

- 3) On October 3, 1990, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women announced Canada's decision to join the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). That month, the Coordinator for Status of Women Canada led our first delegation to CIM's Assembly of Delegates at Washington, D.C.
- 4) The OAS Charter reaffirms the principle that fundamental rights of the individual be respected without distinction as to race, nationality, creed or sex. Canada is reviewing the conventions and protocols that comprise the inter-American system for human rights and has initiated the necessary consultations with the provinces and territories on the question of Canadian adherence to these instruments. Canada is also assessing the manner in which it can play a more active role in the OAS human rights organs, such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
- 5) Canada has been very active in working groups of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, tasked with developing new instruments for human rights concerns.

3. **Objective:**

To strengthen OAS specialized organizations and institutions dealing with emerging non-traditional security concerns such as the environment and drugs.

**Activities:**

- 1) Canada is an active member of the special Working Group on Environmental Protection, established by the Permanent Council to develop recommendations for an inter-American system for nature conservation. The Working Group has developed options for creating appropriate environmental institutions.
- 2) Environmental matters are addressed by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES) and the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture (CIECC), to which Canada has pledged financial contributions through the Voluntary Fund. Both Councils provide substantial resources