the Americas in 1994 the heads of state and government agreed to encourage, as appropriate, ratification of and compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women;

That the Declaration of Montrouis: A New Vision of the OAS recognized the dignity of women and their contributions to society; called for the adoption of policies that foster active participation by women to enable them to fully enjoy all their rights and develop their potential; and, in this connection, supported the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women; and

That the adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará demonstrates the recognition by member states of the problem of violence against women and their determination to make progress in this regard,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women, in order to ensure follow-up of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, to report to the General Assembly every two years on progress made in its application and on experiences and results achieved through the initiatives and programs pursued in the member states to combat violence against women.

2. To encourage all member states to take appropriate measures to ensure that the principles and objectives of the Convention of Belém do Pará are incorporated into their legal systems, so as to eliminate any discrimination and inequality still existing in national laws.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

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'"

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN 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, to ensure follow-up of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, instructed the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to present biennial reports to the General Assembly on progress made in the Convention's application and on experiences and results achieved through the initiatives and programs pursued in the member states to combat violence against women;

BEARING IN MIND:

That, in operative paragraph 8 of resolution AG/RES. 1606 (XXVIII-O/98), "Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights," the General Assembly expresses appreciation for and takes note of the Report of the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights and encourages the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of the matter; and

That, to date, 29 countries have ratified the Convention of Belém do Pará, thus demonstrating their support for and interest in the subject of violence against women;

RECOGNIZING that although the CIM report shows that efforts are being made throughout the Hemisphere to attain the objectives of the Convention of Belém do Pará, violence persists and is of such a magnitude that strategies must continue to be implemented to free women from that scourge;

CONSIDERING that the report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the Status of Women in the Americas, submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its twenty-eighth regular session, also concludes that “the situations such as those described in which women who are victims of violence are left unprotected still exist because of a lack of adequate legislation or because the legislation in force is not observed”; and that the report, in its recommendations to the OAS member states, urges those that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará, to demonstrate their commitment to the subject; and

RECALLING that, in the plans of action adopted at the First and the Second Summit of the Americas, a commitment was made, regarding the subject of women, to take steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women, as was done in the CIM Strategic Plan of Action, which assigned priority to this topic,

RESOLVES:

1. To note 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.'"

2. To express its satisfaction with the progress made by the CIM and the member states in promoting the Convention and attaining its objectives, in accordance with the priorities established in the plans of action of the Summits of the Americas, the CIM Strategic Plan of Action, and the report of the IACHR on the subject.

3. To urge governments that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention of Belém do Pará, urging all member states to continue to promote measures to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women in the Hemisphere, especially by adapting their legislations in pursuance of this objective.

4. To encourage the CIM and the member states to continue to develop strategies for attaining the objectives of this Convention, and to publish the results in the next CIM follow-up report.