



**Conseil économique  
et social**

Distr.  
GÉNÉRALE

E/CN.4/2004/NI/2  
8 avril 2004

FRANÇAIS  
Original: ANGLAIS/ESPAGNOL

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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
Soixantième session  
Point 18 b) de l'ordre du jour

**FONCTIONNEMENT EFFICACE DES MÉCANISMES DE PROTECTION  
DES DROITS DE L'HOMME: INSTITUTIONS NATIONALES  
ET ARRANGEMENTS RÉGIONAUX**

**Informations présentées par la Fédération ibéro-américaine des médiateurs**

**Note du secrétariat**

Le secrétariat de la Commission a reçu la communication suivante<sup>\*</sup>, dont le texte figure ci-après, conformément à la décision prise par la Commission, à sa cinquante-septième session, de faire distribuer, sur demande, en tant que document de la Commission, les informations ou les rapports des institutions nationales sur leurs réunions régionales (E/2001/23-E/CN.4/2001/167, par. 22).

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<sup>\*</sup> Reproduite telle quelle en annexe, dans la langue originale et en anglais.

**Annex**

**DECLARATION BY THE IBERO-AMERICAN NETWORK OF WOMEN'S  
ADVOCATES TO THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE  
IBERO-AMERICAN OMBUDSMAN FEDERATION (FIO)**

Panama, 19 November 2003

The Ibero-American Network of Women's Advocates, meeting in Panama in conjunction with the eighth Annual Congress and Assembly of the Ibero-American Ombudsman Federation (FIO) over the period 17-21 November 2003,

*Recalling* that at the regular annual meeting of the FIO Congress held in Toledo in 1997 it was decided, by the ombudsmen there present, to establish an Ibero-American Network of Women's Advocates committed to guaranteeing a high-level special-purpose body within the institutional structure of ombudsmen's offices to defend and promote the human rights of women in the region, an undertaking which is making progress in some countries but not elsewhere,

*Bearing in mind* that the difficult human rights situation of Ibero-American women due to discrimination and systematic violence, especially in the exercise of their rights to health, education, political participation, and justice, besides the widespread violence they encounter in the home and in their sexual integrity and freedom, the violence used on migrant and displaced women, sexually exploited women and female victims of social and political violence, and killings of women, among other serious problems, requires an immediate review of management strategies on the part of the ombudsmen's offices belonging to FIO,

*Considering* that, according to the latest report of the United Nations Population Fund, 45 per cent of the inhabitants of Latin America live below the poverty line and this has an effect on the steady increase in the incidence of HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy and maternal mortality, among others, which most strongly affect girls and young, teenage and adult women,

*Convinced* that the exercise by the region's women, including teenagers and girls, of their human rights requires determined encouragement and strengthening of ombudsman mechanisms at all institutional levels, notably that of women's advocates, in order to urge and incite States and national and local Governments to introduce public policies guaranteeing that basic needs will be met through the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights,

RESOLVES:

FIRST. To invite the FIO Annual Congress to reaffirm the commitment, made in the Toledo Declaration and confirmed at all congresses since, to establish and put into operation a high-level special-purpose body to defend, promote and publicize women's human rights as part of the structure of every one of the ombudsman institutions belonging to the Federation;

SECOND. Formally to request the FIO Annual Congress to include the full text of statements by the Ibero-American Network of Women's Advocates, beginning in 2003, as annex 1 to the declarations by each FIO Annual Congress, forming an integral part of the official proceedings and an undertaking to take action;

THIRD. To convey to the FIO Annual Congress the need to encourage sex education policies and programmes at educational institutions and targeted at the general public; to guarantee unimpeded access by teenagers and young people, male and female, to appropriate information and the best possible reproductive health services as a contribution to the millennium goals for comprehensive human development, as countries that have signed the 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 and the declarations of the Cairo and Beijing Conferences specially convened to promote the inalienable, indivisible and integral human rights of women and girls;

FOURTH. To request the FIO Annual Congress to urge States and national and local Governments to guarantee progress in economic, social and cultural rights in order to combat the poverty in the region which weighs directly on women, who continue to be ill-treated and discriminated against at work, in access to productive and economic resources, in health services and in education. Where civil rights are concerned, women also face infringements of their rights to liberty, inviolability of the person and access to justice;

FIFTH. To urge the ombudsmen, male and female, who belong to FIO to ask States and Governments for ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in countries where this has not yet occurred, so as to provide women in the region with a legal instrument which they can invoke in support of the substantive rights established in that Convention;

SIXTH. To request the FIO Annual Congress to admit the Ibero-American Network of Women's Advocates as a voting member of the Congress in order to cement the Network's truly democratic, inclusive involvement in the Federation.

Signed in Panama City on 19 November 2003 by the following members of the Ibero-American Ombudsmen's Network of Women's Advocates:

Blanca Tirachini. Argentina  
Gabriela Moffson. Argentina  
María Bressa. Argentina  
Betty Pinto. Bolivia  
Beatriz Linares. Colombia  
Ligia Martín. Costa Rica  
Rosario Utreras. Ecuador  
Raquel Caballero. El Salvador  
Leonor González. Guatemala  
Indhira Mejía. Honduras  
Susana Thalía Pedroza. México  
Gabriela Aspuru. México  
Patricia Independencia Obregón. Nicaragua  
Dayanara Salazar. Panamá  
Mayda Ramos. Perú  
Carmen L. Monroig. Puerto Rico  
Luz Patricia Mejía. Venezuela

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