

Special Secretariat for Women's Policies
President's Office
Brazil

41st Meeting of the Steering Committee of the
Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

REPORT – QUITO CONSENSUS
Period: September 2007-March 2008

Presentation

The year of 2007 was marked by crucial events for advancing policies on the promotion of gender equality and of Brazilian women's autonomy and empowerment.

First, reference should be made to the drafting of the 2008-2011 Pluriannual Investment Plan-2008-2011 PPA that defined the goals and budgetary resources for President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's second term.

As pointed out at the Tenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Government's Strategic Orientation for PAA's preparation had already stressed the need to address gender and racial inequalities, stating that *"it is necessary to translate these guidelines into practical initiatives and converge the focus of public sector action by means of a strategy for development with growth accompanied by reduction of social and regional inequalities, the promotion of gender, racial, and ethnic equality, and the sustained maintenance of fiscal and price stability."*

Among the ten government objectives that guide the formulation of public policies within each Ministry and the preparation of programs to be incorporated into the Pluriannual Plan, the fourth objective deserves pointing out: *"To strengthen democracy, with gender, racial, and ethnic equality, and citizenship with transparency, social dialogue, and the guarantee of human rights."*

In the view of the Special Secretariat for Women's Policies-SPM, the meeting provided the occasion for evaluation and review of practices that characterized the first phase of its work. It should be recalled that during its second term, the federal government expanded its actions through the establishment of two major agendas in parallel with PPA: the Growth Acceleration Program-PAC, which calls for a major investment (R\$503 billion) in infrastructure in the areas of transport, energy, sanitation, housing, and water resources by 2010, aimed at speeding up the country's growth, so as to generate more jobs and income and reduce regional inequalities; and the Social Agenda, focusing on specific programs to meet priority social demands, including the More Health Program and the National Education Development Plan.

Given the magnitude of the challenges posed by the issue of violence, the Special Secretariat on Women's Policies chose to implement a major program titled National Covenant on Addressing Violence against Women, to which R\$1 billion has been allocated for the period 2008-2011. Introduced in August 2007, under SPM's

coordination, the Covenant has the backing of various ministries and special secretariats – Justice, Social Development, Health, Education, Cities, Agrarian Development, Human Rights, and Social Equality Promotion Policies. The various actions contemplated include incentive to the establishment of special courts under the state judiciaries to handle cases of domestic and family violence against women; the strengthening of the network of assistance to women victims of violence, through the establishment of new referral centers, public defender’s offices, shelter homes, and specialized police precincts in partnership with state and municipal governments.

The Covenant’s drafting was based on the view that addressing all forms of violence against women will be possible only through the implementation of integrated actions organized into areas. Its design breaks away from the State’s traditionally fragmented action.

The Covenant builds on the National Policy on Addressing Violence against Women; intensifies enforcement of the Maria da Penha Law; reinforces the combat against the sexual exploitation of girls and adolescents and the traffic in women; and promotes women’s sexual and reproductive rights and the human rights of women in prison.

Another important event worth pointing out was the 2nd National Conference on Women’s Policies, held in Brasília, August 17-20 to evaluate the 1st National Women’s Policies Plan-I PNPM and to discuss women’s participation in the spheres of power.

The II CNPM involved 195,000 women throughout the country. Between March and July 200, six hundred municipal, regional, and state conferences were held, encompassing 1,616 municipalities, on which occasion discussions turned around the Brazilian social, economic, political, and cultural reality and the challenges for achieving equality under the implementation of the National Women’s Policies Plan. The number of delegates participating in the II CNPM totaled about 2,800, including governmental and nongovernmental representatives indicative of the diversity of Brazilian women.

Some of the main results achieved at the 2nd National Conference were the following: reaffirmation of the principles underlying the National Women’s Policy and detailed definition of the existing strategic axes (economic autonomy and equality at work, accompanied by social inclusion; inclusive, non-sexist, non-racist, non-homophobic, and non-lesbophobic education; women’s health and sexual and reproductive rights; combating all forms of violence against women; and the Plan’s management and monitoring); and six new axes were added, as follows:

- (i) Women’s participation in the spheres of power and decision-making;
- (ii) Sustainable development in rural areas, cities, and rainforests, associated with guarantee of environmental justice, sovereignty, and food security;
- (iii) Right to land, worthy housing, and social infrastructure in rural and urban areas, taking into account traditional communities;
- (iv) Culture, communication and equitable, democratic, nondiscriminatory media;
- (v) Combating racism, sexism, and lesbophobia; and
- (vi) Combating generational inequalities affecting women, with special attention to young girls and elderly women.

This process resulted in a thorough review of the PNPM, with the participation of all the government sectors involved in the program's implementation, with a view to ensure the coordination of the initiatives envisaged by it and those contemplated under the PPA 2008-2011, as well as those called for by the specific Social Agendas of each government sector for the same period. It is expected that this will elicit firmer commitment on the part of the partners' network to the gender equality promotion policies.

In all, these plans contemplate 91 goals, 56 priorities, and 394 initiatives divided into eleven major areas of action, including measures related to management and monitoring. Execution is entrusted to 18 federal agencies (the Ministries of Education, Justice, Health, Cities, Tourism, Social Development, Planning, Labor and Employment, Mines and Energy, Culture, and the Environment; the Secretariats for Racial Equality and Human Rights Promotion; the President's Office; the Presidency's Secretariat, SECOM, FUNAI, and IPEA), in addition to representatives of state and municipal government mechanisms geared to women's policies and of the National Council on Women's Rights-CNDM.

As regards the National Policy on Combating Violence against Women, the goal is to implement the National Covenant, funded by R\$1 billion, in 26 states and in the Federal District. The Covenant envisages the building or re-equipment of 764 specialized centers to assist women (DEAM, shelter homes, referral centers, public defender's offices, courts to handle cases of violence against women) and the expansion of the capacity of the Ligue 180 [Dial 180 service] to meet one million requests for assistance.

In addition to proposing a 20-percent increase in the number of women in the Legislative, the Plan's section on women's presence in the spheres of power and decision-making includes the following objectives: to ensure that a minimum of 30 percent of candidates running for election are women, as provided under Law 9504/97; to raise by 20 percent the number of women in the Chamber of Deputies, the Federal Senate, and the State Legislatures in the 2010 elections; and to revise Law 9504/97.

In the area of education, in addition to teaching 3 million women to read and write, the goals include the construction of 1,714 nurseries and kindergartens; the training of 120,000 education professionals in matters related to gender, race, and ethnicity; and raising by 10 percent the enrollment of black women in higher education institutions.

In the area of health, one of the Federal Government's main objectives for the next few years is to reduce maternal mortality and make contraceptive methods available in 100 percent of health services.

In addition to reserving 30 percent of work posts under PAC and the realization of 1,500 collective efforts under the National Program for Issuing Documents to Rural Working Women, the 2008-2011 II PNPM calls for increasing by 35 percent the participation of women in the National Family Farming Financing Program-PRONAF and by 30 percent the number of domestic maids registered with the Labor Department and enrolled in Social Security.

1. New norms on changing the Constitution, laws, and regulations.

The following facts deserve mentioning during the period covered by this report:

Decree No. 6347 of January 8, 2008, which approved the National Plan for Combating Traffic in Persons-PNETP. This is an instrument for the implementation of the National Policy on Combating Trafficking in Persons; it calls for measures to prevent this crime and punish perpetrators, as well as guaranteeing the adequate treatment of victims. It is expected that these measures will be implemented in two years. The Plan was prepared by the Ministry of Justice's National Justice Secretariat, the SPM, and the Special Secretariat for Human Rights, with the participation of other government agencies and civil society. The decree also provides for the setting-up of an Advisory Group on Evaluation and Dissemination of the measures, consisting of representatives of 12 Ministries and the Federal Attorney's Office.

With the approval of the National Policy on Combating Trafficking in Persons in October 2006 and now with the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Persons, Brazil is contributing to the international effort to combat this practice, as well as conforming to the principles and guidelines established in the Palermo Protocol, which was ratified by the Brazilian Government in 2004.

Decree No. 6387, of March 5, 2008, which approved the II National Plan on Women's Policies

Decree No. 6412 of March 25, 2008, providing on the makeup, structure, competences, and functioning of the National Council on Women's Rights. In addition, the decree makes the CNDM more democratic and inclusive and maintains its deliberative character. The proposal of a new CNDM resulted from a long process in which all CNDM women participated.

As provided under Decree No. 6387, CNDM will raise the number of its members from 36 to 40, as follows: 16 Federal Government representatives; three women with expertise in gender issues, to be appointed by the CNDM plenary; and 21 representatives of civil society entities with national coverage, elected by an electoral college consisting of representatives of the entities eligible for a seat in the Council. The renewal process will be coordinated by the current CNDM in two phases: first, qualification of eligible entities; secondly, voting by all eligible entities running for the election. The new council members should take office in May 2008.

2. National and local institutional structure for implementing the recommendations of the Quito Consensus, including mechanisms for ensuring across-the-board consideration of the gender perspective throughout the government structure.

In Brazil, implementation of the recommendations of the Quito Consensus is being coordinated by the SPM, with the participation of the state and municipal Departments and Coordinating Offices and the backing of civil society. As familiarity with those recommendations is important for their implementation, the SPM took the initiative of publicizing them at the 2nd National Conference on Women's Policies held August 17-20, 2007, which was attended by a significant number of delegates representing the

different segments and tendencies of women's and feminist movements from every region in the country.

In respect of the first two recommendations of the Quito Consensus, mention should be made of the communication issued March 7, 2008 by the SPM on the financing of projects implemented by governmental and nongovernmental organizations in the following areas: (i) combating violence against women; (ii) support for rights organizations and women's policies; (iii) economic autonomy and entrepreneurship; and (iv) women's participation in the spheres of power.

As regards the last item in the preceding paragraph, the SPM will provide financial support for initiatives aimed at (i) promoting and qualifying, on a priority basis, women running for executive and legislative positions in the 2008 municipal elections, sensitizing them about incorporating the feminist and racial equality issues into their electoral platform; and (ii) undertaking initiatives to ensure that all other candidates also include in their campaign platforms the feminist and racial equality agenda.

Projects will also be selected in accordance with the Terms of Reference on "Citizenship and Realization of Women's Rights," which are aimed at arousing social sensitivity and mobilization for promoting the awareness and reduction of inequalities between men and women and fostering a nondiscriminatory peace culture. This would encompass all the eleven areas of government action under the II PNPM.

Still in regard to the strengthening of local and regional institutional structures for the implementation of various measures recommended under the Quito Consensus, mention should be made of the establishment, on March 27, 2008, of a Regional Consortium for Promoting Women's Citizenship in the state of Minas Gerais. This consortium of the municipalities of Belo Horizonte, Sabará, Betim, and Contagem is the first such undertaking in Brazil for combating violence against women and is a result of the Brazil-Canada bilateral agreement on the establishment of public consortiums for improving living conditions for the population (which is thus consistent with the third recommendation of the Quito Consensus.)

3. Repercussion and results of the gender policies adopted in the period

Given the different areas of action by the Brazilian Government to ensure gender equality and in view of the progress achieved between September 2007 and March 2008, this item will be dealt with according to strategic areas related to the Quito Consensus.

3.1. Work

The following facts deserve pointing out:

1st Biennial Evaluation Meeting on the *Rio Program: Women's Work and Entrepreneurship* introduced in 2007 and implemented in partnership under a Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Federal Government (SPM, Ministry of Labor and Employment, and Ministry of Social Development) and the Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Social Welfare and Human Rights Department and Labor Department).

The Rio Program is a major step toward reinforcing actions aimed at fostering women's economic and financial autonomy. These actions instill an entrepreneurial spirit and increase the possibility of women's access to credit and to the marketing of their products. The program's main objective is to bring about a significant change in the interrelation between local development projects and the vulnerability factors that affect the life of women in general and of poor and extremely poor women in particular in respect of a productive environment, economic and financial autonomy, and their position on the labor market. As the results achieved by the program have been positive, it will be extended to the states of Paraíba and Santa Catarina and to the Federal District.

The first action, launched on April 1, 2008, titled *Expresso Cidadã* [Women Citizens' Express] is a project that employs a mobile unit to issue documents to rural women. About 600 women in the municipality of Marabá, state of Pará, have already benefited from the initiative. The next state scheduled is Piauí, in the Northeast, and the government's goal is to extend the program to all federation units by 2010. This action is called for under the Program for Issuing Documents to Rural Women, which forms part of the Gender, Race, and Ethnic Equality Promotion Program-PPIGRE implemented by the Ministry of Agrarian Development-MDA and is included in the National Women's Policy Plan.

A Rural Women's Productive Organization Program was launched on March 19, 2008. A joint initiative by the SPM, the Ministry of Agrarian Development, and the Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger-MDS, this program's objective is to strengthen rural women's productive organizations through various undertakings, including studies to identify and quantify unpaid work done by rural and rainforest women; women's training workshops on planning, production, and marketing alternatives for their products, in addition to support for their participation in national and regional fairs. The program also includes initiatives by the Aquaculture and Fisheries Special Secretariat, the National Supply Company-CONAB, and the Ministry of Labor and Employment's National Secretariat on Solidarity Economy.

SPM initiatives under this program include training workshops and the distribution of primers on how women can organize themselves into cooperatives and associations (procedures for drafting statutes, registration with record offices, legal status, cooperatives, associations, etc.). Another initiative aims at supporting the production of organic food, crafts, medicinal plants, among other products, and at providing guidance for women on organizing and marketing their production. Training in gender issues and public policies is also envisaged.

3.2. *Education*

In respect of education, mention should be made of the *Women and Science Program* launched in 2005, aimed at the valorization of research and the encouragement of the acquisition and dissemination of new knowledge pertaining to gender relations, women, and feminism, in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Scientific and Technological Development Council, the Ministry of Education, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women-UNIFEM.

The program's third edition focused on the establishment of the 3rd Gender Equality-Building Prize, awarded to winners in the competition of essays by secondary students and of scientific articles by graduate students and by those doing post-graduate work or who are involved with some of the competition key topics.

The competition was entered by 620 secondary students; 290 of them had their essays selected. At the graduate and post-graduate level, 591 scientific essays were entered, of which 448 were selected – 139 by graduate students and 309 by graduated and post-graduate students. In the Graduate and Post-Graduate Students Category, cash prizes and scholarships will be awarded; in the Secondary Students Category, the best essays from each of the 27 Federation units were selected and, among these, the three best essays in the country were chosen. The winners in the secondary students' category will receive computers and scholarships. The awarding ceremony will be held in the last week of April 2008.

Also worth pointing out is the 4th edition of the Seminar on Women and the Media, held in September 2007. Its objective was the training of media professionals, including those from civil society organizations active in this area, on gender issues. These seminars are held under a partnership of SPM, the Patrícia Galvão Institute, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women-UNIFEM. At this fourth seminar, over 200 women in 25 states discussed issues related to public television, undervaluing of women in positions of power, nondiscriminatory media, new media frontiers, and proposals for a new communications policy agenda.

Lastly, mention should be made of a Symposium on *Gender and Higher Education Indicators in Brazil*, held in December 2007, which was attended by women professors and researchers from different institutions and from the various regions of the country, in addition to representatives of the Ministry of Education's Anísio Teixeira National Institute for Educational Studies and Research-INEP/MEC and SPM. The symposium led to the publication of a selection of seven articles, to be released in May 2008, and to the appointment of a working group to address higher education gender indicators. This is another achievement under the SPM-INEP/MEC partnership geared to data gathering and the production of analyses of women's history in Brazilian education.

3.3. *Health*

In the area of health, reference should be made to the 1st Ministerial Meeting on *Women's and HIV/AIDS Policies: Building Alliances among Portuguese-Speaking Countries for Ensuring Universal Access*. The meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, March 24-25, 2008 and was attended by representatives from all the members of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries Community-CPLP: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and East Timor.

The meeting reaffirmed the commitments undertaken at the CPLP, the Conference of Heads of State and Chiefs of Government in Maputo (2008), the CPLP Governments' Cooperation Agreement on Combating HIV/AIDS celebrated at the Brasília Conference (2002), and the Resolution on Combating HIV/AIDS adopted at the 5th CPLP Conference (2004).

The Rio de Janeiro Charter was discussed and approved on the basis of the contributions of representatives from the government, civil society, and UN agencies and of women living with HIV/AIDS in CPLP countries. Commitments undertaken take into account regional needs and specificities, as well as cultural aspects and the vulnerability of these segments of the population. The Charter will provide a basis for a horizontal cooperation agenda aimed at strengthening national responses to the feminization of the HIV/AIDS epidemics. The countries committed themselves to facilitate the implementation of cooperation initiatives aimed at ensuring the realization of women's rights; the universal access to prevention, assistance, and treatment of STDs and HIV/AIDS, emphasizing the interface between AIDS and violence against women; the provision and adoption of female and male contraceptives; the reduction of gender inequities; and men's effective involvement and partnership.

The meeting also pointed out factors that contribute to women's vulnerability to the epidemics, such as the inequality in power relations between men and women and women's less power in negotiating the use of contraceptives and in decisions about sexual and reproductive life. Other issues discussed at the meeting included domestic and sexual violence against women and girls; racial and ethnic discrimination and prejudice; and women's lack of perception of the risk of being infected by HIV. In respect of African countries, discussions identified specific aspects that increase women's vulnerability, such as polygamy and genital ablation.

The Ministerial Meeting was held under a partnership of SPM, the Ministry of Health, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNIFEM, and UNICEF.

As regards combating the feminization of AIDS, mention should also be made of the establishment, in the northern state of Roraima, in January 2008, of Brazil's first Nucleus of Indigenous Women Living with AIDS to treat and follow up infected women from indigenous communities. The nucleus is managed by Nívea Maria Queiroz, a Macuxi Indian who has lived with AIDS for ten years. The objective is to prevent sexually transmissible diseases in the communities and to provide psychosocial follow-up to infected women. To this end, the nucleus has established partnerships with various institutions and support groups, including *Nós Existimos*, the Organization of Indigenous Peoples in the Capital-ODIC, and the Diversity Group.

3.4. *Violence*

Significant progress was achieved in 2007 in this area, such as the National Covenant on Combating Violence against Women and the enforcement of the Maria da Penha Law on preventing and combating domestic and family violence against women.

As a result of the enactment of the Maria da Penha Law, the Women's Assistance Central – a free telephone service provided by the SPM – answered over 200,000 calls, most of them requesting information about the Law's enforcement.

September 22, 2007 marked the first anniversary of the enactment of the Maria da Penha Law. The issue of violence against women – whose invisibility had been combated for years by women's and feminist movements – became a recurring subject in the press, an obligatory agenda of rights advocates and public security professionals, an editorial phenomenon (more than ten books have been published on the subject), and

even a source of inspiration for sambas and for the *cordéis* of Northeastern folk literature.

The International Day for Eliminating Violence against Women and the first anniversary of the enactment of the Maria da Penha Law were celebrated in Rio de Janeiro on November 26, 2007 with the show *For a life free of violence* sponsored by the SPM, the Rio de Janeiro Social Action and Human Rights Department, the United Nations Development Fund for Women-UNIFEM, and the nongovernmental organization Planning Gender and Citizenship Initiatives-AGENDE, with the participation of the Brazilian petroleum enterprise-PETROBRAS.

Before the show, a ceremony was held to publicize the booklet titled *Cartilha Law no. 11340/6: use sem restrições* [Primer on Law 11340/6: use without restrictions], published by the campaign titled “Sixteen Days of Activism for Ending Violence against Women.” The primer encourages a dialogue between society and institutions by providing information on Law 11340/6 and guidelines for rights advocates and security agents on enforcing it without restrictions or discrimination.

On November 25, the International Day for Eliminating Violence against Women, Copacabana beach provided the setting for the launching of the campaign “Sixteen Days of Activism for Ending Violence against Women” at Petrobras filling stations, under the slogan “It is the law. Demand your rights. Maria da Penha Law.” By December 10, a total of 600,000 folders containing information on the Maria da Penha Law had been distributed through 150 Petrobras filling stations in fifteen Brazilian capitals and in metropolitan areas. In addition to filling stations in Rio de Janeiro, the campaign had the adhesion of filling stations in Niteroi-RJ, São Paulo-SP, Campinas-SP, Brasília-DF, Goiânia-GO, Belo Horizonte-MG, Porto Alegre-RS, Curitiba-PR, Aracaju-SE, Salvador-BA, Recife-PE, Fortaleza-CE, Belém-PA, and Manaus-AM, as well as five highway filling stations. This initiative resulted from a partnership between the SPM and BR Petrobras Distributor, which joined the campaign for the second consecutive year.

In October 2007, the state of Pernambuco, where violence against women has reached alarming proportions, launched the first State Plan for Combating Violence against Women. The plan, which was drafted by the Special Secretariat for Women’s Policies and forms part of the Covenant on Life introduced in the previous March by Pernambuco’s government, calls for a set of well-structured short-, medium- and long-term initiatives for combating violence in the state. The State Plan has the backing of the Federal Government and reinforces the National Covenant on Combating Violence against Women.

The objective of the Pernambuco plan is to prevent, punish, and eradicate within eight years all forms of violence against women in the state. A total of R\$324 million will be allocated for its implementation, which will include the construction of six medical centers for women victims of violence and the training of 12,000 professionals in the areas of security, education, and health, among others. Plan priorities include the establishment and maintenance of specialized police precincts to assist women and of public defender’s offices to handle the defense of women victims of violence.

The state of Ceará, in the Brazilian Northeast, took a major step in combating violence against women. On December 18, 2007, the Ceará State Court of Justice-TJCE established in Fortaleza a court to handle cases of domestic and family violence against women, the first such court in the country to adopt virtual – that is, paperless - processing of cases. This court has a multidisciplinary team, receiving rooms, and a play center for children. On December 19, the following day, a similar court was established in Juazeiro do Norte, also in the state of Ceará.

In respect of combating violence against rural women, mention should be made of the 3rd edition of the “Margaridas March,” on the theme “2007 Reasons for Marching.” The march, in which 30,000 rural working women participated in the country’s capital, demanded social security rights, the elimination of sexist violence, and food security. The marchers also demanded the establishment of a National Forum for the Formulation of Policies on Combating Violence against Rural and Rainforest Women. On the occasion, Minister Nilcéa Freire, speaking for the Federal Government, announced that thirteen of their demands would be met, and signed an administrative order establishing the Forum. This forum, under SPM’s coordination, is formed by the Ministries of Agrarian Development; Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply; Health; Social Development and the Fight against Hunger; Justice; and the Environment and by the Republic’s Secretariat, the Special Secretariats for Racial Equality Promotion and on Human Rights; the World Women’s March; the National Rubber-Tapper Council; the National Confederation of Agricultural Workers; the Federation of Family Farming Workers; the Amazon Women’s Coordinated Movement; the Peasant Women’s Movement; the Northeastern Rural Working Women’s Movement; and the Coconut Cracking Women’s Movement.

Also worth mentioning in this connection are the initiatives undertaken before the Judiciary. On March 10, 2008, the 2nd Encounter on the Maria da Penha Law was held in Brasília; on the occasion, agreements were signed on making enforcement of this law more effective and on promoting the qualification of judges for its enforcement. These encounters are held under a partnership involving the SPM, the National Council of Justice-CNJ, and the Secretariat for Judiciary Reform. Their purpose is to examine ways of increasing the number of special courts to hear cases of domestic and family violence against women.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the work done by the Interministerial Working Group-GTI set up to review the country’s women’s prison system. On December 13, 2007, the GTI submitted to Minister of Justice Tarso Genro and to SPM’s Minister Secretary Nilcéa Freire its preliminary report containing a diagnosis of the women’s prison system and the main emergency measures for changing the situation in which women prisoners find themselves today.

According to the report, women serve their sentences in inadequate facilities and unhealthy conditions (vermin and rat infestation, lack of basic sanitation, poor ventilation, etc.). Nursery facilities are precarious and there are no definite criteria on separating mothers and their children, in addition to other issues.

Based on its diagnosis, the GTI recommended three emergence measures: the immediate establishment of a partnership with the Judiciary and related institutions to organize a collective effort for reviewing the cases of 26,000 women in prison; to

encourage the signing of agreements with state governments for the construction and/or reform of public jails to ensure adequate cells for women; and to review the Architecture Project prepared by the Engineering and Architecture Department of the Ministry of Justice's National Penitentiary System, so as to provide individual cells and adequate facilities.

Ministers Tarso Genro and Nilcéa Freire heeded GTI's recommendations and to implement the emergence measures, they have instructed their internal teams to prepare a plan of action to be promptly executed. Funds will be provided under the National Public Security and Citizenship Program-PRONASCI and the National Covenant on Combating Violence against Women. On February 19, 2008, the Ministry of Justice and the SPM signed an agreement on proceeding with the collective work aimed at speeding up the rendering of legal assistance to women prisoners.