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FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)
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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MESECVI COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Technical Secretariat of MESECVI presents this report as part of the XXIII Meeting of the Committee of Experts, highlighting the main activities and progress made during 2026. This work is aligned with the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan[1], which aims to accelerate the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention and ensure the human rights of women in all their diversity.

The period was marked by the outcomes of the meetings held in Fortaleza, Brazil, in December 2025. At its XXII Meeting, the Committee of Experts adopted the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women[2] and elected its new Board, composed of the Expert from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Miriam Roache, as President; the Expert from Chile, Mónica Maureira, as First Vice President; and the Expert from the Dominican Republic, Yildalina Tatem Brache, as Second Vice President. Subsequently, the Tenth Conference of States Parties endorsed the Model Law, with the commitment of the States to submit it to their Parliaments, and adopted the Fortaleza Declaration on Democracy, Climate Emergency, Digital Environments and New Forms of Violence against Women[3].

Likewise, during this period Canada ratified the Belém do Pará Convention, becoming the thirty-third State Party. As a result, 33 of the 34 OAS Member States are now party to the first legally binding international treaty dedicated exclusively to preventing, punishing and eradicating violence against women, which expands the opportunities for regional cooperation and strengthens the reach of the Mechanism in the hemisphere.

During 2026, the Mechanism focused its efforts on three main lines of work: supporting the implementation of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women, adopted by the Committee of Experts in December 2025; responding to situations of particular gravity for women and girls in contexts of armed conflict, territorial isolation and emergencies; and developing new regional standards, including the draft General Recommendation No. 7 on economic and patrimonial violence against women in family relationships, which is submitted for adoption at the XXIII Meeting.

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[1] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2024). *MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024-2029*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/MESECVI-IX-CE-doc.148.rev2_.EN_.StrategicPlan2024-2029.pdf

[2] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2025). *Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women* (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.299/25). Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/inter-american-model-law-to-prevent-punish-and-eradicate-gender-based-digital-violence-against-women-mesecvi-2025/

[3] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2025). *Declaration on Democracy, Climate Emergency, Digital Environments, and New Forms of Violence against Women*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/declaration-on-democracy-climate-emergency-digital-environments-and-new-forms-of-violence-against-women-mesecvi-2025/

In the area of digital violence, MESECVI moved from the normative development stage to the implementation stage. Uruguay became the first State in the region to initiate a structured dialogue to align its domestic legislation with the Model Law, with the commitment of the Vice Presidency of the Republic to promote the submission of a bill to Parliament during the second half of 2026, and exchanges were held with other interested States, such as the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Colombia. In addition, Brazil, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Ecuador have already submitted bills to their legislatures in follow-up to the Model Law. Likewise, within the framework of the ACTUEMOS project, funded by UN Women and the European Union, the Mechanism developed the Practical Guidelines for Internet Intermediaries, which seek to translate the standards of the Model Law into concrete corporate policies, and brought the regional perspective of the Convention to global forums on artificial intelligence governance and personal data protection, such as the United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance in Geneva and the OECD Forum on Gender Equality in Paris.

The Committee of Experts carried out visits to territories where women and girls face aggravated forms of violence. With regard to the Catatumbo subregion in Colombia, the Committee conducted two visits: an initial technical assistance visit to the territory in February, to learn first-hand about the situation of women and girls in the face of violence aggravated by the armed conflict and the humanitarian crisis; and a follow-up visit in May, held in Bogotá, during which the delegation delivered the "Report of the Technical Assistance Visit on the Human Rights Situation of Women and Girls in the Catatumbo Subregion"[4] and supported the strengthening of State capacities regarding progress indicators. In September, a delegation of the Committee also carried out a technical assistance mission to Condorcanqui, in the Peruvian Amazon, to examine the situation of sexual violence against Awajún and Wampis girls and adolescents.

Within the framework of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round, the Mechanism made progress in the evaluation phase in the Caribbean. As of the date of this report, seven of the fourteen States Parties in the subregion —Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago— have completed the reporting process; the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have participated in training sessions but have not yet uploaded their information; and Grenada, Haiti and Jamaica have not responded. At its XXIII Meeting, the Committee will submit for adoption the National Reports of Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia.

Likewise, MESECVI continued to disseminate the results of the Latin American chapter of the Fourth Round. The previously adopted National Reports were presented, within the

[4] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2026). *Report of the Technical Assistance Visit on the Human Rights Situation of Women and Girls in the Catatumbo Subregion*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/report-of-the-technical-assistance-visit-on-the-human-rights-situation-of-women-and-girls-in-the-catatumbo-subregion-mesecvi-2026/

framework of the Mechanism's visits, in Uruguay, Paraguay, Colombia, Peru and the Dominican Republic; institutional capacities in the use of the System of Progress Indicators were strengthened through a workshop with nearly 80 public officials from Colombia; and new digital data visualizations on women's access to justice in the region were launched.

Similarly, MESECVI strengthened its work with children and adolescents. Together with the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and with the support of UNFPA, the Belém do Pará Convention was adapted into child- and adolescent-friendly language[5], which was presented during the OAS General Assembly in Panama in June 2026.

In response to the earthquakes that occurred in Venezuela and Colombia, the Mechanism promoted, jointly with the Center for Women's Studies, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Graduate Studies Network of the Central University of Venezuela, a regional series of four (4) webinars on violence against women and girls in emergency and disaster situations, with the participation of experts from Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela, as well as from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in order to exchange experiences and identify lessons learned and good practices in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The work carried out in 2026 is aligned with the objectives of the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan[6], which prioritizes the inclusive protection of women in vulnerable situations, the strengthening of State capacities and the acceleration of the commitments undertaken by the States Parties. In this regard, MESECVI reaffirms its commitment to a region where all women and girls live free from violence, in an environment of equality, justice and full respect for their human rights.

TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) held its Twenty-Second Meeting on December 9-10, 2025, in Fortaleza, Brazil. During this session, the Committee assessed the progress of the Mechanism and adopted a series of agreements aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Convention in the States Parties.

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[5] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI], Inter-American Children's Institute [IIN], Inter-American Commission of Women [CIM], United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA] and Government of Canada. (2026). *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention) in Child- and Adolescent-Friendly Version*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/inter-american-convention-on-the-prevention-punishment-and-eradication-of-violence-against-women-belem-do-para-convention-in-child-and-adolescent-friendly-version-mesecvi-iin-cim-unfpa-canad/

[6] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2024). *MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024-2029*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/MESECVI-IX-CE-doc.148.rev2_.EN_.StrategicPlan2024-2029.pdf

The main agreement of the Meeting was the adoption of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women. The Committee requested the Technical Secretariat to disseminate it widely and to develop an advocacy strategy and campaigns for its implementation in the States Parties.

With regard to evaluation, the Committee took note of the status of implementation of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round in the English-speaking Caribbean and asked the Technical Secretariat to help the States that had not completed the reporting process to do so within three months. It also took note of the National Reports of Argentina, Bolivia, Honduras, Panama and the Dominican Republic, adopted during 2025.

With a view to the Fifth Multilateral Evaluation Round, the Committee agreed to prioritize, within available resources, the following critical areas: a) access to justice; b) patrimonial and economic violence; c) sexual, reproductive and obstetric violence; d) sexual exploitation and harassment; and e) access to rights and to sexual and reproductive health. It also requested the Technical Secretariat to develop a roadmap for the Fifth Round and present it at its next regular meeting.

Regarding the development of standards, the Committee took note of the progress made by the Working Group in the consultations towards a General Recommendation on patrimonial violence against women and requested the Technical Secretariat to submit a draft at its next regular meeting. It also requested the creation of a Working Group to advance towards a General Recommendation on violence against Indigenous women from an intergenerational perspective, and to advance the analysis of violence exacerbated by the climate crisis and disasters in the region, particularly in the Caribbean subregion.

Furthermore, the Committee urged the States Parties to apply the Convention in a comprehensive and evolving manner, including with respect to violence perpetrated in contexts of organized crime, such as femicides and feminicides, trafficking, displacement and extortion; to develop policies with intersectional normative frameworks that take into account gender, race, ethnicity, territory, age and disability; and to recognize care as a pillar for the eradication of structural inequalities and violence. The Experts also committed to continue disseminating General Recommendation No. 5[7] and the Thematic Report on Gender-Based Violence against Afro-descendant Women in Latin America in their States.

TENTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)

The Tenth Conference of States Parties to MESECVI was held on December 10, 11 and 12, 2025, in Fortaleza, Brazil, with the participation of seventeen States Parties and the signatory

[7] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2024). *General Recommendation of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (No. 5): Gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/general-recommendation-of-the-committee-of-expert-of-the-mesecvi-no5-gender-based-violence-against-afro-descendant-women-mesecvi-2024/

State of Canada. The meeting, which coincided with three decades of the Convention and twenty years of the Mechanism, was the first intergovernmental forum in which the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women, adopted days earlier by the Committee of Experts, was presented.

The opening session was chaired by the Minister of Women of Brazil and President of the Conference, Márcia Lopes, and included the participation of the OAS Secretary General, Albert Ramdin; the Vice President of the CEVI, Mónica Maureira; the Executive Secretary of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora; and the Technical Secretary of MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía. The ceremony paid tribute to the Experts with more than two decades of service on the Committee and to Maria da Penha. During the Conference, the States Parties approved the Report of the Presidency and held a dialogue with the Committee of Experts on digital violence against women, in which they expressed broad support for the Model Law and their willingness to use it as a reference for their legislative reforms. The agenda also included panels on democracy and political violence, the climate emergency, intersectionality and the presentation of the Fourth Hemispheric Report.

The Conference adopted by acclamation the Declaration on Democracy, Climate Emergency, Digital Environments and New Forms of Violence against Women –Fortaleza Declaration–[8]. In its agreements, the States Parties committed to submitting the Model Law to their Parliaments and promoting its incorporation into national legislation; requested that the Fifth Multilateral Evaluation Round include indicators on digital violence and climate change; and reiterated the need to ensure the financial sustainability of MESECVI. They also accepted the invitation of the Dominican Republic to host the Eleventh Conference of States Parties in 2027.

The Tenth Conference reaffirmed the collective will of the States Parties to strengthen the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention in the face of new forms of violence against women, particularly those that occur in digital environments and in contexts of climate emergency.

56TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Within the framework of the 56th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, held in June 2026 in Panama City, MESECVI and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) held, on June 21, 2026, the side event “Understanding to transform: The Belém do Pará

[8] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2025). *Declaration on Democracy, Climate Emergency, Digital Environments, and New Forms of Violence against Women*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/declaration-on-democracy-climate-emergency-digital-environments-and-new-forms-of-violence-against-women-mesecvi-2025/

Convention in a friendly version"[9], with the support of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and UNFPA.

The purpose of the event was to present the child- and adolescent-friendly version of the Belém do Pará Convention, developed through a participatory process with young people from different countries of the region. More than three decades after the adoption of the Convention, gaps persist in its social appropriation, particularly among children and adolescents, for whom the technical and legal language of the instrument is a barrier to knowing their rights, the obligations of the States and the available protection mechanisms. The friendly version translates its contents into a clear and accessible format, incorporates everyday examples and addresses new forms of violence, such as digital violence, so that girls, adolescent girls and young women can recognize situations of violence and demand institutional responses, and so that boys, adolescent boys and young men understand their role in preventing and eradicating violence against women.

In addition to the technical presentation by the Technical Secretariat of MESECVI, together with a representative of the young people who took part in the process, the event included an intergenerational dialogue on the right of women, girls and adolescents to live a life free from violence, with the participation of authorities from the OAS, the CIM, the IIN and UNFPA, as well as girls, adolescents and young women from Panama. This space made it possible to share the methodological process used to develop the friendly version, from a rights-based, gender and intersectional approach, and to recognize children and adolescents as key actors in the prevention of violence and in building more inclusive governance within the inter-American system.

RATIFICATION OF THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION BY CANADA

MESECVI celebrates the ratification of the Belém do Pará Convention by Canada on June 24, 2026, a historic step that strengthens the commitment of the Americas to the right of all women and girls to live a life free from violence. With this ratification, Canada becomes the thirty-third State Party to the Convention and to the Mechanism, so that 33 of the 34 OAS Member States are now party to the first legally binding international treaty dedicated exclusively to preventing, punishing and eradicating violence against women.

The accession of Canada, which signed the Convention in March 2025 and participated as a signatory State in the Tenth Conference of States Parties, expands the opportunities for regional cooperation, exchange of experiences and the development of innovative responses to the different forms of violence affecting women and girls across the hemisphere. As the

[9] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI], Inter-American Children's Institute [IIN], Inter-American Commission of Women [CIM], United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA] and Government of Canada. (2026). *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention) in Child- and Adolescent-Friendly Version*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/inter-american-convention-on-the-prevention-punishment-and-eradication-of-violence-against-women-belem-do-para-convention-in-child-and-adolescent-friendly-version-mesecvi-iin-cim-unfpa-canad/

follow-up mechanism of the Convention, MESECVI will support this process by promoting technical cooperation, the exchange of good practices and the strengthening of institutional capacities, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the commitments undertaken.

Each State that joins the Convention strengthens the collective voice of the region and reaffirms that Americas free from violence against women are a shared responsibility.

DESIGNATION OF EXPERTS FOR THE 2026 PERIOD

During this year, we registered the departure of three Experts from the Committee: Haiti: Mona Jean; Jamaica: Barbara Bailey; and Mexico: Teresa Incháustegui. We thank them for all their contributions and wish them the very best. Likewise, we extend a warm welcome to the Experts Tania Jean-Pierre, appointed by Haiti; Debby Ann Brown Salmon, appointed by Jamaica; and Leticia Bonifaz Alfonzo, appointed by Mexico.

FOURTH MULTILATERAL EVALUATION ROUND

During 2026, the work of the Mechanism within the framework of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round advanced along two complementary lines: on the one hand, the completion of the evaluation phase in the Caribbean States Parties; and, on the other, the dissemination of the results of the Latin American chapter of the Fourth Hemispheric Report and of the National Reports, together with the strengthening of State capacities in the use of the System of Progress Indicators.

With regard to the dissemination of results, the National Reports previously adopted for the Latin American States have been presented within the framework of the Mechanism's visits and missions to the countries. Thus, during 2026, the National Reports of Uruguay[10], Paraguay[11], Colombia[12] and the Dominican Republic[13], were presented to authorities from the different branches of government and to civil society organizations, which made it possible to discuss the findings and recommendations issued by the Committee of Experts to each State and to promote their follow-up. These spaces were complemented by capacity-building actions on the use of the System of Progress Indicators, such as the workshop for nearly 80

[10] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2024). *Informe Nacional de Uruguay. Cuarta Ronda de Evaluación Multilateral* [National Report of Uruguay. Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round]. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/INFORME-PAIeS-URUGUAY.pdf

[11] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2026). *Informe Nacional de Paraguay. Cuarta Ronda de Evaluación Multilateral* [National Report of Paraguay. Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round]. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Informe_Paraguay_Cuarta_Ronda-1.pdf

[12] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2024). *Informe Nacional de Colombia. Cuarta Ronda de Evaluación Multilateral* [National Report of Colombia. Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round]. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/INFORME-PAIiS-COLOMBIA.pdf

[13] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2025). *Informe Nacional de República Dominicana. Cuarta Ronda de Evaluación Multilateral* [National Report of the Dominican Republic. Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round]. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/INFORME-PAIS-REPUBLICA-DOMINICANA-1.pdf

public officials in Colombia and the presentation of the Indicator System to the Judiciary of Paraguay, described in the technical assistance section.

Status of the evaluation phase in the Caribbean States

During 2026, the Technical Secretariat continued to support the Caribbean States Parties in the reporting process for the evaluation phase of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round, covering the 2018-2022 period, in compliance with the agreement of the XXII Meeting of the Committee requesting that the States that had not completed the process be helped to do so. This support included sending credentials and user manuals for the Indicators Platform, virtual training workshops with national technical teams, meetings with the Permanent Missions to the OAS, and regular follow-up communications with the National Competent Authorities and the Experts.

As of the date of this report, seven of the fourteen Caribbean States Parties have completed the reporting process: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The information from Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Suriname is published on the belemdopara.org website and, for the most part, integrated into its digital visualizations. Guyana submitted its information in a separate file; since it was not uploaded to the Platform, it cannot be incorporated into the website's visualizations.

Another four States —the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines— have participated in training workshops or meetings with the Technical Secretariat but have not yet uploaded information to the Platform. Despite follow-up communications, in several of these cases the six-month period established to complete the report has expired. For their part, Grenada, Haiti and Jamaica have not responded to the communications of the Technical Secretariat, even though they were sent the credentials and the access manual for the Platform; a virtual meeting on indicators and other strategic issues is being coordinated with Jamaica.

Based on the information received, the Committee of Experts will submit for adoption at its XXIII Meeting the National Reports of Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia, with a view to preparing the Caribbean chapter of the Fourth Hemispheric Report. The Committee reiterates its call on the States that have not yet completed the process to do so as soon as possible, in order to have a complete regional assessment.

New data visualizations on access to justice

On May 28, 2026, MESECVI launched new digital visualizations[14] that make it possible to explore data and statistics on access to justice for women in Latin America and the Caribbean,

[14] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (n.d.). *Data and statistics*. Organization of American States. Retrieved October 19, 2026, from https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/dataandstatistics/

based on the information reported by the States in the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round, as part of the process of automating the MESECVI Integrated Indicator System.

DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS

General Recommendation No. 7: economic and patrimonial violence against women in family relationships

In compliance with agreement 5 of the XXII Meeting, and building on the work of the Working Group on economic violence and child support created in 2025, the Technical Secretariat prepared the draft General Recommendation No. 7 of the Committee of Experts, "Economic and patrimonial violence against women in family relationships and State due diligence obligations" (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.310/26), which is submitted for the consideration of the Committee at its XXIII Meeting.

The draft is based on the finding that economic and patrimonial violence is often treated as a private dispute over money, property or family responsibilities, which obscures the fact that the control, deprivation, withholding or arbitrary disposal of resources may constitute gender-based mechanisms of domination, prolong women's dependence and hinder their exit from violent relationships. Based on a systematic interpretation of Articles 1, 2, 7 and 8 of the Convention, and in dialogue with CEDAW and the Committee's General Recommendation No. 6 on stereotypes in justice systems, the instrument develops State due diligence obligations in areas such as control of resources and indebtedness, administration and protection of property, separation and divorce, abusive use of judicial proceedings, child support obligations, the right to care, conciliation and mediation, and parental responsibilities.

The Recommendation proposes legal and operational criteria for the States Parties to recognize these forms of violence, protect women's resources and means of subsistence in a timely manner, guarantee family proceedings free from stereotypes and revictimization, ensure effective compliance with child support obligations, provide comprehensive reparation and produce information to assess the State response.

Implementation of General Recommendation No. 5 in the Dominican Republic

On September 15, 2026, in Santo Domingo, the Event for the Presentation and Launch of the Implementation Process of General Recommendation No. 5 of the Committee of Experts on Gender-Based Violence against Afro-descendant Women[15] in the Dominican Republic was held, organized with the UNFPA Office in the Dominican Republic, the UNFPA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women (RMAAD) and the Ministry of Women, in partnership with

[15] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2024). *General Recommendation of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (No. 5): Gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/general-recommendation-of-the-committee-of-expert-of-the-mesecvi-no5-gender-based-violence-against-afro-descendant-women-mesecvi-2024/

civil society organizations and academia, such as CIPAF, CONAMUCA, IGEF-UASD and CE-Mujer. The Recommendation was presented by the Vice President of the CEVI and Expert from the Dominican Republic, Yildalina Tatem Brache.

The starting point of the meeting was the Situational Analysis on gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women and girls in the Dominican Republic, which shows gaps in the production of data disaggregated by ethnic and racial variables, in the coordination of the institutional response and in the incorporation of the intersectional approach into public policies. Through working groups on justice and non-revictimization, health, security and prevention, data and monitoring, and public policy and budget, the participating institutions made progress in building a national roadmap for the implementation of the Recommendation, with institutional commitments, responsibilities and timeframes.

Adaptation of the Belém do Pará Convention for children and adolescents

In February 2026, with a workshop with adolescents in Montevideo, Uruguay, MESECVI launched a participatory process with children and adolescents to adapt the Belém do Pará Convention into accessible and easy-to-understand language[16]. The initiative, developed together with the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), with the support of UNFPA, was built using participatory and intergenerational methodologies with young people from different countries of the region.

The adaptation was presented in June 2026, during the OAS General Assembly in Panama. This tool seeks to bring the Convention closer to new generations, so that children and adolescents can learn about it and use it to exercise their rights, thereby strengthening the prevention of violence from an early age.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

During 2026, MESECVI carried out a broad technical assistance agenda for the States Parties, provided through delegations of the Committee of Experts that visited territories where women and girls face aggravated forms of violence, as well as through technical missions aimed at disseminating the results of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round, strengthening State capacities in the use of progress indicators and supporting the implementation of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women.

[16] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI], Inter-American Children's Institute [IIN], Inter-American Commission of Women [CIM], United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA] and Government of Canada. (2026). *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention) in Child- and Adolescent-Friendly Version*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/inter-american-convention-on-the-prevention-punishment-and-eradication-of-violence-against-women-belem-do-para-convention-in-child-and-adolescent-friendly-version-mesecvi-iin-cim-unfpa-canad/

From February 9 to 13, 2026, a delegation composed of the Vice Presidents of the CEVI, Mónica Maureira, Expert from Chile, and Yildalina Tatem Brache, Expert from the Dominican Republic, and the Expert from Colombia, Adriana Benjumea, together with the Technical Secretary of MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, and staff of the Technical Secretariat, carried out a technical assistance visit to the Catatumbo subregion (Norte de Santander), in Colombia, where gender-based violence has been aggravated by the armed conflict and the humanitarian crisis. The visit made it possible to gather first-hand information on the situation of women and girls in the territory and to strengthen the follow-up of the Belém do Pará Convention; at its conclusion, the Committee publicly warned of the total absence of rights for women and girls in the region.

A few days later, from February 24 to 26, the Technical Secretariat carried out a technical mission to Montevideo, Uruguay, with the participation of the Expert from Uruguay, Alicia Deus, to support Uruguayan institutions in the dissemination, appropriation and implementation of the Model Law. As a result, Uruguay became the first State in the region to initiate a structured dialogue to align its national legislation with it. The main activity was the event “Digital violence: Dialogue on the Inter-American Model Law and its implementation in Uruguay”, which brought together more than 100 people, including the Vice President of the Republic and President of the General Assembly and the Senate, Carolina Cosse; the Director of the National Women's Institute, Mónica Xavier; the Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining, Fernanda Cardona; and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Valeria Csukasi, as well as representatives of international organizations, academia and civil society. The main outcome was the commitment of the Vice President of the Republic to promote the submission to Parliament, during the second half of 2026, of a bill on digital violence against women, and the foundations of a national roadmap to support the legislative process and its subsequent implementation. The agenda also included a meeting with civil society organizations, at which the findings of the National Report were shared, a press event organized by the National Women's Institute and a workshop with adolescents for the development of the friendly version of the Convention.

From April 13 to 16, the Technical Secretariat carried out a technical mission to Asunción, Paraguay, with the participation of the Expert from Paraguay, María Angélica Cano, with the aim of strengthening the capacities of the Paraguayan State to follow up on the Convention, with special attention to women's access to justice, truth and reparation. Within this framework, the Fourth Hemispheric Report and the National Report of Paraguay, covering the 2018-2022 period, were presented, which facilitated a direct dialogue with the Supreme Court of Justice and civil society organizations on the gaps between normative frameworks and their application, due diligence, inter-institutional coordination and the production of information. The delegation held exchanges with the Supreme Court of Justice; the Ministries of Women, Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Public Works, Public Health and Social Welfare, and Labor; the National Secretariat of Tourism; the gender committees of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies; and the Council of the Judiciary, the Judicial School and the Jury for

the Prosecution of Magistrates. One of the main advances was the presentation of the MESECVI Indicator System as a tool to measure gender equality within the Judiciary, including the monitoring of leadership and parity, with the identification of initial lines of work for its adaptation to the Paraguayan context. The mission also included a meeting with more than 60 civil society and academic organizations, and the international seminar "Violence against women, access to justice and its new challenges", with more than 100 participants, at which the Expert from Paraguay presented the Model Law.

From May 11 to 15, the Vice Presidents of the CEVI, Mónica Maureira and Yildalina Tatem Brache, and the Expert from Colombia, Adriana Benjumea, accompanied by specialists from the Technical Secretariat, carried out in Bogotá a follow-up visit on the situation of women and girls in Catatumbo, in order to continue the analysis of violence against women in the context of the armed conflict and other forms of violence affecting them in that territory. During this visit, the delegation delivered the "Report of the Technical Assistance Visit on the Human Rights Situation of Women and Girls in the Catatumbo Subregion"[17], which documents the serious human rights impacts on women in the region and underscores the urgent need to adopt comprehensive protection and access to justice measures. Within the framework of this visit, MESECVI also presented the National Report of Colombia of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round and organized, together with the Vice-Ministry of Women of Colombia, a workshop on progress indicators that brought together nearly 80 public officials, focused on strengthening institutional capacities to follow up on the Convention.

Finally, from September 4 to 11, a delegation of the Committee of Experts led by the Vice President of the CEVI and Expert from Chile, Mónica Maureira, and composed of the Vice President and Expert from the Dominican Republic, Yildalina Tatem Brache, the Expert from Panama, Jennifer Delgado Urueta, and the Expert from Peru, Ana María Mendieta, accompanied by the Technical Secretary of MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, and specialists from the Technical Secretariat, carried out a technical assistance mission to Condorcanqui, in the Peruvian Amazon, to examine the situation of Awajún and Wampis girls and adolescents affected by sexual violence. The Committee found that sexual violence is a structural and persistent problem that goes beyond the educational setting and extends to family and community environments, and noted with concern that territorial isolation, institutional fragmentation, limited access to justice and health services, and insufficient coordination between State and Indigenous justice systems continue to create serious protection gaps. It also recognized the fundamental role of Awajún and Wampis women leaders in accompanying victims and called for strengthening territorial, intercultural and survivor-centered responses. The Committee is currently preparing the report and recommendations arising from the visit.

[17] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2026). *Report of the Technical Assistance Visit on the Human Rights Situation of Women and Girls in the Catatumbo Subregion*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/report-of-the-technical-assistance-visit-on-the-human-rights-situation-of-women-and-girls-in-the-catatumbo-subregion-mesecvi-2026/

GENDER-BASED DIGITAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Implementation of the Inter-American Model Law

Following the adoption of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women[18], MESECVI focused its efforts on supporting its implementation and translating its standards into practical tools.

Among the technical assistance actions for its implementation, the mission to Montevideo, Uruguay —the first State in the region to initiate a structured dialogue to align its legislation with the Model Law— stands out, as described in the technical assistance section. Likewise, this Committee welcomes the fact that Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia and Costa Rica have also submitted bills to their legislatures for adoption in accordance with the Model Law.

Other dissemination and legislative advocacy actions

On March 4 and 5, 2026, the Technical Secretary of MESECVI took part in the presentation of the Model Law in Mexico, at the invitation of ParlAmericas, the Senate of the Republic and the Chamber of Deputies, within the framework of the Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality, held in Mexico City. MESECVI participated as a panelist in high-level dialogues on strengthening gender institutional frameworks in parliaments and promoting inclusive parliamentary cultures free from discrimination and violence.

From March 9 to 13, 2026, MESECVI carried out an agenda focused on the presentation of the Model Law in New York, within the framework of CSW70, which included its participation in a high-level event dedicated to strengthening data collection systems to improve measurement, accountability and women's access to justice. In this space, the Mechanism highlighted its normative work, in particular the Fourth Hemispheric Report, General Recommendation No. 6 on the use of stereotypes that compromise the integrity of justice systems, and the Declaration on Democracy, Climate Emergency, Digital Environments and New Forms of Violence against Women.

From April 8 to 10, 2026, MESECVI carried out a technical mission to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, within the framework of the Youth Legislative Impact–Dominican Republic program (April 8 and 9) and the meeting “Towards equality in the Dominican Republic: exploring strategies, tools and good practices” (April 10), organized by ParlAmericas and the Congress of the Dominican Republic. In the session “Women's leadership in the digital age”, participants discussed how harassment, threats, the non-consensual dissemination of content and gender disinformation limit the political

[18] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2025). *Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women* (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.299/25). Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/cim_mesecvi/inter-american-model-law-to-prevent-punish-and-eradicate-gender-based-digital-violence-against-women-mesecvi-2025/

participation of young women, and the Model Law was presented as a tool to guide the drafting and reform of laws and public policies.

At the high-level event, with more than 200 participants from the country's various institutions, MESECVI presented the concept of the continuum of violence against women developed in the Fourth Hemispheric Report, which underscores that the different manifestations of violence are connected, accumulate and reinforce one another across physical and digital spaces. The mission strengthened coordination with the Congress of the Dominican Republic and identified opportunities for technical cooperation targeting parliamentarians, legislative staff and young women leaders.

Likewise, MESECVI continued to support regional dialogue and the dissemination of the Model Law in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Colombia, including exchanges with States interested in adapting the instrument at the national level.

Meeting of the Ibero-American Data Protection Network

From May 26 to 28, 2026, MESECVI participated in the annual Meeting of the Ibero-American Data Protection Network, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, before more than 30 high-level representatives of Ibero-American data protection authorities. In the session of the working group on Digital Violence and Digital Health, the Model Law was presented and digital violence against women was positioned as an issue directly related to personal data protection, in the face of risks such as generative artificial intelligence, synthetic intimate content, identity theft and the exploitation of sensitive data. As a concrete outcome, it was agreed that MESECVI will review the artificial intelligence guidelines being developed by the Network, in order to incorporate a gender and digital violence perspective.

Mission to Geneva and Paris

From July 4 to 10, 2026, the Technical Secretariat of MESECVI carried out a mission to Geneva, Switzerland, and Paris, France, with the aim of incorporating the regional perspective of the Belém do Pará Convention into global debates on artificial intelligence, digital governance and violence against women, and of presenting the Inter-American Model Law on digital violence to international audiences.

On July 6 and 7, in Geneva, MESECVI participated in the Global Dialogue on AI Governance convened by the United Nations, a space in which it advocated for international artificial intelligence governance frameworks to incorporate a gender perspective and the prevention of digital violence against women and girls. Within this framework, on July 16, the Committee of Experts issued a statement calling for global artificial intelligence governance to incorporate a gender perspective in order to eradicate digital violence against women and girls.

Subsequently, on July 8 and 9, MESECVI participated in the OECD Forum on Gender Equality, in Paris, at the invitation of the Organization, after the Mechanism's work on

gender-based violence in digital environments was shared with its team. The Technical Secretariat was invited as a panelist in the session “Tackling gender-based violence in the digital age against women public figures worldwide”, held on July 9, in which the Inter-American Model Law was presented as a regional benchmark for addressing digital violence against women who participate in public life.

The mission was funded with resources from the ACTUEMOS project of UN Women and the European Union.

Practical Guidelines for Internet Intermediaries

As a result of the ACTUEMOS project, funded by UN Women and the European Union, MESECVI developed the “Practical Guidelines for Internet Intermediaries: Digital Environments Free of Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women”, which translates the obligations of the Model Law into an operational tool aimed at social networks, search engines, digital and e-commerce platforms, and hosting and communication service providers. The Guidelines develop in particular detail the co-regulation regime set out in Chapter III of the Model Law, which establishes the technical, institutional and governance obligations of platforms, based on the principle that women's right to live free from digital violence is a shared responsibility of States and internet intermediaries.

The document specifies the scope of application of the Model Law and the manifestations of digital violence that must be considered in content moderation, and develops the guiding principles that should inform all the systems, policies and processes of intermediaries, including equality and non-discrimination, enhanced due diligence, the best interests of girls and adolescents, the centrality of victims, non-revictimization, transparency, intersectionality and safety by design. It also offers operational guidance on reporting and response mechanisms, risk management, preservation of evidence, cooperation with competent authorities and transparency reports, a content moderation guide with suggested responses for each prohibited conduct, and a checklist that allows companies to assess their level of compliance in a practical and progressive manner.

The draft Guidelines were developed in a participatory manner and discussed with States, technology companies, international organizations, civil society and specialists at two meetings held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on September 23 and 24, 2026, described in the section on projects and cooperation.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN EMERGENCY AND DISASTER SITUATIONS

In follow-up to agreement 12 of the XXII Meeting of the Committee, which requested progress in the analysis of violence exacerbated by the climate crisis and disasters in the region, and to the mandate of the Tenth Conference of States Parties on this matter, and following the earthquakes that occurred in Venezuela and Colombia, MESECVI launched a regional webinar series on violence against women and girls in emergency and disaster

situations, with the aim of exchanging experiences and identifying lessons learned and good practices in Latin America and the Caribbean. The series comprised the following sessions:

1. August 21: immediate response to earthquakes and protection of women and girls.
2. September 11: gender-responsive reconstruction, participation, recovery and women's autonomy.
3. September 25: women and girls in emergencies in island contexts, including hurricanes, displacement, access to essential services, protection in shelters and community resilience.
4. October 2: humanitarian context in Venezuela and Colombia and protection of women and girls.

SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In response to the strategic priority that the MESECVI 2024-2029 Strategic Plan[19] gives to the impact of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons on women's lives and security, and as a result of the ongoing dialogue between the Presidency of the Committee of Experts, the Technical Secretariat and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), the Technical Seminar and Regional Dialogue "Small arms control and prevention of violence against women: Towards the integration of agendas for the protection of women in Latin America and the Caribbean" is being held on October 20 and 21, 2026, in Lima, Peru, ahead of the XXIII Meeting of the Committee, promoted by UNLIREC with the support of the Government of Canada through the "Women, Youth and Disarmament" project.

The meeting is based on the finding that, although Latin America is not facing active armed conflicts, it has alarming levels of firearm violence, and that its impacts are differentiated: while men are killed mainly in contexts of organized crime and urban violence, women are killed mostly by their partners, former partners or people close to them, and firearms are not only present in femicides but also facilitate other forms of physical, sexual, psychological and coercive violence against them.

The seminar, aimed at the members of the Committee of Experts, seeks to strengthen the integration of the small arms control and violence against women prevention agendas in the region. Its program addresses the impacts of firearms based on statistical data and case studies; international, inter-American and subregional normative frameworks on arms control and the fight against illicit trafficking; and the necessary link between laws on violence against women and laws regulating and controlling small arms. With the participation of CEVI Experts, the Technical Secretariat, regional specialists and UNLIREC

[19] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention [MESECVI]. (2024). *MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024-2029*. Organization of American States. https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/MESECVI-IX-CE-doc.148.rev2_.EN_.StrategicPlan2024-2029.pdf

staff, the meeting concludes with subregional working groups —the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, the Andean Community, and South America— aimed at formulating recommendations to strengthen the convergence of both agendas in normative frameworks, public policies and national and regional coordination mechanisms.

EDVAW PLATFORM

During 2026, MESECVI maintained its active participation in the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform), composed of the CEDAW Committee, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, the Council of Europe's GREVIO, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the IACHR Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, and MESECVI. In 2026, the Platform was chaired by the President of GREVIO, Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, and the Committee of Experts was represented by its President, Miriam Roache, with the support of the Technical Secretariat.

At its first meeting of the year, the Platform welcomed the new President of the CEVI and adopted women's access to justice and legal retaliation as its thematic focus for 2026. On that occasion, the President reported on the election of the Committee's new authorities, the adoption of the Inter-American Model Law on digital violence, the adoption of the Fortaleza Declaration at the Tenth Conference of States Parties, and the Committee's visit to Catatumbo, Colombia.

Throughout the year, MESECVI participated in the Platform's meetings, held virtually and in person, which addressed, among other topics, the preparation of joint participation in CSW70, the development of the Guidance Note on legal retaliation, the Platform's communication strategy and cooperation with UN Women. In these spaces, MESECVI shared the Mechanism's progress as part of the information exchange among mandates (tour de table). Highlights included the child- and adolescent-friendly version of the Belém do Pará Convention; the mission to the Peruvian Amazon to examine sexual violence against Indigenous girls and adolescents; participation in the United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance and the OECD Gender Forum; the development of the Practical Guidelines for Internet Intermediaries; and the regional webinar series on women and girls in emergency and disaster situations. At the meeting of September 29, 2026, MESECVI made available to the other mechanisms the recording of the High-Level Event held in Washington, D.C., on the implementation of the Model Law and the Practical Guidelines for Internet Intermediaries.

Within the framework of CSW70, in March 2026, the Platform held an in-person internal meeting in New York and organized a side event on women's access to justice and legal retaliation, which addressed available legal remedies, the role of civil society organizations and the situation of women human rights defenders. The Platform also sought to strengthen

its dialogue with UN Women, ECOSOC and the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly.

With regard to statements, MESECVI joined the EDVAW Platform Statement on International Women's Day, “Guaranteeing rights and justice without fear of reprisals #ForAllWomenAndGirls” (March 6, 2026), aligned with UN Women's theme for that year. The Platform also agreed to issue joint statements on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25) and International Women Human Rights Defenders Day (November 29).

As its main output for the year, the Platform is preparing a Guidance Note on Legal Retaliation against Women and Girls Reporting Violence, which examines this global and cross-regional phenomenon, its consequences for victims, their support networks, professionals and women human rights defenders, as well as State obligations regarding due diligence, access to legal aid and reparation. MESECVI contributed to the process with comments on the draft and with its regional standards, including the Fourth Hemispheric Report on access to justice, truth and reparation, and General Recommendation No. 6 on the use of stereotypes that compromise the integrity of justice systems, both of which are included among the references of the Note.

The Guidance Note will be presented at a public event marking the Platform's 30th meeting, scheduled for November 26, 2026, in Strasbourg and online, within the framework of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The Platform will also carry out a joint communication campaign during the 16 Days of Activism, which will include posts on the MESECVI Committee of Experts and its President, in order to raise the visibility of the coordinated work of independent mechanisms at the regional and universal levels.

PROJECTS AND COOPERATION

During 2026, MESECVI's main cooperation project was ACTUEMOS, funded by UN Women and the European Union, within which the Mechanism promoted the dissemination and implementation of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women and the development of the Practical Guidelines for Internet Intermediaries.

Within the framework of the project, the Model Law was presented and discussed in various national, regional and international forums. In February, the technical mission to Montevideo enabled Uruguay to become the first State in the region to initiate a structured dialogue to align its national legislation with the Model Law, with the commitment of the Vice Presidency of the Republic to promote a bill during the second half of 2026. In April, the Model Law was presented in Asunción, at the international seminar on access to justice organized during the technical mission to Paraguay, and in Santo Domingo, before parliamentarians, legislative staff, public officials and young women leaders, within the framework of the Youth Legislative Impact program and the high-level meeting organized by

ParlAmericas and the Congress of the Dominican Republic. In May, MESECVI presented it to Ibero-American data protection authorities at the Meeting of the Ibero-American Data Protection Network held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, where it was agreed that the Mechanism will review the Network's artificial intelligence guidelines. In July, the mission to Geneva and Paris made it possible to bring the regional perspective of the Convention to the United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance and to the OECD Forum on Gender Equality, where the Model Law was presented in a panel on digital violence against women in public life.

The most significant milestone of the project in 2026 was the participatory development of the Practical Guidelines for Internet Intermediaries, the draft of which was discussed at two meetings held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. On September 23, a Closed Technical Meeting was held with representatives of platforms and internet intermediaries, civil society, academia, international organizations and specialists in human rights, artificial intelligence and digital governance, who, following the welcome remarks by the Executive Secretary of the CIM and the presentation of the draft by the Technical Secretary of MESECVI, worked in thematic groups on content moderation and reporting mechanisms; transparency, accountability, preservation of evidence and cooperation with authorities; and artificial intelligence, systemic risks and safety by design. The following day, September 24, the Public High-Level Event “Towards the Effective Implementation of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Digital Violence against Women: Participatory Development of the Practical Guidelines for Internet Intermediaries” took place in the Hall of the Americas, bringing together international organizations, national authorities, technology companies and civil society organizations around the development of global standards, the implementation of the Model Law at the national level, the responsibility of internet intermediaries, and innovation and monitoring strategies from civil society.

These meetings made it possible to receive substantive input on the structure and content of the Guidelines and to deepen the dialogue on the respective responsibilities of States and internet intermediaries in preventing and responding to digital violence against women, consolidating MESECVI as a regional benchmark in this area.

COMMUNICATIONS

Statements of the MESECVI Committee of Experts

Article 3(l) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts establishes that one of the functions of the Committee is to issue recommendations, when it deems appropriate, to the States Parties so that they adopt the necessary measures in favor of women's human rights, when specific situations warrant a special statement.

During 2026, as of the date of this report, 19 press releases were issued:

1. OAS Committee of Experts conducts visit to Colombia to learn about the situation of women in Catatumbo in the face of violence aggravated by the conflict and the humanitarian crisis (February 6).

2. Emergency in Catatumbo: women and girls in total absence of rights in Norte de Santander (February 13).

3. MESECVI Committee of Experts expresses concern over reports of harassment and disproportionate use of force during the Honduran Women's Day demonstration (February 27).

4. MESECVI Committee of Experts expresses deep concern regarding the protection of the rights of girls and their access to justice in cases of sexual violence in Peru (March 2).

5. EDVAW Platform Statement on International Women's Day: Guaranteeing rights and justice without fear of reprisals #ForAllWomenAndGirls (March 6).

6. Committee of Experts delegation delivered report on the human rights situation of women and girls in the Catatumbo subregion during follow-up visit to Colombia (May 12).

7. MESECVI delivers final report on the situation of women in Catatumbo and strengthens State work with indicators during visit to Colombia (May 21).

8. New MESECVI digital visualizations make it possible to explore data and statistics on access to justice for women in Latin America and the Caribbean (May 28).

9. MESECVI Committee of Experts expresses deep concern and rejection of a bill seeking to eliminate the crime of feminicide in Peru (June 17).

10. MESECVI Committee of Experts calls for guaranteeing gender institutional frameworks and strengthening the National Mechanism for the Advancement of Women in Colombia (June 26).

11. MESECVI Committee of Experts expresses its solidarity with the Venezuelan people following the earthquakes and highlights the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in disaster situations (June 26).

12. MESECVI Committee of Experts expresses concern over a bill in Guatemala that would violate the rights of children and their mothers by incorporating the concept of parental alienation (July 9).

13. MESECVI calls for global artificial intelligence governance to incorporate a gender perspective in order to eradicate digital violence against women and girls (July 16).

14. MESECVI Committee of Experts expresses concern over the use of sexist advertising in English-speaking Caribbean countries that perpetuates discriminatory stereotypes against women (July 28).
15. MESECVI Committee of Experts expresses concern over reports of acts of intimidation and violence against Congresswoman Isabel Vera and her team in Colombia (August 5).
16. MESECVI Committee of Experts expresses rejection of the progress of bills on false reports in Bolivia and Argentina (August 11).
17. OAS Committee of Experts will carry out a visit to Peru to learn about the situation of Indigenous girls and adolescents who are victims of sexual violence (August 28).
18. MESECVI warns of social exclusion, stigma and impunity in the face of sexual violence against Awajún and Wampis girls and adolescents (September 11).
19. MESECVI Committee of Experts expresses concern over statements by regional education authorities in the Caribbean that reproduce discriminatory gender stereotypes (September 22).

These press releases can be found on the MESECVI website. Regarding their content, the Committee's statements addressed the situation of women and girls in contexts of armed conflict and disaster; sexual violence against girls, including Indigenous girls; regressive legislative initiatives, such as proposals to eliminate the crime of feminicide, to regulate so-called “false reports” or to incorporate the concept of parental alienation; the protection of gender institutional frameworks; political violence against women; and the reproduction of gender stereotypes in advertising and in the field of education.

Distribution of press releases

During the year, a total of 19 press releases were issued, distributed as follows:

Country/Activity	Number of press releases
Colombia	6
Peru	4
English-speaking Caribbean	2
Argentina and Bolivia (joint press release)	1
Guatemala	1
Honduras	1

Venezuela	1
Activities and launches of the Mechanism	3
Total	**19**

ACTIVITIES OF THE EXPERTS

During 2026, the Experts of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) carried out an intense regional and international work agenda aimed at the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women, with special emphasis on the situation of women and girls in contexts of armed conflict, sexual violence against Indigenous girls, technology-facilitated violence and the implementation of the Committee's standards at the national level.

Throughout the year, the President of the Committee of Experts, Miriam Roache, Expert from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, represented the CEVI on the EDVAW Platform, at whose meetings she reported to the other mechanisms on the Committee's progress, including the adoption of the Inter-American Model Law on digital violence, the Fortaleza Declaration, the child- and adolescent-friendly version of the Convention, and the missions to Catatumbo and the Peruvian Amazon. She also contributed to the development of the Platform's Guidance Note on legal retaliation against women and girls reporting violence.

From February 9 to 13, the Vice Presidents of the CEVI, Mónica Maureira (Chile) and Yildalina Tatem Brache (Dominican Republic), together with the Expert from Colombia, Adriana Benjumea, were part of the delegation for the initial technical assistance visit to the Catatumbo subregion, Norte de Santander, Colombia, during which they gathered first-hand information on the situation of women and girls in the face of violence aggravated by the armed conflict and the humanitarian crisis. At the end of the visit, the Committee publicly warned of the total absence of rights for women and girls in the region.

From February 24 to 26, the Expert from Uruguay, Alicia Deus, participated as the country's Expert in the activities of the MESECVI technical mission to Montevideo, including the event “Digital violence: Dialogue on the Inter-American Model Law and its implementation in Uruguay”, attended by the Vice President of the Republic, Carolina Cosse, and more than 100 people; the meeting with Uruguayan civil society organizations; and the workshop with adolescents for the development of the friendly version of the Convention.

On March 6, in Rio de Janeiro, the Expert from Brazil, Leila Linhares Barsted, participated as a speaker on the Inter-American Model Law on digital violence, at the invitation of the Institute of Brazilian Lawyers (IAB).

In March, the President of the CEVI participated in the 70th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), in New York, where, together with the Technical Secretariat, she presented the work of the Committee and the Inter-American Model Law on digital violence, and participated in a high-level event dedicated to strengthening data collection systems to improve measurement, accountability and women's access to justice, at which the Fourth Hemispheric Report, General Recommendation No. 6 and the Fortaleza Declaration were highlighted. Within this framework, she also participated in the activities of the EDVAW Platform, which included an in-person internal meeting and a side event on women's access to justice and legal retaliation, bringing the regional perspective of the Belém do Pará Convention to global debates.

On April 8, the Expert from Brazil taught a class on the Belém do Pará Convention at the School of the Judiciary of the State of Rio de Janeiro.

From April 13 to 16, the Expert from Paraguay, María Angélica Cano, participated as the country's Expert in the activities of the MESECVI technical mission to Asunción, which included the presentation of the Fourth Hemispheric Report and the National Report of Paraguay, high-level meetings with the branches of government and a meeting with more than 60 civil society organizations. At the international seminar “Violence against women, access to justice and its new challenges”, with more than 100 participants, she presented the Inter-American Model Law on digital violence.

From May 11 to 15, the Vice Presidents Mónica Maureira and Yildalina Tatem Brache, together with the Expert from Colombia, Adriana Benjumea, carried out in Bogotá the follow-up visit on the situation of women in Catatumbo, during which they delivered the report on the human rights situation of women and girls in the subregion and supported the strengthening of State work with progress indicators, through a workshop with nearly 80 public officials organized together with the Vice-Ministry of Women of Colombia.

On August 21, in Brasília, the Expert from Brazil participated as a speaker on women's participation in the judiciary, at the invitation of the National School for the Training and Improvement of Magistrates (ENFAM) of the Superior Court of Justice.

From September 4 to 11, Vice President Mónica Maureira led the technical assistance mission to Condorcanqui, in the Peruvian Amazon, together with Vice President Yildalina Tatem Brache, the Expert from Panama, Jennifer Delgado Urueta, and the Expert from Peru, Ana María Mendieta. The delegation examined the situation of sexual violence against Awajún and Wampis girls and adolescents, recognized the role of Indigenous women leaders in accompanying victims and called for strengthening territorial, intercultural and survivor-centered responses.

On September 14, in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, the Expert from Brazil spoke on access to justice, at the invitation of the Cultural Center of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS).

On September 15, in Santo Domingo, the Vice President of the CEVI and Expert from the Dominican Republic, Yildalina Tatem Brache, presented General Recommendation No. 5 on Gender-Based Violence against Afro-descendant Women at the launch event of the national process for its implementation, organized with UNFPA, RMAAD and the Ministry of Women.

On October 14, the Expert from Brazil participated as a speaker on the Belém do Pará Convention and MESECVI at a virtual meeting convened by MESECVI and the Odara Institute, with the Articulation of Brazilian Black Women (AMNB), the Network of Black Women of the Northeast (RMNN), Gênero e Número, the AzMinas Institute, Mapa do Acolhimento and Tamo.

In April 2026, the Board of the MESECVI Committee of Experts also submitted an amicus curiae brief to the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic in the context of a direct action of unconstitutionality against several provisions of the Criminal Code concerning the voluntary termination of pregnancy.

The CEVI maintained that absolute criminalization, by preventing effective access to sexual and reproductive health services and disproportionately affecting women and girls, is incompatible with the standards of the Belém do Pará Convention and with the rights to life, health, personal integrity, equality and reproductive autonomy. It also noted that these restrictions may constitute a form of institutional violence, aggravate situations of sexual violence and forced motherhood, especially among girls and adolescents, and have differentiated impacts on women in situations of greater vulnerability. Accordingly, the Committee reiterated the need to move forward, at a minimum, with the decriminalization of abortion when there is a risk to the life or health of the woman, fetal non-viability, or pregnancy resulting from sexual violence, incest or forced insemination, together with the adoption of care protocols, protection measures and adequate data collection systems.

Similarly, the Board of the Committee of Experts prepared a legal opinion on Law No. 32301 and Supreme Decree No. 033-2025-RE of Peru, which regulate and supervise entities that manage non-reimbursable international technical cooperation. The CEVI maintained that certain restrictions and control mechanisms provided for in these regulations may affect the autonomous functioning of civil society organizations that play an essential role in the prevention, reporting and response to violence against women, as well as in accompanying victims and women human rights defenders. It also noted that measures that disproportionately restrict their access to resources or their capacity for advocacy or legal representation may weaken mechanisms that are indispensable for guaranteeing access to justice and have a chilling effect on their work of monitoring States' due diligence obligations. Accordingly, the Committee concluded that any regime for the supervision of international cooperation must comply with the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality, and may not hinder the exercise of the rights protected by the Belém do Pará Convention or the legitimate work of civil society in defense of women's human rights. This

pronouncement had a concrete impact at the national level, as it was used as input in the judicial proceedings brought before the Peruvian courts by the organizations DEMUS, Promsex and Manuela Ramos.

MESECVI FUNDING

Sources of funding of MESECVI

During 2026, the MESECVI specific fund received contributions totaling US$34,975 from the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Committee of Experts and the Technical Secretariat express their deep concern about this budgetary situation, which jeopardizes the normal functioning of the Mechanism. To fulfill its core functions, MESECVI requires an annual budget of approximately US$300,000. This amount maintains its current team and covers the communication, promotion, advocacy and monitoring tasks assigned to it by the Belém do Pará Convention, the Committee of Experts and the Conference of States Parties.

With the conclusion of the project funded by UN Women and the European Union, for a total value of US$300,000, of which MESECVI was able to execute US$279,000 after the deduction of the 7% indirect cost recovery, the Mechanism faces a deeply critical situation. The contributions received this year do not even cover a fraction of its minimum operating needs. Without sufficient and sustainable resources, MESECVI will not be able to continue the multilateral evaluation, the technical assistance to States, or the development of standards that have characterized its work. Therefore, the Committee makes an urgent call on the States Parties, the OAS Member States and cooperation partners to make voluntary contributions to the specific fund. This is essential to ensure the sustainability of the only regional follow-up mechanism dedicated to eradicating violence against women.

ANNEX I

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MESECVI 2025-2026

MESECVI Contributions		
Year	**Donor**	**Total (USD $)**
2025	Dominican Republic	9,975.00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15,000.00
	UN Women	150,000.00

	Chile	10,000.00
2025 Total		**184,975.00**
2026	UN Women	90,000.00
	The Bahamas	10,000.00
	Dominican Republic	9,975.00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15,000.00
2026 Total		**124,975.00**
	Grand Total	**309,950.00**

ANNEX II

STATES WITH PENDING APPOINTMENT OR OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF EXPERTS AS OF OCTOBER 2026

COUNTRY	STATUS
BARBADOS	Appointment of Experts pending (Principal and Alternate)
CANADA	Appointment of Experts pending (Principal and Alternate)
EL SALVADOR	Appointment of Experts pending (Principal and Alternate)
HONDURAS	Appointment of Experts pending (Principal and Alternate)
VENEZUELA	Appointment of Experts pending (Principal and Alternate)