



**OAS** | MESECVI

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**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT  
OF THE MESECVI COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS**

## 1. Executive Summary

The President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (CEVI), Marcela Huaita, presents this report to the XIX Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (CEVI). This document reports on the work carried out since the XVIII Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (CEVI), held virtually on December 7 and 8, 2021.

During the 2022 period, the MESECVI has continued to work, in accordance with its mandate, for the States Parties to fully and effectively implement the Convention of Belém do Pará. In this context, the MESECVI Strategic Plan 2018-2023 (document MESECVI-II-CE/doc.133/18.rev.1), approved during the Second Extraordinary Conference (CEP) held on February 21, 2018, in Washington DC, is being complied with.

In general terms, the MESECVI Strategic Plan 2018-2023 has four central axes: (1) Strengthen the institutional framework of the MESECVI; (2) Contribute to strengthening the technical capacities of the States Parties of the MESECVI to implement the Convention of Belém do Pará from an intersectionality and women's human rights approach, throughout their life cycle with an emphasis on prevention and reparation; (3) Cooperate with the States Parties to find intersectoral responses to the problems of violence against women; and (4) Raise awareness and sensitize society as a whole regarding violence against women.

In addition, during this period, the MESECVI has made progress in the implementation and collection of information on the Convention's new automated System of Progress Indicators to facilitate the response of the States Parties and to strengthen their capacity to respond, within the framework of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), which will be devoted to the Rights of Women Victims and Survivors of Violence and their Effective Access to Truth, Justice and Reparations. To this end, training workshops were held on indicators and the use of the new automated system, in which more than 280 public officials from different areas of government participated, thus providing training for 13 States Parties.

Regarding international cooperation, the MESECVI, through its Committee of Experts (CEVI), continues to participate actively in the Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW) Platform, an initiative created by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. We are also collaborating with the European Union projects EUROsociAL+ and along with UN Women on Spotlight I and II. These initiatives are dedicated to fulfilling their mandates and the current Strategic Plan, mainly on topics such as: women with disabilities and violence; the establishment of standards on shelters for women victims and survivors of violence; prevention, punishment and eradication of femicide-feminicide; elimination of online violence; eradication of discriminatory regulations in civil and family legislation and criminal procedure, and follow-up on measures to mitigate the COVID19 pandemic and earmarked budgets, among others.

During this period, the process of reviewing the seven reports prepared under the CIM/MESECVI and UN Women alliance was completed, with the assistance of the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Program for Latin America. The program concludes on November 30, 2022, and by that time it is planned that all the reports will be published and shared through a regional communications and advocacy strategy focused on a group of selected countries. The reports are dedicated to the study of the following topics: Cyber-violence and cyber-bullying against women and girls in the framework of the Belém do Pará Convention; Guide for the Application of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Violent Death of Women for Gender Reasons; Femicide/Feminicide; Analysis of civil and family legislation in relation to the obligation to prevent, address, punish and redress gender-based violence against women; Regulatory responses for compliance with the standards on Femicide/Feminicide. Challenges and good practices in criminal procedural legislation in the region; Legal advisory services for attention to gender-based violence in Mexico and Central America; Comprehensive redress in cases of femicide and feminicide in Latin America: progress, challenges, and recommendations; Follow-up to measures aimed at reducing violence against women in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic and its budgets. As part of these activities, the reports will be presented in events that are being organized in countries such as Panama, Honduras, Argentina, Chile, and Mexico.

Similarly, with the support of Eurosocial, regional studies were conducted on shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence in Latin America and on gender-based violence against girls, adolescents, and women with disabilities. Both will be discussed at the XIX Meeting of the CEVI. In the same sense, in collaboration with the Belisario Domínguez Institute of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico, we are preparing a publication entitled "Symbolic violence, in the voice and lives of women leaders". For the development of this publication, interviews have been conducted with ten women from the region who work in different areas to learn how symbolic violence is experienced in the different spaces where they develop. The interviews are currently being systematized to present the final version of the publication. Three seminars, with the participation of several experts, were also held on the subject.

In addition, together with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Spotlight Initiative Regional Program for Latin America, we presented the Guide to Experiences and Best Practices in Strategic Litigation in Cases Related to the Defense of Women's Human Rights in Latin America. We also conducted a regional diagnosis of the "availability and quality of data on disappearances and trafficking of women" and a regional analysis of "legislation and policies on organized crime and violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide. Adequacy of regulatory frameworks according to the Palermo Protocol", in which several of the experts participated.

On the other hand, on January 28, 2022, the 11th Meeting of the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform) was held, where, among other topics, parental alienation was discussed, which had been identified as a topic of concern in previous meetings. Additionally, a new meeting was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, which consisted of a briefing for civil society on international and regional mechanisms on violence and discrimination against women. More recently, on June 17, 2022, Alejandra Negrete

Morayta, represented the Committee of Experts at the 13th meeting of the EDVAW Platform held on the occasion of the 50th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The meeting discussed issues of common interest and continued discussions on online and technology-facilitated violence against women.

On the other hand, the following actions were taken to strengthen ties between Latin American countries and the Anglophone Caribbean countries and Haiti:

With the aim of disseminating and promoting compliance with standards on access to justice, gender equality and women's right to a life free of violence, the Mexican Supreme Court of Justice, with the support of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Permanent Commission on Gender and Access to Justice of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit, promoted the creation of an Inter-American Network of Gender Liaisons of the Judiciaries of the States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention, with the participation of representatives of the English-speaking Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the Caribbean Court of Justice).

In addition, a project to strengthen the impact of the work of the MESECVI in the English-speaking Caribbean countries was carried out with the support of the UNDP, consisting of the development of a proposal for specific indicators for the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean countries that will enable the MESECVI to promote the collection and reporting of data within and from the Caribbean countries for the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the Belém do Pará Convention, as well as the Automated System of Indicators and its User's Manual. In addition, meetings were held with authorities and civil society organizations in the English-speaking Caribbean countries on the importance of this Evaluation Round and a communications strategy was developed for the project.

Moreover, efforts have been joined with UNFPA to carry out another similar project aimed at strengthening the impact of the MESECVI in the Caribbean, for which the “Caribbean perspective of the Hemispheric Report on Early and Forced Marriages and Unions” will be translated and incorporated; The Caribbean perspective will be translated and incorporated into the “Report on Gender Stereotypes in Access to Justice for Women, Adolescents and Girls”, and a report will be prepared on the structural violence experienced by women of African descent. We expect the Experts to debate and approve these reports next year.

Furthermore, four virtual meetings were also held during the year for the Strengthening and Coordination of the Caribbean Response to the Follow-up Mechanism on Violence against Women (MESECVI) on April 30, May 4, 16, and June 20, 2022.

Finally, a memorandum of understanding is being negotiated with the Caribbean Office of UN Women to promote the work of the MESECVI in the subregion and create various documents with information and contributions from the English-speaking Caribbean countries and its specific context, on various topics such as: femicide, political violence, cyber violence, sexual violence, gender-based violence against migrant women, good practices in addressing gender-based violence in Caribbean legislation, policies and programs in the last five years, and economic and structural violence, among others.

In concrete terms, we have established a set of indicators specifically for the Caribbean that will enable MESECVI to promote data collection and reporting within and from Caribbean countries. In the same sense, we have identified potential areas of partnership with UN WOMEN and areas that need attention, such as violence in the wake of natural disasters and economic crises.

During the first quarter of 2023:

- We will review the work on violence against women based on economic status and deconstructing gender stereotypes in the Caribbean.
- We will address language that promote gender and class stereotypes that facilitate gender-based violence.
- We will continue to work on communication and awareness raising within and across the Caribbean sub-region by promoting the use of social media and actively participating in discussions with mechanisms that work to empower women and girls.

On the other hand, during the period covered by this report, the Committee of Experts, through its President, sent seven communications to authorities of the States Parties and women's organizations to express concern, request information or express willingness to provide technical support to the States in question. In addition, seven press releases approved by the Committee of Experts were disseminated this year, the content of which will be discussed below.

Another major achievement this year was the launching of our official web page on June 9, 2022: <https://belemdopara.org/>, where you can find all the work of the MESECVI: publications, press releases, the team, among others. Many of the Experts actively participated in the dissemination of MESECVI's work. The list of events in which we took part can be found later in this report.

Finally, the work of the Committee and the Technical Secretariat was reinforced with the hiring of three professionals, with whom we hope to continue working.

## **2. Eighteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention met virtually on December 7 and 8, 2021, to evaluate the work carried out during the year and design its work plan for 2022. The meeting included interventions by Nadine Gasman, President of the Conference of States Parties of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the Executive Secretary of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora. The CEVI experts from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Venezuela met during both sessions to address different issues and priorities of the 2022 agenda and the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI.

During the meeting, the Committee agreed to make an urgent call to the States Parties to the Convention to strengthen the budgets allocated to the response to combat violence against women and girls in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic; especially to respond to the violence being suffered by groups of women and girls in situations of greater vulnerability -such as indigenous women and girls, women of African descent, women and girls with disabilities, and Caribbean women and girls- affected by the pandemic and, in particular, by climate change and its impact on the economy of the English-speaking Caribbean States.

The Committee also expressed its concern about migration flows in the region and the impact of violence on the lives of girls and women who are migrating, and strongly called attention to the feminization of migration and, in particular, the violence suffered by Venezuelan women and girls throughout the region, including the migration of Venezuelan girls in the Caribbean States.

The Committee also agreed to further study the cases of forced disappearances faced by women and girls in the region, particularly women and girls living in vulnerable communities, and migrant women and girls, identifying the intersectionalities that exist with the migration situation in the region.

The Committee also called attention to the prevention of violence and agreed to intensify its work and cooperation with the States Parties in this area, reinforcing measures to dismantle prejudices and values, traditions and beliefs that strengthen power asymmetries, misogyny and a patriarchal system that is reproduced in educational processes and socialization, especially of boys and men.

The Committee agreed to request support from the OAS States Parties to continue collaborating with the MESECVI, and in particular with its Committee of Experts; it requested special collaboration from the OAS States Parties that are not party to the Convention, especially the United States and Canada and the Observer States, to strengthen the tools for cooperation and their

participation in the Mechanism. The Committee recognized the work being carried out in the region in cooperation with the United Nations agencies, within the framework of Spotlight; the European Union with Eurosocial and the Belisario Domínguez Institute of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico. Finally, they thanked the outgoing experts for their service and welcomed the incoming experts for this new Evaluation Round.

### **2.1. Designation of Experts in 2022**

During 2022, three experts left the Committee:

Chile: Tatiana Rein (Former President); Uruguay: Diana González-Perrett (Former President) and Bahamas: Sandra Dean Patterson. We thank them for all their contributions and wish them the best of luck.

We also extend our warmest welcome to Experts Teresa Herrera, appointed by Uruguay; Mónica Maureira, appointed by Chile, Elaine Sands as principal expert and Regieta Minns, as alternate expert, appointed by Bahamas.

## **3. Publications**

### **3.1. Studies conducted in collaboration with UN Women as part of the Spotlight initiative:**

The review and layout process of the seven reports produced within the framework of the Spotlight Initiative Latin America Regional Program was completed. The program concludes on November 30, 2022 and by that time all the reports will be published and shared through a regional communications and advocacy strategy focused on a group of selected countries.

The reports produced in the framework of the CIM/MESECVI and UN Women alliance are the following:

#### **1) Cyber-violence and cyber-stalking against women and girls in the framework of the Belém Do Pará Convention.**

This report was the first in the series to be presented in a virtual event on April 8, with the participation of panelists from various fields, including the Presidents of CEVI and CEP, the Executive Secretariat of the CIM, the Regional Director of UN Women for Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of digital platforms such as Meta and Twitter, and civil society organizations. The event was broadcast live on ZOOM and streamed via facebook live, on the accounts of MESECVI and UN Women. In addition, a campaign was carried out through social networks to disseminate key messages of the report.

## **2) Guide for the Application of the Model Inter-American Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Violent Death of Women for Gender Reasons, Femicide/Feminicide.**

This report, the centerpiece of the project with UN Women and the Spotlight Initiative, is awaiting its official launch. Initially, a virtual launch will be carried out with the dissemination of a press release, a social media campaign, articles, and opinion columns in the media throughout the region, as well as through a massive mailing to our mailchimp lists and in a targeted manner to relevant actors.

Phase II of the Spotlight project included the development of an advocacy strategy around the Implementation Guide. This strategy was developed and implemented between June and November. As part of the advocacy activities, the Implementation Guide was presented during a high-level event organized by UNDP in Panama on October 26, 27 and 28.

The MESECVI Technical Secretariat also organized three high-level events to promote the Model Law together with its Implementation Guide and the reports that complement it. These events were held in Honduras (October 25), and the next ones will be held in Argentina (November 14 and 15) and Chile (November 17).

In parallel, until November, advocacy actions will be developed, promoting the Application Guide in order to provide tools to justice operators, representatives of government entities, the legislative branch, and human rights defenders.

## **3) Discriminatory Civil and Family Law in Latin America. Analysis of civil and family legislation in relation to the obligation to prevent, address, punish and redress gender-based violence against women.**

This report will be presented during an event in Mexico at the end of November, organized in partnership with the Belisario Dominguez Institute of the Mexican Senate. It will also be addressed during the event to be held in Chile on November 17, in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity.

## **4) Regulatory responses for compliance with standards on Femicide/Feminicide. Challenges and good practices in the criminal procedural legislation of the region.**

This report will be presented during the event on justice and gender to be held in Argentina on November 14 and 15, in partnership with the Women's Office of the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina, the Latin American Team for Justice and Gender (ELA) and the Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico.



**5) Legal advisory services for attention to gender violence in Mexico and Central America.**

This report was presented during a regional event organized by the UNDP in Panama at the end of October. In parallel, it will be disseminated through our social networks, MESECVI's web pages and other digital channels. It is currently available at: <https://belemdopara.org/publicaciones/>

**6) Comprehensive reparation in cases of femicide and feminicide in Latin America: progress, challenges, and recommendations.**

This report will be presented during the event in Buenos Aires on November 14 and 15, where there will be a specific panel dedicated to the issue of reparations.

**7) Follow-up to measures aimed at reducing violence against women in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic. As an annex: Public budgets aimed at implementing measures to reduce violence against women in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

This report is in the process of layout and is about to be disseminated through our social networks.

**3.2. Studies conducted with the support of Eurosocial:**

- Regional Study on shelters for victims of gender-based violence in Latin America
- Multi-country Focused Study on Shelters for Women Victims of Gender Violence (Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Peru)
- Initial Thematic Report: Violence Against Girls and Women with Disabilities
- General Recommendation on Violence Against Girls, Teenagers, and Women with Disabilities

All the aforementioned studies will be presented at the XIX Meeting of the CEVI for the consideration and approval of the experts.

**3.3. Studies conducted with the support of the Belisario Domínguez Institute of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico:**

In collaboration with the Belisario Domínguez Institute of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico, we are preparing a publication entitled "**Symbolic violence, in the voice and lives of women leaders**". For the development of this publication, interviews have been conducted with ten women from the region who work in different areas to learn how symbolic violence is experienced in the different spaces where they develop. The interviews are currently being systematized in order to present the final version of the publication.

In addition, the Committee of Experts accompanied the Chair of the Conference of States Parties in the three forums held on Symbolic Violence and its Impact on the Exercise of Women's Rights. The purpose of these forums was to: (i) identify the various manifestations of symbolic violence and the spheres in which it manifests itself; (ii) carry out a diagnosis of the manifestations of symbolic violence; (iii) identify the state and non-state actors that construct and perpetuate symbolic violence and their obligations with respect to guaranteeing women's right to a life free of violence; (iv) determine the obligations of states to address, prevent, punish and redress symbolic violence; v) identify experiences and good practices among the States Parties to the Convention to address, prevent, punish and redress symbolic violence; vi) contribute to the adoption of legislative and public policy measures to help prevent, address, investigate, punish and redress political violence exercised through acts of symbolic violence; and vii) contribute to the adoption of measures by non-State actors to prevent and address symbolic violence. The 3 seminars were held on May 24, 2022, May 31, 2022, and June 7, 2022, respectively.

Also, in collaboration with the Institute, on July 6, 2022, an event was held in Mexico City to present the Hemispheric Report on Child, Early and Forced Marriages and Unions in the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará. The event was attended by Marcela Huaita Alegre, President of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention, Olga Sánchez Cordero, President of the Senate of the Republic (Mexico), Rocío Muñoz Flores, Regional Gender Advisor, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Jorge Carlos Ramírez Marín, Senator of the Republic (Mexico), Ana Güzmes García, Director of the Gender Affairs Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Patricia Uribe, Executive Secretary of the National Women's Institute (Mexico), Alma Burciaga, Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of Girls Not Brides and Mónica Adame, representative of Parliamentarians for Global Action.

#### **3.4. Studies conducted in collaboration with UNDP:**

- In collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Program for Latin America, we developed the **Guide to Experiences and Best Practices in Strategic Litigation in Cases Related to the Defense of Women's Human Rights in Latin America**, which systematizes litigation experiences at the national or international level with the objective of sharing best practices and recommendations in the attention, prevention, investigation, punishment and reparation of cases of gender-based violence against women, adolescents and girls.

The guide also seeks to contribute to strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations in the defense of cases of violence against women. The guide was prepared by analyzing twelve litigation experiences in 10 countries in the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela). Interviews were conducted with accompanying civil society organizations and information was systematized in order to encourage exchanges on the support tools used for strategic litigation of cases of violence against women in the region. This guide was presented on October 26, 2022, in Panama City, Panama, in the framework of the event "The Role of Justice in the face of violence against women and femicide. A multidimensional analysis in the Latin American region", with the participation of high-level authorities and civil society organizations from Latin America.

- **Regional diagnosis of the availability and quality of data on disappearances and trafficking in women.** The Committee's president, Tatiana Rein Venegas, and experts Marcela Huaita, Susana Chiarotti, Pilar Callizo, Margarita Rey, Cristina Sánchez, Gloria Camacho, Tanya Camila Rosa, Hilda Morales and Sylvia Mesa participated in the study.
- **Regional analysis of legislation and policies on organized crime and violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide. Adaptation of regulatory frameworks according to the Palermo Protocol.** This study included the participation of experts Pilar Callizo, Expert from Paraguay; Margarita Rey, Expert from Colombia; Cristina Sánchez, Expert from Dominican Republic and Sylvia Mesa, Expert from Costa Rica.

### 3.5. EDVAW Platform:

On January 28, 2022, the 11th Meeting of the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform) was held, where, among other topics, parental alienation, identified as an issue of concern in previous meetings, was discussed. Also, on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, a new meeting was held, which consisted of a briefing for civil society organizations on international and regional mechanisms on violence and discrimination against women.

Additionally, a Leaflet on the EDVAW Platform was launched, providing the public with a better understanding of the role, functioning and vision of the EDVAW Platform. In the same sense, a joint statement on the international and regional legal framework to end all forms of violence against women and girls was issued in commemoration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2022.

More recently, on June 17, 2022, Alejandra Negrete Morayta, represented the Committee of Experts at the 13th meeting of the EDVAW Platform held on the occasion of the 50th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. This meeting discussed issues of common interest and

continued discussions on online and technology-facilitated violence against women, a topic on which a press release was issued.

Bilateral discussions were also held with Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), and Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in which the EDVAW Platform presented its recent work, and exchanged views on the challenges to prevent, address and eradicate violence and discrimination against women.

On November 17, 2022, a meeting will be held in virtual format to follow up on the work being carried out by the Platform and to approve the publication of a report on the work that has been carried out on digital gender-based violence against women.

#### **4. Promotion of the participation of Civil Society Organizations**

Within the framework of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the Belém do Pará Convention, various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were invited to participate in coordination workshops to develop work proposals for the elaboration of shadow reports. Two workshops have been held with more than twenty CSOs.

#### **5. Initiatives to publicize the work of the MESECVI in the Anglophone Caribbean countries**

##### **a. Inter-American Network of Gender Liaisons of the Judiciary**

With the aim of disseminating and promoting compliance with standards on access to justice, gender equality and the right of women to a life free of violence, Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, with the support of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Permanent Commission on Gender and Access to Justice of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit, promoted the creation of an Inter-American Network of Gender Liaisons of the Judiciaries of the States party to the Belem do Para Convention, with the participation of representatives from the English-speaking Caribbean countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the Caribbean Court of Justice.

On July 7 and 8, 2022, were held at the facilities of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, in Mexico:

- i. A panel of experts on the progress, challenges and prospects of access to justice with a gender perspective in the region; a roundtable discussion with the objective of having the participants share their thoughts on the need to form a regional alliance composed of the offices or entities with a mandate on issues of access to justice, gender equality and the right of women to a life free of violence in the judicial branches of the States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará;
- ii. A roundtable for the presentation of actions, projects or best practices by the gender entities of the Judiciaries and another on the progress made in the delivery of justice with a gender perspective in the region;

- iii. Two workshops for the technical strengthening of the assistants, focused on the monitoring and evaluation of actions and policies on access to justice, gender equality and women's right to a life free of violence; and for the design and implementation of budgets with a gender perspective;
- iv. A plenary session for the construction of a common agenda and a course of action for the creation of the Inter-American Network of Gender Liaisons of the Judiciary.

**b. Initiative to strengthen the impact of MESECVI's work in the Caribbean with the UNDP's support**

- Development of a proposal for specific indicators for the English-speaking Caribbean countries that will enable the MESECVI to promote the collection and reporting of data within and from the Caribbean countries for the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the Belém do Pará Convention.
- Development of an automated system of indicators for the English-speaking Caribbean countries.
- Development of a user's manual for the automated system.
- Meetings with authorities and civil society organizations in the English-speaking Caribbean States on the importance of this Evaluation Round.
- Follow-up with English-speaking Caribbean authorities.
- Technical assistance and special sessions with the English-speaking Caribbean authorities.

**c. Initiative to strengthen the impact of MESECVI's work in the Caribbean with the support of UNFPA.**

- a. In order to strengthen the impact of MESECVI in the Caribbean, the Hemispheric Report on Early and Forced Marriages and Unions will be translated and will incorporate a Caribbean perspective.
- b. In order to strengthen the impact of the MESECVI in the Caribbean, the Report on Gender Stereotypes in Access to Justice for Women, Adolescents and Girls will be translated and will incorporate a Caribbean perspective.
- c. A report on the structural violence experienced by Afro-descendant women will be developed for presentation to the Committee of Experts.

**6. Inter-institutional cooperation alliances**

As in the previous period, during 2022 representatives of the Mechanism's Committee of Experts have actively participated in meetings with other agencies and non-governmental organizations at the local, regional, and international human rights system levels in Latin America and Europe.

Alliances have been created with UNWomen, UNFPA, UNDP, as well as EUROsociAL+, GREVIO, the Committee of the States Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), the United

Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences (SRVAW), the Platform of Independent Mechanisms on Women's Rights and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform), among others. Meetings were held to strengthen topics such as international cooperation, exchanges between mechanisms for the protection of women's rights to a life free of violence and discrimination, publicizing the work of the MESECVI, and disseminating the most recent reports and recommendations of the States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará.

Some of the strategies implemented as a result of this inter-institutional cooperation include the following: Inter-American Network of Gender Liaisons of the Judiciary, Project to strengthen the impact of the work of the MESECVI with the support of UNDP; and Project to strengthen the impact of the work of the MESECVI with the support of UNFPA.

Joint press releases, such as the one mentioned above on the international and regional legal framework to end all forms of violence against women and girls, were issued in commemoration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2022, with the members of the EDVAW platform.

## 7. Technical Assistance

The MESECVI Strategic Plan 2018-2023 seeks to continue working on strengthening the technical capacities of women for the effective implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará. To strengthen the capacities of the States Parties in the use of the Progress Indicator System to measure the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention on the new platform, workshops have been held with representatives of 13 States, to show them the new automated system and receive their comments on it.

Following up on the comments received by the States' representatives, updates have been made to the indicators, as well as to the variables required for each one of them.

STATE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	WOMEN	MEN
Costa Rica	28	24	4
El Salvador	45	38	7
Argentina	8	8	0
Chile	2	2	0
Colombia	2	2	0
México	6	6	0
Guatemala	8	6	2
Paraguay	2	2	0
Perú	58	39	19
Uruguay	17	16	1

Ecuador	57	44	13
Brasil	5	3	2
República Dominicana	22	20	2
<b>Total</b>	254	210	44

We received very good comments on the usefulness of these workshops and congratulations on the process of automating the indicator system.

We have also continued to provide advice and support by telephone, meetings, and e-mail to the various participating countries, both on technical aspects of the platform and on substantive issues.

## 8. Academic seminars

- In collaboration with the Pan-American Development Foundation and the Behavioral Insights Team, the international course "Combating gender-based violence using behavioral sciences" was held to provide public officials and representatives of civil society organizations in Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Uruguay with tools for their social communication campaigns to incorporate changes in attitude and behavior in the face of gender-based violence.
- From September 6 to November 10, 2022, the second edition of the course "International Standards on the Human Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence" was held in conjunction with the Legal Research Institute of UNAM and the National Women's Institute of Mexico, to provide participants with conceptual, theoretical, and methodological tools to apply international standards on gender-based violence against women, adolescents, and girls.

## 9. Continuous training

- **Course on Gender Violence in the Workplace**, aimed at personnel of the Ministries of Labor of the Americas, with the objective of providing skills and tools to officials to identify and prevent gender violence in the workplace. Organized within the framework of the Educational Portal of the Americas, in collaboration with RIAL, CIM and MESECVI (began on November 8, 2021, and ended in January 2022).

## 10. Dissemination of the Belém do Pará Convention and the recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI

### 10.1. Communication strategy

During 2022, sustained communication actions have been carried out to disseminate the Convention and the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts. These actions have been focused on our social networks, communications and relations with journalists and media to circulate our news and/or participate as a relevant voice on issues related to the right to a life free of violence for women.

In this regard, a first dissemination campaign called "Your Voice Matters" was carried out between December 2021 and January 2022 through social media. This campaign focused on promoting the registration of Civil Society Organizations before the OAS and focused on circulating the findings of the Third Follow-up Report, with special emphasis on the recommendations for each country, using short videos with excerpts from the report.

In addition, from November 2021 to March 2022, the Technical Secretariat of MESECVI, in partnership with Violeta Radio of Mexico, produced the podcast "Latiendo Libres", which included 10 episodes in which some of the Committee's experts were interviewed. The podcast episodes served to deepen not only the knowledge of the Convention, but also of the documents prepared by the Committee of Experts.

Moreover, on the occasion of the Convention's anniversary, on June 9, a campaign was carried out under the slogan: "My rights, my Convention", encouraging the public to take ownership of the text of the Convention and the rights it claims and protects. This campaign, published in our social networks, also included mass mailings through mailchimp and two interviews in the media. These interviews were conducted by the President of CEVI, Marcela Huaita, for the newspaper La República of Peru and by the expert Sylvia Mesa, with the television channel France 24 in Spanish.

Subsequently, on August 2 and 22, virtual meetings were held with civil society organizations to promote their participation in the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round and, in general, their involvement with the MESECVI as one of its four pillars. At these meetings, which were attended by more than twenty organizations, a presentation was given on the Mechanism and its activities, emphasizing the fundamental role of CSOs in the process of monitoring the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. Before and after the meetings, a process of accompaniment was developed to support the registration of CSOs before the OAS and their participation through the preparation of Shadow Reports.

## **10.2. Activities conducted with the participation of CEVI Experts**

– 09/12/2021, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, was interviewed on "Latiendo Libres", a joint program of MESECVI, CIMAC and Violeta Radio 106.1 FM about the relationship between violence against women and COVID-19.



- 01/14/2022, Teresa Inchaustegui, Mexico expert from CEVI, participated in the Podcast "Latiendo Libres". Available: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6bYkM1OzOVJC97hpu80aLs?si=9e11dd94162842c6>
- 01/28/2022, Susana Chiarotti, expert from Argentina, participated in the Podcast "Latiendo Libres". Available: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/7tDmVleQ8pddbQLmerribX?si=c5731fb213db44a5>
- 02/11/2022, Pilar Callizo, expert from Paraguay, participated in the Podcast "Latiendo Libres". Available: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/7wUbswlOAAw7ih5T7jncwP?si=31c9d3d29f0f4134>
- 02/19/2022, Sylvia Mesa Peluffo, expert from Costa Rica, participated in the Podcast "Latiendo Libres". Available: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/60oT2E3hyR0FNMFhPgmzMo?si=0d181e8effe44a26>
- 02/26/2022, Leila Barsted, expert from Brazil, participated in the Podcast "Latiendo Libres". Available: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/7qppFuj5qG2u7cRQNqTe3h?si=839abe587653427e>
- 03/09/2022 and 10/03/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI participated in the International Seminar "Contributions for the construction of justice with equality" organized jointly by the Commission on Gender Justice and the Commission on Access to Justice for Persons in Conditions of Vulnerability and Justice in your Community, on the occasion of the International Day of Women Judges.
- 03/10/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, was interviewed on "Latiendo Libres", a joint program of MESECVI, CIMAC and Violeta Radio 106.1 FM on violence against migrant women.
- 03/23/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI participated in the Discussion Forum: "No is No." on sexual crimes and voluntary, genuine and desired consent organized by the Belisario Dominguez Institute.
- 03/24/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI participated in the start of the course "Combating gender violence using behavioral sciences".
- 03/29/2022, Sylvia Mesa Peluffo, expert from Costa Rica, intervened as an expert witness before the IACHR Court and referred to the CEVI's recommendation on the concept of consent in cases of sexual violence against women for gender-based reasons.
- 04/08/2022, several members of the MESECVI participated in the launching of the report on Cyber-violence and Cyber-stalking against women and girls within the framework of the Belém Do Pará Convention. Event available: [https://fb.watch/cf\\_UA9s50z/](https://fb.watch/cf_UA9s50z/)
- 04/18/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, was interviewed by #SalónVerde with Victor Zamora about the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on women's rights in Peru and the LATAM region.

- 04/28/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, participated in the event: "Hot Topic Program: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women's Health and Human Rights in Latin America: Achieving Health, Economic Wellbeing Policy and Law Reform for Gender Mainstreaming in Post COVID-19 Pandemic Preparedness and Response (CLE)". Organized by ABA International.
- 05/04/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, participated in a meeting with Diana Miloslavic, Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru and her team. Among the topics discussed was CEVI's "General Recommendation No. 3" on consent in cases of sexual violence.
- 06/01/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, participated in the Keynote Lecture: "International Mechanisms for Women's Rights".
- 06/14/2022, Sylvia Mesa Peluffo, Costa Rican expert of the Committee of Experts, spoke with France24 about the Convention of Belém do Pará and its importance.
- 06/23/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, participated in the XVII Meeting on Rights.
- 07/07/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI and Alejandra Negrete, MESECVI specialist, participated in the inauguration of the meeting: "Weaving networks for justice with a gender perspective".
- 07/18/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, was interviewed by JusticiaTV of Mexico.
- 07/29/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, participated in the special program of the Mexican Congress Channel on Early and Forced Marriages and Child Unions.
- 08/08/2022, Sherna Alexander, CEVI expert from Trinidad and Tobago, participated in the event on building a feminist movement that especially addresses VAWG and its intersections in the Caribbean region in the city of Montego Bay, Jamaica.
- 09/06/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, participated in the open seminar on gender and corruption, its differential impact on men and women, and how to address it from a gender perspective in Peru.
- 09/13/2022, Teresa Herrera Sormano, CEVI expert from Uruguay, participated in the meeting at the Delegation of the European Union, with Ambassador Paolo Berizzi and the Delegation team in the city of Montevideo. The meeting discussed the current status of the response system on Gender Based Violence and Generations.

- 09/23/2022, the Technical Secretary of MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía and Susana Chiarotti, an expert from Argentina, participated in the launching of CLADEM's diploma course on "Femicidal sexual violence against girls and adolescents.

-09/30/2022, Sylvia Mesa, CEVI expert from Costa Rica, participated in the UNFPA policy dialogues in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- 10/04/2022, Marcela Huaita and Teresa Herrera, CEVI experts, participated in the discussion "Past, present and future of Law No. 19580", in the talk on the Law on Gender-Based Violence against Women (Law No. 19580).

- 10/05/2022, Sylvia Mesa, CEVI Expert from Costa Rica, was interviewed in La Diaria about the "parental alienation syndrome" and the shared custody bill in Uruguay.

- 10/12/2022, Sylvia Mesa, CEVI expert from Costa Rica, participated as a teacher in the course "International standards on the human right of women to a life free of violence".

- 10/27/2022, Marcela Huaita, President of CEVI, participated in the XIX National Gender Roundtable "Rural women: prevention of violence and challenges for access to justice.

### **10.3. Activities conducted by the Technical Secretariat**

- 02/04/2022, Eva Villareal, MESECVI specialist, spoke about the "Model Law on Femicide" and its typification on Violeta Radio 106.1 FM. Available: <http://violetaradio.org>

- 03/21/2022 and 03/22/2022, the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, participated in the international meeting: "Women's Historical Struggles for their Rights in Latin America: Reflections on the Bicentennial". Organized by the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador. Available: <https://fb.watch/bW1goRDbgG/>

- 04/26/2022, MESECVI Technical Secretary, Luz Patricia Mejía, participated in the virtual event "Back to normal is not enough: Regional Dialogue on the SDG 2022 Gender Index" organized by CLADEM.

- 05/05/2022, Alejandra Negrete, MESECVI specialist, participated in the conference "Journalism under Digital Siege" organized by UNESCO MONTEVIDEO.

- 05/31/2022, the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, participated in the "2nd International Meeting to Debate Indicators of Access to Justice with a Human Rights Approach".

- 06/06/2022, the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, participated in the 9th Latin American and Caribbean Conference of Social Sciences #CLACSO2022 and moderated an in-person workshop on "Gender justice in troubled times: Where do we stand and what are the great challenges?".
- 06/13/2022, the Technical Secretary of MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, was interviewed by Agencia Télam.
- 06/17/2022, Alejandra Negrete, MESECVI specialist, participated in the EDVAW Platform meeting in Geneva and held meetings with representatives and high authorities.
- 06/28/2022, Alejandra Negrete, MESECVI specialist, participated in the ECLAC side event on child, early and forced marriages and unions in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 07/28/2022, the Technical Secretary of MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, participated in the UNFPA event on gender violence against Afro women.
- 09/23/2022, the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, participated in the webinar on violence against women and girls organized by ELPAcCTO.
- 09/23/2022, Alejandra Negrete Morayta, MESECVI specialist, intervened in the III Congress "New horizons of response to gender-based violence", to delve into the issue of consent in cases of sexual violence.
- 10/04/2022, the Technical Secretary of MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, participated in the #OEACyberSymposium22 to talk about cyber-violence towards women and girls.
- 10/25/2022, the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, participated in the face-to-face event on challenges to advance towards a comprehensive approach to femicide in Honduras.
- 10/27/2022, the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, participated in the high-level event: "The role of justice in the face of violence against women and femicide. A multidimensional analysis in the Latin American region". Organized by Spotlight and UNDP.

## **11. Communications**

### **11.1. Letters**

During the period covered by this report, the Committee of Experts, through its President, sent seven communications to authorities of the States Party and women's advocacy organizations to express concern, request information or express willingness to provide technical support to the States in question.

The communications were addressed to El Salvador, regarding the raid on civil society organizations; to Costa Rica, regarding the parliamentary processing of the bill to consolidate the Operational Center for Attention to Domestic and Gender Violence; to Ecuador, regarding violence in political life against Nívea Vélez; to Peru, regarding the acts of sexual abuse perpetrated by legislator Freddy Díaz against a woman within the legislative precinct; to Paraguay, regarding the increase in the number of femicides; to Chile, requesting its good offices to increase the budget of the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity. Finally, a letter requesting the strengthening of the Mechanism through economic quotas was sent to the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, and Bolivia.

### **11.2. MESECVI Expert Committee Press Releases**

Article 3(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts establishes that one of the functions of the Committee is to make recommendations, when it deems it appropriate, to the States Parties to adopt the necessary measures in favor of women's human rights, when specific situations merit a special pronouncement. During 2022, 7 press releases approved by the Committee of Experts were disseminated, these being:

1. March 8 - International Women's Day - Joint Release - Using the international and regional legal framework to stop all forms of violence against women and girls.
2. April 21 - CEVI Release, in relation to the femicides of two adolescents from the Wachi community, Argentina.
3. May 20 - Committee of Experts expresses concern about the disappearances of women, adolescents and girls that have taken place in Nuevo León, Mexico.
4. June 15 - Committee of Experts of the MESECVI expresses concern regarding the draft law on basic education in Peru.

5. July 14 - Committee of Experts of the MESECVI expresses deep rejection and concern regarding extreme violence against women in the department of La Libertad in Peru.

6. August 12 - Committee of Experts of the MESECVI and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women express their concern for the illegitimate use of the figure of parental alienation syndrome against women.

7. September 14 - Committee of Experts expresses its absolute repudiation and concern over the attempted assassination of Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernández.

These statements can be found on the MESECVI website. Regarding the content of the statements, they all relate to specific cases in which the right of women and girls to a life free of violence is affected. In particular, the Committee has expressed concern about legislative reforms that affect the rights of women, girls and adolescents; judicial sentences and violations of sexual and reproductive rights; cases of femicide, political violence, harassment and other violations of women's rights.

In addition, the Committee of Experts submitted an amicus curiae brief to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in the case of Eulogia and her son Sergio, to contribute to the analysis of obstetric and institutional violence to which women and girls who approach the State in search of prenatal care may be subjected, during childbirth and postpartum. It also approaches the disproportionate impact that these inherently discriminatory practices may have on women, adolescents and girls who are in a context of vulnerability due to their socioeconomic status, ethnicity and/or worldview.

## **12. Other Projects**

### **Initiative to strengthen the capacities of the States Parties to improve care for Venezuelan immigrant women and girls victims of trafficking:**

Regarding the mandate given by the Experts for the study on the cases of migrant and refugee women, as well as forced disappearances faced by women and girls in the region, particularly women and girls living in vulnerable communities, the Secretariat has submitted to the OAS a project entitled "Strengthening the capacities of the States Parties to improve the care of Venezuelan women, girls and adolescent victims of trafficking in transit and destination countries" and Liechtenstein has already expressed interest in carrying out an initial assessment based on the MESECVI indicators and the responses obtained during the successive multilateral Evaluation Rounds and in coordination with other areas of the OAS.

If funding is obtained, the project also contemplates holding a meeting with representatives of the beneficiary States (Chile, Colombia, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Venezuela), civil society, experts on forced displacement/trafficking and disappearance, and representatives of private organizations; the establishment of a public/private consortium to raise awareness of the existing risks and mechanisms of recruitment of women and girls in Venezuelan territory and countries of transit or destination, and finally, the preparation of a Guide for care and assistance to women and girls victims and survivors of trafficking, accompanied by a communication campaign to disseminate information on the phenomenon, the mechanisms of recruitment and recommendations for the States and potential victims.

### **Initiatives with UN Women:**

A memorandum of understanding is being negotiated with UN Women to promote the work of MESECVI and the creation of various documents with information and input from the English-speaking Caribbean States and its specific context.

In addition, we are updating the document "Standards for the protection of women's human rights: Necessary tools for the defense of their political participation," which includes the most relevant jurisprudential and doctrinal developments at the international level for the prevention, attention, investigation, punishment, and reparation of gender-based violence against women.

Final revisions are also being made for the publication of the "Guide on strategic litigation on violence against women in political life", which provides tools for women in political life, human rights defenders, and public officials to generate strategic actions to adjudicate cases of violence in the political sphere.

## **13. Funding of the MESECVI**

### **13.1. MESECVI Funding Sources**

All the meetings of the CEVI, the Conference of States Parties, the OAS and CIM Assemblies have reiterated the call to the governments to contribute human or financial resources to the MESECVI. Among the Agreements of the XVIII Meeting of the CEVI, it was resolved: "To salute the States Parties that have appointed experts in 2021 and to reiterate the request to the States Parties that have not appointed experts to appoint them as soon as possible. However, to raise the concern of the Committee of Experts regarding the absence of contributions from the States Parties for the functioning of the MESECVI as established by the States themselves in Art. 11 of the MESECVI Statute and Art. 12 of the CEVI Rules of Procedure and to recognize in a special way the permanent contributions of Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago."

The fund created for the MESECVI received contributions from Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago during the year 2022.

## ANNEX I

### HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MESECVI 2013-2022

<b>CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MESECVI</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Total (USD \$)</b>
2013	Argentina	15.000,00
	France	2.091,89
	Mexico	29.453,11
	Nicaragua	5.000,00
	Surinam	2.000,00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
<b>2013 Total</b>		<b>68.545,00</b>
2014	Argentina	15.000,00
	Mexico	34.529,59
	Nicaragua	6.000,00
<b>2014 Total</b>		<b>55.529,59</b>
2015	Mexico	29.717,87
	Nicaragua	6.000,00
<b>2015 Total</b>		<b>35.717,87</b>
2016	Mexico	30.253,85
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
<b>2016 Total</b>		<b>45.253,85</b>
2017	Panama	78.159,80
	Mexico	25.013,89
<b>2017 Total</b>		<b>103.173,69</b>
2018	Trinidad and Tobago	30.000,00
	Mexico	20.973,26
	Argentina	10.000,00
	Nicaragua	5.000,00
	Panama	6.100,00
<b>2018 Total</b>		<b>72.073,26</b>
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
<b>2019 Total</b>		<b>159.693,09</b>
2020	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
<b>2020 Total</b>		<b>15.000,00</b>
2021	Mexico	25.164,19
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
<b>2021 Total</b>		<b>40.164,19</b>
2022	Mexico	84.419,00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
<b>2022 Total</b>		<b>99.419,00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>694.569,02</b>

## ANNEX II

### States Pending Appointment or Official Notification of Expert as of November 2022

COUNTRY	STATUS
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
GRENADA	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
GUYANA	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
HONDURAS	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
NICARAGUA	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)