



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM OF THE
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)
TENTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
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**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES OF
THE MECHANISM TO FOLLOW UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BELÉM
DO PARÁ CONVENTION**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The President of the Conference of States Parties to the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) and Minister of Women of Brazil, Marcia Lopes (hereinafter “the President”), present to the Tenth Conference of States Parties (CSP) this report on the work carried out during her presidency.

This mandate began during the Fourth Extraordinary Conference of States Parties of the MESECVI, held virtually on February 27, 2025, which brought together the National Competent Authorities from 23 countries. At this Conference, the State of Brazil was elected to assume the Presidency. Likewise, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador took on the First and Second Vice Presidencies, respectively, while Costa Rica was designated as Rapporteur for that meeting. These newly appointed authorities were selected to lead regional efforts in implementing the strategic objectives of the Mechanism.

During the period between late February and December 2025, the presidency of the Tenth Conference of States Parties (CEP) of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), exercised by the State of Brazil throughout 2025, focused primarily on strengthening the institutional capacities of the Mechanism, expanding regional technical cooperation, and advancing high-level political engagement within the Inter-American System. These efforts aimed to consolidate States Parties’ commitments to eradicating violence against women, with particular attention to digital violence and to supporting MESECVI’s initiatives in this regard.

In this context, on April 14, 2025, the Ministry of Women of Brazil received in Brasília a MESECVI delegation composed of Experts Leila Linares Barsted (Brazil), Mónica Maureira (Chile), the Technical Secretary of the Mechanism, Luz Patricia Mejía, and specialist Tatiana Bensa, with the purpose of discussing a draft model bill for the prevention and response to violence against women and girls in digital environments. This meeting represented a significant milestone in elevating the regional positioning of the digital violence agenda during the Presidency.

In the last quarter of the year, between October 31 and December 5, 2025, the Ministry of Women of Brazil, in coordination with MESECVI, led six preparatory meetings for the organization of the Tenth Conference of States Parties. These sessions were held on October 31, November 7, 14, and 21, and on December 1 and 5. They enabled the definition of the agenda, the working methodology, documentation flows, institutional coordination, and the logistical aspects of the Conference, ensuring a solid, coordinated, and technically robust preparation with the States Parties to the Convention and civil society organizations, in accordance with the commitments of the Ninth Conference of States Parties and the 2024-2029¹ Strategic Plan.

¹ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI). (2024). MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024–2029 (OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10 MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.148/24.rev2). Organization of American States. Available at: https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/MESECVI-IX-CE-doc.148.rev2_ES_PlanEstrategico2024-2029.pdf

Throughout this process, progress was also made in reviewing and discussing the substantive documents that would be presented at the Conference, particularly the Declaration on Democracy, Climate Emergency, Digital Environments, and New Forms of Violence against Women. This declaration reflects existing international obligations, incorporates the findings of MESECVI's most recent evaluation rounds, and expresses concerns regarding the differentiated risks faced by women, adolescents, and girls in these contexts. It also reaffirms the commitment of the States Parties to strengthen democracy, climate protection, and digital security through a gender-responsive, intersectional, and intercultural approach.

As part of the high-level political coordination efforts, on November 17, 2025, the Executive Secretariat of the Ministry of Women received the Secretary General of the OAS, Albert Ramdin, to discuss strategic matters related to the organization of the Tenth Conference of States Parties (CEP) and to the strengthening of MESECVI within the Inter-American Human Rights System, reaffirming its regional centrality.

Likewise, on November 19, 2025, the Minister of State for Women of Brazil, Márcia Lopes, sent a video message to the OAS Permanent Council on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, reiterating Brazil's firm commitment to the Belém do Pará Convention and to strengthening MESECVI as a fundamental instrument for the protection of women's human rights in the region.

Finally, within the framework of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Minister of State for Women of Brazil, Márcia Lopes, delivered a high-level statement commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women. In her address, she reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Brazil to the Beijing Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda, and the consolidation of structural policies for gender equality. She highlighted advances such as the Equal Pay Act, the Menstrual Dignity Program, the National Care Policy, the strengthening of the Network to Address Violence against Women, and the expansion of the Brazilian Women's Houses. She also underscored the country's leadership in the lead-up to COP30 and the need for a just ecological transition with the active participation of women. This intervention further strengthened the political visibility of MESECVI at the highest regional level.

As a normative milestone, MESECVI—through a joint effort between the States Parties and the Committee of Experts—worked on the development of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Women. To this end, multiple regional consultations were carried out throughout 2025, including a broad public consultation held virtually, as well as national and regional consultations and intergenerational dialogues in several countries, among them Brazil, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Grenada, Colombia, and Peru. Likewise, an extensive consultation with the National Competent Authorities took place in the framework of the CSW in New York.

Within the framework of the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Ministers of Women and high-level authorities from Latin America and the Caribbean,

representatives of international and regional organizations, CEVI Experts, and civil society organizations reaffirmed their commitment to the protection of women’s human rights during the high-level event “Celebrating the Belém do Pará Convention and the Beijing Platform for Action: 30 Years Eradicating Violence and Discrimination against Women.” The reception, held on Tuesday, March 11, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, was organized by MESECVI, the Belém do Pará Regional Articulation, CAF—Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the CIM. Supported by the Government of Chile and UN Women, the event commemorated three decades of progress in guaranteeing women’s rights and served as a space to renew commitment to the effective implementation of the Convention and the Platform for Action, while issuing a joint call to intensify efforts toward a more equal and violence-free world for women and girls, ensuring that their rights remain a priority in national and regional agendas.

On the occasion of the Regional Conference on Women held in Mexico, Minister Lopes led the meeting on August 14, 2025, during which the main results of the public consultation on the Model Law were presented to United Nations agencies that have supported this initiative—UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)—as well as to a broad representation of civil society organizations that have been indispensable allies throughout this process.

Finally, Brazil was confirmed as the host country for the XXII Meeting of the MESECVI Committee of Experts, during which, on December 10, 2025, the Model Law was approved. This Law will serve as the region’s principal tool for combating serious human rights violations against women in digital environments.

With this, the year 2025 concluded with a highly active Presidency that consolidated Brazil’s regional leadership on the agenda to eradicate violence against women, strengthened MESECVI’s technical cooperation and political advocacy efforts, and left reinforced institutional capacities to ensure continuity in inter-American work under the framework of the Belém do Pará Convention.

I. CONFERENCES OF STATES PARTIES AND MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE MESECVI

1.1 Fourth Extraordinary Conference of States Parties

The Fourth Extraordinary Conference of States Parties to MESECVI, held virtually on February 27, 2025, had as one of its central moments the election of the Mechanism’s new authorities. By acclamation, the States Parties elected Brazil to assume the Presidency, while the Dominican Republic and Ecuador were designated as the First and Second Vice Presidencies, respectively, and Costa Rica as Rapporteur. The newly appointed President, Minister Marcia Lopes, expressed her gratitude for the confidence placed in her country and reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening the Mechanism, further highlighting the importance of Brazil serving as the host of the Tenth Conference of States Parties in 2025.

During the session, the outgoing Presidency presented an overview of the progress achieved, highlighting the approval of the 2024–2029 Strategic Plan, the Declaration on Accelerating Strategies for the implementation of the Convention, and the reform of the Conference’s Rules of Procedure. It also underscored advances in inter-institutional coordination, the incorporation of priority issues such as trafficking in persons, the protection of women human rights defenders, and the climate crisis with a gender perspective, as well as the automation of the Progress Indicator System and the adoption of the Fourth Hemispheric Report as key tools for monitoring the Convention.

Among the agreements adopted, the States Parties reiterated their commitment to advancing MESECVI’s strategic priorities by strengthening dialogue among national authorities, the Committee of Experts, and civil society. Finally, they reinforced the call to ensure adequate financing for the Mechanism in order to guarantee its sustainability and its capacity to respond to emerging forms of violence against women, including technology-facilitated violence, reaffirming the collective will to move toward a region free of violence.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS OF THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES

2.1 Agreements

2.1.1. Actions to Address Violence Against Women and Girls from an Intersectional Perspective

Throughout 2025, MESECVI strengthened its efforts to address violence against women, adolescents, and girls through an intersectional and human-rights-based approach. This focus was particularly reflected in the development of the Thematic Report on Gender-Based Violence against Afro-Descendant Women, prepared with the support of UNFPA and the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean, and Diaspora Women. The document analyzed the multiple forms of structural violence faced by Afro-descendant women, including physical, sexual, psychological, symbolic, racial, and institutional violence.

The report underscored the importance of considering factors such as childhood, ethno-racial origin, disability, migration, and poverty in order to fully understand the dynamics of violence. It also urged the States Parties to adopt specialized protocols, sector-specific training, the collection of disaggregated data, and campaigns to eradicate racial and gender stereotypes. These actions contributed to strengthening an intersectional approach in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention and to bringing greater visibility to historically marginalized realities in the region.

2.1.2 Model Law Project to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence Against Women

In 2025, the Model Law project advanced decisively, with support from Italy and the UN Women ACTUEMOS project. This process included national and regional consultations, as

well as intergenerational dialogues in several countries, among them Brazil, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Grenada, Colombia, and Peru.

Over the past three years, the MESECVI Committee of Experts has led a participatory, transparent, and technical process to draft the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Women. This effort has included more than ten regional consultation events in cities such as Washington D.C., Cartagena, Buenos Aires, Bogotá, Mexico City, New York, Brasília, Santo Domingo, and St. George's, in addition to more than twelve virtual consultations with States, international organizations, and civil society. Between March 8 and May 4, 2025, the draft was submitted to a public consultation, receiving more than one hundred documents containing observations and comments from a wide range of regional stakeholders. This process of dialogue and collective construction made it possible to consolidate a robust, representative text with a high level of consensus.

The purpose of this Model Law is to provide States with a regional legal framework of reference that recognizes, classifies, and addresses digital violence as a form of gender-based violence that violates the human rights of women, adolescents, and girls, with the same seriousness and consequences as violence perpetrated in physical environments. To this end, the document proposes a comprehensive approach encompassing prevention, assistance, protection, investigation, prosecution, reparation, and eradication of this emerging form of violence.

This instrument represents a pioneering advancement at both the Inter-American and global levels, as it establishes a common and precise definition of digital violence and its multiple impacts on women's lives, integrity, health, privacy, personal data, and public participation. Thanks to the sustained leadership and advocacy of women's organizations across the region, the Americas have become a global reference in the creation and adoption of normative frameworks to address digital violence. Within this context, the Model Law deliberately chooses to retain the term "digital," rather than "technology-facilitated," recognizing that the notion of "facilitation" may imply a neutrality that does not exist. Indeed, there is now broad consensus that internet intermediaries are not neutral actors, but rather entities with economic power, the ability to influence digital ecosystems, clear responsibilities in shaping online environments, and obligations in the field of human rights.

Likewise, the Model Law acknowledges the impact of hate speech and misogynistic content circulating online, which reinforce and deepen structural inequalities. In response, it promotes regulatory and co-regulatory mechanisms with digital platforms and other internet intermediaries, establishing clear and balanced responsibilities among the various actors. This approach has been designed with particular attention to safeguarding freedom of expression, ensuring that the Law cannot be used as a tool for censorship or the silencing of critical voices, and reaffirming that expressions constituting violence against women—due to their discriminatory and violent nature—are not protected under the right to freedom of expression in accordance with international human rights standards.

Among its main contributions are the incorporation of the principle of security by design and by default, the creation of inter-institutional and multi-stakeholder mechanisms for digital governance, and the inclusion of measures for symbolic, educational, and technological reparation. In addition, the Law underscores the importance of promoting processes of education, prevention, and digital literacy, fostering a responsible digital citizenship with a gender perspective, particularly among children, adolescents, youth, and communities in situations of vulnerability.

The Model Law also underscores the need to strengthen cross-border cooperation, given that the internet recognizes no borders and the harm generated in one State may have immediate repercussions in another. In this regard, it promotes the harmonization of legislation, the exchange of good practices, and coordination among judicial, law-enforcement, and regulatory authorities to ensure an effective and coordinated response.

Between February and April, national consultations were held in Mexico, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic, and between March and April a broad virtual public consultation was conducted, receiving more than 100 formal submissions from States, international organizations, civil society organizations, academics, and freedom of expression specialists from multiple countries, as well as from the general public. In June, bilateral meetings were held with digital platforms such as Meta and TikTok, contributing to the principle of corporate co-responsibility. Input from girls, boys, adolescents, and youth was also incorporated through activities carried out in Uruguay and Colombia, with the support of UN Women, UNFPA, the Inter-American Children's Institute, and other organizations.

The process concluded with a consolidated final draft, which is currently under review by the Committee of Experts, with a view to its approval during the XXII Meeting of the Committee of Experts in December 2025.

2.1.3. Fourth Hemispheric Report: Access to Justice, Truth, and Reparation for Women in Latin America – Latin America Chapter²

In 2025, the MESECVI advanced an active agenda to disseminate the main findings of the Fourth Hemispheric Report on access to justice, truth, and reparation for women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence. The report highlights institutional progress while drawing attention to persistent challenges in the region, such as gender stereotypes within judicial systems, insufficient training for justice-sector personnel, limited harmonization of legal frameworks, and inadequate resources for the comprehensive protection of victims. It also underscores the need to strengthen due diligence, eliminate structural barriers, and ensure accessibility to justice for women facing multiple forms of discrimination, including Afro-descendant, migrant, and women with disabilities, while preventing re-victimizing practices.

Although significant progress can be observed in the capacity of the States Parties to report information, important challenges persist, particularly regarding the generation of

² MESECVI, Fourth Hemispheric Report: Evaluation Phase, Latin America, 2025.

disaggregated data that would make it possible to highlight the situation of women in contexts of particular vulnerability. In terms of access to justice, the creation of specialized services is noteworthy; however, their coverage remains limited outside urban areas, and access to free legal representation is insufficient. The report also notes that many complaints do not proceed to judicialization, alongside low conviction rates and a lack of effective follow-up. All of these factors contribute to high levels of impunity that perpetuate violence.

The report also highlights gaps in resource allocation for preventing and addressing gender-based violence. In 2021, the States Parties allocated an average of only 2.2 dollars per woman per year to National Women’s Advancement Mechanisms, and in nearly half of the countries, this figure does not exceed one dollar. These budgetary levels reflect the urgent need to strengthen the commitment to the effective implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention.

To ensure the dissemination of these findings and promote their adoption by the States Parties and civil society, the MESECVI carried out in 2025 a series of strategic meetings in Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, and Bolivia. These spaces brought together civil society organizations, national authorities, international organizations, academia, and CEVI Experts. Each meeting provided an opportunity to present the report, analyze national progress and gaps, and strengthen the advocacy capacity of local actors in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention.

2.1.4. General Recommendation No. 5³

The MESECVI’s General Recommendation No. 5, titled “Gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women,” continued to guide regional efforts by addressing violence against women from an intersectional perspective. In 2025, its impact deepened with the development and dissemination of the Thematic Report on violence against Afro-descendant women, which complemented the Recommendation.

The document highlighted the need to adopt specific state measures, produce disaggregated data, and establish protection mechanisms sensitive to racial and gender-based discrimination. To promote this General Recommendation No. 5 on gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women, the Technical Secretariat and CEVI experts widely disseminated it through regional activities, intergenerational dialogues, and academic events.

In December 2024, the expert from the Dominican Republic, Yildalina Taten, presented General Recommendation No. 5 during an event organized by UNFPA in Panama. Later, in July 2025, the expert from Mexico, Teresa Inchaustegui, participated in a virtual session held to mark the International Day of Afro-Latin, Afro-Caribbean, and Diaspora Women, representing the Mechanism and explaining the scope of this Recommendation.

³Committee of Experts of the MESECVI. (2024). General Recommendation of the MESECVI Committee of Experts No. 5: Gender-Based Violence Against Afro-Descendant Women (MESECVI/CEVI/Rec.Gral.No.5). Organization of American States. Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/recomendacion-general-del-comite-de-expertas-del-mesecvi-no5violencia-de-genero-contra-las-mujeres-afrodescendientes-mesecvi-2024/>

In September 2025, the expert from Chile, Mónica Maureira, together with the MESECVI Technical Secretariat, presented both General Recommendation No. 5 and the Thematic Report on Gender-Based Violence against Afro-descendant Women in Latin America during a meeting held in Colombia, supported by UNFPA Colombia and UN Women within the framework of the “Actuemos” project. The event brought together more than 30 representatives of organizations and Afro-descendant women leaders.

Furthermore, during a visit to Peru, the Technical Secretariat presented General Recommendation No. 5 at an event organized with the support of UNFPA at the Hyatt Hotel. The activity was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, the Ministry of Culture, UNFPA, UN Women, and UNICEF, as well as more than 30 Afro-Peruvian women leaders and representatives of Afro-descendant women’s organizations.

2.1.5 Key Findings of the Report on Legislation on Gender-Based Violence Against Women in the English-Speaking Caribbean⁴

The MESECVI Subregional Report on Legislative Advances to Prevent and Punish Violence against Women in the Caribbean highlights significant progress in the region, including the adoption of specific legislation aimed at preventing and sanctioning gender-based violence. However, the report confirms that violence against women remains a structural, widespread, and persistently normalized problem in the Caribbean.

The report identifies a very high prevalence of domestic violence, sexual violence, and violent deaths of women (femicides that are not legally recognized as such), with alarming rates in countries such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, and Barbados. These rates remain among the highest in the world, and a substantial proportion of these violent deaths are directly linked to domestic violence, with women killed by their partners or former partners. This underscores the severity of femicide as a subregional phenomenon, even if it has not been legally recognized as such.

Sexual violence, both within and outside intimate partner relationships, shows a high incidence in the region, and a significant proportion of women have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence at some point in their lives, often on a recurrent basis. Economic violence is likewise identified as a frequent mechanism of control.

At the legal level, the report reveals a profound gap between formal legislative progress and effective protection. Although most Caribbean States have ratified key international conventions such as CEDAW and the Belém do Pará Convention, significant gaps persist in

⁴ Committee of Experts of the MESECVI. (2022, November 11). Review of Legislation on Gender-Based Violence Against Women Including Killings of Women in the Caribbean (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.276/22). Organization of American States. Available at: https://belemndopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MESECVI_CEVI_doc.276_22.pdf

the legal classification of femicide, in normative harmonization, and in the actual capacity to investigate, sanction, and prevent violence. Structural deficiencies in the implementation of laws are identified, along with the absence of systematic data, low rates of prosecution, and an institutional culture that continues to reproduce power inequalities between men and women.

The report concludes that, without more specific legal reforms, strengthened institutions, and deep cultural change, violence against women will remain a largely unpunished phenomenon in the Caribbean. These findings underscore the urgency of closing the gaps between international commitments and reality, ensuring adequate resources for the implementation of laws, and promoting coordinated strategies to eradicate violence against women in the region.

2.1.6 MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024–2029⁵

The MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024–2029 sets forth the roadmap for the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention in a regional context marked by the persistence and increasing complexity of the continuum of violence against women, democratic backsliding, and the emergence of new forms of violence, including those associated with the use of digital technologies. From this perspective, the Plan conceives violence against women as a structural violation of human rights, reproduced across multiple spheres—private, public, community, institutional, and digital—and affecting women and girls in all their diversity in differentiated ways.

In response to this context, the Plan is structured around four strategic goals aimed at strengthening the protection of women’s human rights through an intersectional and intercultural approach; enhancing State capacities through the Indicator System; increasing the visibility of actions for the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence; and accelerating the effective implementation of the Convention through political dialogue, regional cooperation, and the adoption of adequate normative frameworks.

In the initial implementation phase of the Strategic Plan during 2025, MESECVI focused its efforts on laying the groundwork for the progressive achievement of these goals, addressing in a comprehensive manner the structural factors underpinning violence against women.

In line with Strategic Goal I, efforts were strengthened to incorporate perspectives of diversity, intersectionality, and interculturality into the development of standards, recommendations, and normative tools, recognizing that violence is exacerbated when factors such as race, ethnicity, age, migration status, disability, gender identity, or the role of women human rights defenders intersect. In this context, more than three presentations were carried out on the Committee of Experts’ General Recommendation No. 5 on gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women, as well as on its thematic report, in countries such as Colombia, Peru, and Brazil. MESECVI also participated in various spaces led by

5 MESECVI. (2024). Strategic Plan 2024–2029. Available at: https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/MESECVI-IX-CE-doc.148.rev2_ES_PlanEstrategico2024-2029.pdf

Indigenous women, initiating a work pathway aimed at developing a specific general recommendation on violence against Indigenous women.

Complementarily, three intergenerational events were held in which the voices of girls, adolescents, and young women from Uruguay, Colombia, and Brazil played a central role. These spaces recognized both their differentiated exposure to various forms of violence—including sexual, racial, cultural, and digital violence, as well as violence related to their sexual and reproductive rights—and their active role in shaping normative and policy responses. These exchanges contributed directly to the development of instruments such as the Model Law on Digital Violence and the Guide for the incorporation of mechanisms to address gender-based digital violence against women in national cybersecurity strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In parallel, the CEVI issued several statements denouncing situations of violence against women human rights defenders, the silencing of civil society organizations, and the situation of migrant women and women in contexts of human mobility, highlighting the impact of institutional violence, impunity, and the structural barriers to accessing justice.

In line with Strategic Goal II, MESECVI advanced in strengthening State capacities to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women through the consolidation of the Indicator System, the preparation of the Fourth Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention, Latin America Chapter: Access to Justice, Truth, and Reparation: Structural Challenges and Institutional Progress, and the national reports of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round⁶. These tools made it possible to deepen the analysis of the persistence of sexual violence, the gaps in access to justice, revictimization, and the challenges related to investigation, sanction, and reparation.

During 2025, thirteen national reports⁷ were published, submitted by ten States, and workshops were held to support English-speaking Caribbean States in strengthening their responses to the indicators. These efforts contributed to more accurately reflecting compliance with Article 8(h) of the Convention and improving civil society's access to official information.

Within this same framework, the belemdopara.org⁸ website incorporated a series of data visualizations and official statistics developed on the basis of the information reported by States. These tools facilitate accessible and comparative reading of the available information, allowing the identification of trends, progress, and persistent challenges. They also serve as a key resource for State accountability, as well as for independent monitoring by civil society, academia, and other stakeholders.

In fulfillment of Strategic Goal III, sustained actions were undertaken to increase visibility, communication, and dissemination of Inter-American standards and of the work of the Mechanism, particularly in contexts of democratic backsliding and institutional weakening.

⁶ MESECVI, Fourth Hemispheric Report: Evaluation Phase, Latin America, 2025.

⁷ MESECVI, Country Monitoring: National Reports, n.d.

⁸ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI). (n.d.). Official MESECVI website. Organization of American States. Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/>

In this context, public statements were issued expressing concern and rejection regarding the dismantling of Ministries of Women and national gender equality mechanisms in various countries of the region, reaffirming their essential role in guaranteeing women's rights. At the same time, MESECVI strengthened its presence on social media.

In the context of the EDVAW Platform, a cooperation space composed of seven independent mechanisms from the United Nations and the Inter-American, European, and African systems dedicated to eliminating discrimination and violence against women — including the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, the CEDAW Committee, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, GREVIO of the Council of Europe, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, and the IACHR Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, MESECVI contributed to the development of joint interregional statements and to the publication of the [Position Paper by the EDVAW Platform on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda](#)⁹, the document examined the impact of multiple crises, including organized crime, armed conflicts, and gun violence, on the intensification of violence against women.

Across all areas of work, MESECVI prioritized addressing digital violence as one of the most recent and normalized expressions of the continuum of violence. This effort materialized principally through the drafting of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women, as well as the development of the Gender-Responsive Cybersecurity Guide. These instruments were complemented by regional events and thematic statements that highlighted phenomena such as digital harassment, digital control, and attacks against women in public and political life.

Under Strategic Goal IV, efforts were directed toward accelerating the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention through strengthened political dialogue with States Parties, interinstitutional and interregional coordination — including MESECVI's active participation in the EDVAW Platform — and the continued promotion of model normative and technical instruments. Noteworthy among these, in addition to the Model Law on Digital Violence and the Gender-Responsive Cybersecurity Guide, are the Declaration on Democracy, Climate Emergency, Digital Environments, and New Forms of Violence against Women; the thematic report on Gender-Based Violence against Afro-Descendant Women; and the document Key Conceptual and Legal Tools to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Gender-Based Violence against Women Facilitated by Technology. The production and publication of these instruments were grounded in broad and participatory processes that included public consultations, preparatory meetings, bilateral dialogues, and exchanges with States Parties, the Committee of Experts, and civil society.

Taken together, the actions carried out in 2025 reflect coherent progress aligned with the MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024–2029, aimed at consolidating the Mechanism as a technical,

⁹ Platform of Independent Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence Against Women (EDVAW). (2021). Position Paper on Women, Peace and Security (EDVAW Platform). Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/women/edvaw/edvaw-platform-position-paper-wps.pdf>

political, and regional cooperation space for the eradication of all forms of violence against women in the region.

2.1.7 Civil Society Participation

During 2025, civil society participation played a central role in MESECVI's actions, with Brazil, in its capacity as President of the Conference of States Parties, taking a particularly active role in promoting these spaces.

Throughout the year, national and regional meetings were held, enabling feminist organizations, territorial collectives, human rights defenders, and representatives from diverse social sectors to engage directly with State authorities and with the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism. These spaces facilitated the submission of substantive contributions both to the Inter-American Model Law on Digital Violence and to the follow-up processes of the Belém do Pará Convention.

During in-person meetings conducted in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay, more than 400 representatives of women's organizations and collectives participated in dialogue spaces aimed at disseminating the Mechanism's tools, strengthening coordination, and consolidating joint work.

The Presidency, aware of the importance of incorporating diverse voices into decision-making, has promoted broad listening and participation mechanisms as part of its preparations for the Tenth Conference of States Parties. As part of this process, the Brazilian State has encouraged the organization of working groups and parallel activities to ensure that social organizations, women's networks, youth groups, and regional specialists can effectively contribute to the official deliberations.

For this meeting, more than 57 civil society organizations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay registered to participate in the Conference. In addition, more than eight parallel events were organized alongside the CSP meeting to promote engagement and exchange with civil society.

These efforts demonstrate Brazil's commitment to strengthening the legitimacy and participatory dimension of MESECVI, consolidating a governance model that recognizes civil society as an indispensable actor for the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention and for the development of more inclusive responses to gender-based violence in the region.

2.1.8 Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence Against Women

With the aim of integrating a gender perspective into climate change adaptation policies and establishing a focal point to lead and coordinate the mainstreaming of gender, violence, and climate change, MESECVI, together with the Presidency, has promoted the inclusion—within the Declaration to be submitted for adoption at the Tenth Conference of States

Parties—of an explicit recognition of the importance of addressing the links between climate change and gender-based violence, as well as the need to ensure adequate protection mechanisms for women and girls in contexts of environmental crisis. This inclusion seeks to strengthen the hemispheric response to extreme climate events and ensure that States Parties adopt more inclusive, preventive policies that are sensitive to the differentiated risks faced by women in the region.

The Declaration acknowledges that the adverse effects of climate change disproportionately impact women, adolescents, and girls, particularly those who are Indigenous, Afro-descendant, rural, older, with disabilities, or in situations of human mobility. These impacts include increased risks of child marriage, sexual exploitation, trafficking, and deprivation of access to education, all of which are exacerbated in contexts of natural disasters and climate emergencies. For this reason, the Declaration emphasizes the need for public policies with a gender, intersectional, and intercultural approach that guarantee the full and meaningful participation of women in climate governance, decision-making, and the construction of resilient societies, including the fair redistribution of care work as a condition for equality and sustainability.

The Declaration also warns that violence against women in contexts of climate emergencies constitutes a structural expression of inequality, closely linked to racial and ethnic forms of violence, and poses a threat to security and social peace. Women human rights defenders working on environmental and territorial issues face serious risks such as criminalization, persecution, forced displacement, and femicide, particularly in settings affected by extractivism and mining. The Declaration stresses the need for comprehensive protection mechanisms, effective access to justice and reparation, and the creation of community-based and local networks to safeguard the lives and integrity of women in territories affected by climate-related crises. While digital violence is also mentioned as a factor that heightens the vulnerability of environmental defenders—through online threats, defamation, and harassment—the primary emphasis is on ensuring differentiated, context-sensitive responses to climate-related violence and its impacts on women’s lives.

2.1.9 Appointments of MESECVI National Competent Authorities

During 2025, several States Parties to MESECVI reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention through the designation of new experts to the Committee of Experts (CEVI). Among them, Antigua and Barbuda appointed expert Sheila Roseau; the Bahamas designated expert Janet McKenzie; Belize appointed expert Anita Zetina; Costa Rica designated expert Edylma Granado; Grenada incorporated expert Elaine Henry McQueen; Panama designated expert Jennifer Delgado; and Uruguay appointed expert Alicia Deus, thereby strengthening their support for MESECVI in the region. These appointments reflect the commitment of the States Parties to advancing gender equality and eradicating violence against women.

The Presidency wishes to express its special recognition of the growing participation of Caribbean States in MESECVI’s work. The active incorporation of new experts and

Caribbean delegations into CEVI and into the process of the Conferences of States Parties not only enriches regional dialogue with diverse and deeply necessary perspectives, but also strengthens the inclusive, representative, and plural character of our Mechanism. The Presidency expresses its satisfaction with this renewed commitment from the Caribbean and reaffirms the importance of its role in consolidating a stronger, more coordinated, and more effective regional response to violence against women.

2. 2.10 Appointments of MESECVI National Competent Authorities

Appointments of ANC for the period March 2025 to December 2025

Belize: Eleanor Murillo, Executive Director of the National Women’s Commission

Dominica: Dr. Kyra Paul, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Wellness and Social Services

Uruguay: Mónica Xavier Yelpo, Director, National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) of the Ministry of Social Development.

III. FOURTH ROUND OF THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION FOR THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN STATES PARTIES

In 2025, the MESECVI strengthened its technical support to the States Party to advance the Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation, particularly through training sessions focused on the proper use of the Indicators Platform.

Throughout the year, six specialized sessions were held for technical teams from various Caribbean countries, with the aim of improving their reporting capacities and enhancing the quality of the information submitted.

In parallel, the Mechanism implemented a broad capacity-building program for the States Party. As part of the relaunch of the Fourth Round, six specialized sessions were conducted on the use of the Indicators Platform, enabling Antigua and Barbuda to successfully complete its report and providing technical assistance to Barbados, Belize, and The Bahamas to strengthen their data-collection and reporting processes. These training sessions reinforced the quality of the evaluation process and ensured that all countries have the necessary tools to comply with their obligations under the Convention.

As part of the commitment of the national competent authorities and in the context of technical assistance, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia completed their reporting process for the Fourth Round indicators. Additionally, Suriname and Belize made progress in their reporting.

The Presidency invites the remaining States Party to the Convention from the English-speaking Caribbean that have not yet completed their process to continue working in coordination with the Technical Secretariat so that by the end of 2026 we may also have a full diagnostic of the situation of access to justice for women victims and survivors of violence in the English-speaking Caribbean.

This perspective is essential for the region to assess the effectiveness of the measures being adopted, and to continue working jointly and collaboratively through the MESECVI to improve our response capacity, promoting standards, policies, and transformations that make the promise of the Belém do Pará Convention a reality.

In parallel, the evaluation process advanced significantly with the publication of thirteen National Reports¹⁰, corresponding to Brazil¹¹, Chile¹², Colombia¹³, Costa Rica¹⁴, Ecuador¹⁵, El Salvador¹⁶, Guatemala¹⁷, Honduras¹⁸, Mexico¹⁹, Paraguay²⁰, Perú²¹, the Dominican Republic,²² and Uruguay²³. These reports analyze the measures adopted to guarantee access to justice, truth, and reparation, and constitute a key input for assessing the level of compliance with the Belém do Pará Convention in the region.

Taken together, these actions reflect the MESECVI's commitment to strengthening the technical capacities of the States Party, ensuring that the evaluation process relies on comparable information that accurately reflects the reality of the region.

IV DISSEMINATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING ON THE CONVENTION AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MESECVI

4.1 Technical Support, Awareness-Raising, and Exchange Activities

During 2025, the MESECVI developed an especially dynamic agenda of technical assistance and international cooperation, aimed at strengthening the prevention, response, and

¹⁰ MESECVI, Country Monitoring: National Reports, n.d.

¹¹ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2023). Country Report: Brazil. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. Organization of American States. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/INFORME-PAIS-BRASIL.pdf>

¹² Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2023). Country Report: Chile. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/INFORME-PAIS-CHILE.pdf>

¹³ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2023). Country Report: Colombia. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/INFORME-PAIS-COLOMBIA.pdf>

¹⁴ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2024). Country Report: Costa Rica. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/INFORME-PAIS-COSTA-RICA.pdf>

¹⁵ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2023). Country Report: Ecuador. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/INFORME-PAIS-ECUADOR-1.pdf>

¹⁶ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2023). Country Report: El Salvador. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/INFORME-PAIS-EL-SALVADOR.pdf>

¹⁷ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2023). Country Report: Guatemala. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/INFORME-PAIS-GUATEMALA.pdf>

¹⁸ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2023). Country Report: Honduras. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation.

¹⁹ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2024). Country Report: Mexico. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Informe-Pais-Mexico-IV-Ronda.pdf>

²⁰ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2023). Country Report: Paraguay. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/INFORME-PAIS-PARAGUAY.pdf>

²¹ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2024). Country Report: Peru. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/INFORME-PAIS-PERU.pdf>

²² Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2024). Country Report: Dominican Republic. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/INFORME-PAIS-REPUBLICA-DOMINICANA.pdf>

²³ Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI. (2024). Country Report: Uruguay. Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/INFORME-PAIS-URUGUAY.pdf>

eradication of violence against women in the States of the region. These actions combined training activities, political dialogue, technical exchanges, and participatory processes linked both to the relaunch of the Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation and to the advancement of the normative process of the Inter-American Model Law on Digital Violence against Women. Within this framework, the Technical Secretariat participated in the meeting “Digital Violence, Human Rights and Gender,” where it emphasized that new manifestations of violence require equally innovative responses, highlighting the potential of the Model Law as a strategic instrument to reinforce the protection of women’s rights in digital environments. Shortly thereafter, the Secretariat took part in a regional dialogue on gender-based violence in migratory contexts, addressing the specific risks faced by women in situations of human mobility and the need for articulated interinstitutional responses.

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Albert Ramdin, participated in the high-level side event to the United Nations General Assembly UNGA 80: “A Multistakeholder Responsibility to End Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women: Real Solutions to Real Harm,” co-organized by the Council of Europe and UN Women. In this high-level space, he highlighted and promoted the work of the MESECVI Committee of Experts, particularly the development process of the Inter-American Model Law on Digital Violence against Women, underscoring the leadership of the Americas and the importance of promoting comprehensive responses with a human-rights and gender perspective in global debates on digital governance and online safety.

The event brought together high-level authorities and key stakeholders, with interventions by Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, and Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, alongside representatives from the technology sector and from States such as Spain, Chile, and Bolivia, who shared commitments to address digital violence against women.

A substantive part of MESECVI’s technical assistance also focused on the advancement of the Inter-American Model Law on Digital Violence against Women, whose final phase took place within the framework of the project funded by the Italian Republic. Throughout the year, national consultations were held in Mexico, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic, in close collaboration with civil society organizations and state institutions, allowing for the collection of inputs from various institutional and territorial levels. A virtual public consultation was also carried out, gathering more than one hundred contributions from States, parliaments, academia, international organizations, and the general public, resulting in a robust and broadly legitimized draft. The process also included the presentation of the draft Model Law to ministers and high-level authorities from the English-speaking Caribbean during the CSW in New York, as well as a series of key activities in Uruguay, including an intergenerational dialogue incorporating proposals from youth and social movements, and bilateral meetings with technology companies such as Meta and TikTok, whose technical contributions strengthened the principle of corporate co-responsibility in responding to digital violence. The cycle concluded with a regional consultation in Grenada, ensuring the inclusion of perspectives from the English-speaking Caribbean, while the final draft entered the review phase by the Committee of Experts.

Complementarily, the ACTUEMOS project enabled the Mechanism to deepen its technical assistance through a broad work agenda in Mexico, Colombia, Peru, and Argentina. In Mexico, MESECVI held meetings with civil society organizations and national authorities to disseminate the progress of the Model Law and present the Fourth Hemispheric Report, integrating inputs from shadow reports prepared by civil society. Meetings were also held with TikTok to explore future guidelines related to the implementation of the Law. In Colombia, activities were aligned with the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention and included the presentation of the National Report and the IV Hemispheric Report to civil society organizations, as well as an intergenerational dialogue on digital violence at Universidad Externado, where young people from different territories formulated proposals that will serve as inputs for the practical guidelines accompanying the Model Law. In the same country, General Recommendation No. 5 and the Thematic Report on violence against Afro-descendant women were presented, strengthening the integration of intersectional approaches into public policies. In Peru, the Mechanism carried out strategic meetings that included the dissemination of the IV Hemispheric Report and the presentation of General Recommendation No. 5, as well as participation in the IX Continental Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas, which brought together more than 180 leaders. Finally, in Argentina, a meeting was held with civil society organizations to present the progress of the Model Law and the results of the hemispheric evaluation.

Taken together, these activities consolidated MESECVI's technical assistance in 2025, strengthening regional cooperation, expanding multisectoral participation, and ensuring that both the Fourth Round of Evaluation and the Inter-American Model Law advance with an inclusive, territorial, and participatory approach, fully aligned with the commitments assumed by the States Party under the Belém do Pará Convention.

V. MESECVI FINANCING

MESECVI Funding Sources

During the 54th General Assembly held in June 2024 in Asunción, Paraguay, Resolution AG/RES. 3028 (LIV-O/24) was approved, which called on the States Party, the Member States that have not yet ratified the Convention, the permanent observer States, and other donors to make voluntary contributions to the specific fund dedicated to financing MESECVI activities, including offering to organize and host meetings of its bodies.

The fund created for the MESECVI received contributions in 2025 from Canada, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico, in addition to funding from Italy to support the drafting of the Inter-American Model Law on Digital Violence and from UN Women through the ACTUEMOS project.

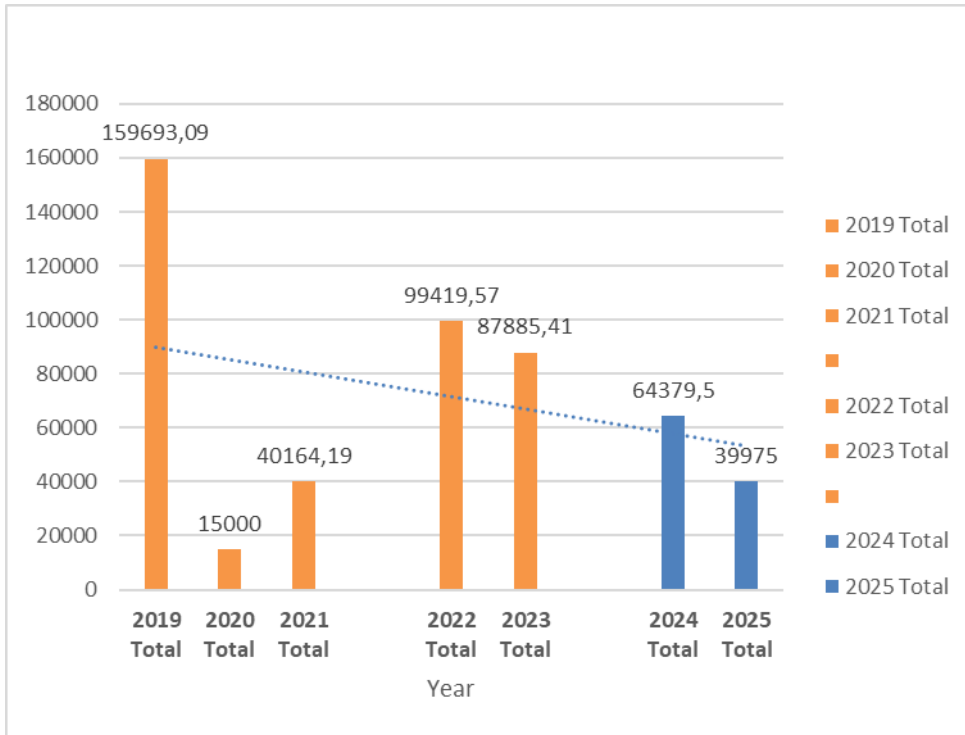
ANNEX I

HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO MESECVI 2019–2025

MESECVI Contributions		
Year	Donor	Total (USD \$)
2019	Panama	38.000,00
	Panama	7.000,00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
	Mexico	19.589,32
	Nicaragua	3.000,00
	Mexico	77.103,77
2019 Total		159.693,09
2020	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
2020 Total		15.000,00
2021	Mexico	25.164,19
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
2021 Total		40.164,19
2022	Mexico - Meeting	64.419,57
	Mexico - Annual recurrent	20.000,00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
2022 Total		99.419,57
2023	Chile	5.147,01
	Dominican Republic	9.975,00
	Mexico	57.763,40
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
ICR OEA		0,13
2023 Total		87.885,54
2024	Dominican Republic	9.975,00
	Mexico	29.404,50
	Colombia	25.000,00
2024 Total		64.379,50
2025	Dominican Republic	9.975,00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
	Chile	10.000,00
	Canada	5.000,00
2025	Voluntary Contributions	39.975,00

ANNEX II

MESECVI Contribution Trend Curve 2019–2025



ANNEX III

HISTORICAL RECORD OF MESECVI PROJECTS 2019–2025

Projects		
Year	Donor	Total (USD \$)
2019	No projects	
2019 Total		0,00
2020	Spotlight Project	98.386,00
2020 Total		98.386,00
2021	Spotlight Project	155.164,84
	PADF	3.000,00
	PNUD	30.000,00
2021 Total		188.164,84
2022	Spotlight Project	40.000,00
	Liechtenstein	31.563,34
2022 Total		71.563,34
2023	Italia	54.717,00
	UNDP	45.000,00
2023 Total		99.717,00
2024	Italia	134.230,00
2024 Total		134.230,00
2025	ACTUEMOS Project	150.000,00

ANNEX IV**States Pending Appointment or Official Notification of National Competent Authority as of December 2025**

COUNTRY	STATUS
BARBADOS	Pending ANC appointment (T & S)
BOLIVIA	Pending ANC appointment (T & S)
EL SALVADOR	Pending ANC appointment (T & S)
HAITÍ	Pending ANC appointment (T & S)
HONDURAS	Pending ANC appointment (T & S)
VENEZUELA	Pending ANC appointment (T & S)

ANNEX V**States Pending Appointment or Official Notification of Expert as of December 2025**

COUNTRY	STATUS
BARBADOS	Pending appointment of Experts (T & S)
EL SALVADOR	Pending appointment of Experts (T & S)
HAITÍ	Pending appointment of Experts (T & S)
HONDURAS	Pending appointment of Experts (T & S)
VENEZUELA	Pending appointment of Experts (T & S)