

FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)
NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTY
June 11th and 12th, 2024
Santiago, Chile

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.149/24.rev1
Original: Spanish

**DECLARATION ON ACCELERATOR STRATEGIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION TO PREVENT, PUNISH, AND
ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Santiago de Chile, June 12th, 2024¹²

The Competent National Authorities of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women, Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) of the Organization of American States (OAS), met in the City of Santiago, Chile, on June 11th and 12th, 2024, on the occasion of the IX Regular Conference of States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention;

CONSIDERING:

That the American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Political Rights to Women, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador," the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women, Belém do Pará Convention, the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance, and the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons, Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against People with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, among other instruments, constitute a legal framework for the protection of the human rights of women;

That the States Party take into special consideration the vulnerability to violence experienced by women in all their diversity³ due to various factors, including: ethnicity or race, minority status, indigenous, Afro-descendant women, urban/rural status, consequences of climate change, color, socioeconomic status, language, religion or belief, political opinion, national origin, marital status,

¹ The Republic of El Salvador reaffirms its strong commitment to fulfilling its obligations and commitments in...

² The Republic of Paraguay reserves the terms: women in all their diversity; women, adolescents, and girls in...

³ Bahamas, Barbados, El Salvador, Granada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago establish...

maternity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity⁴⁵, disability, refugee or asylum status, internally displaced or stateless status, widowhood, migration status, imprisonment, human trafficking, situations of armed conflict, and the stigmatization of women who fight for their rights, in particular women human rights defenders, or any other condition that may generate vulnerability in women and girls⁶, in accordance with national legislation in the different areas of the public and private spheres, to continue promoting the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention;

That as established by the Belém do Pará Convention, violence against women constitutes a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and partially or totally limits women's recognition, enjoyment, and exercise of such rights and freedoms; and violence against women shall be understood to encompass any action or conduct based on gender, which causes death, harm, or physical, sexual, or psychological suffering to women, both in the public and private spheres;

That the Belém do Pará Convention establishes that the States Parties condemn all forms of violence against women and the duty of the States Parties to adopt, through all appropriate means and without delay, policies aimed at preventing, punishing, and eradicating discrimination and violence against women in the public and private spheres;

That in the Declarations of the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Conferences of States Parties to the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention Belém do Pará, on Political Violence and Harassment against Women (2015); on Regional Challenges for Women's Human Rights in the Americas and the Eradication of Violence against Women (2018) and on the Eradication of Gender Stereotypes in Public Spaces that Result in Symbolic Violence and Political Violence against Women for Gender Reasons (2023), the States have agreed to promote the adoption of standards, programs and measures for the prevention, attention, protection and eradication of all forms of violence against women and all its manifestations;

That achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in all their diversity is an objective aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda in the Framework of Sustainable Development towards 2030 (2016), and the action platform of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention;

That despite significant advances in laws recognizing women's rights, 30 years after the adoption of the Belém do Pará Convention and 20 years after the establishment of MESECVI, there still exist regressive threats regarding the achievements made in equality and the right to a life free of gender-based violence, which contravene the principle of progressivity contained in Article 8 of the Belém do Pará Convention and Article 25 of the American Convention on Human Rights, in particular regarding gender-based violence against women, as well as the prohibition of regression in human rights matters;

⁴The Dominican Republic establishes reservation to the reference to girls in all their diversity throughout the text.

⁵ Ecuador establishes reservation to the expression related to sexual orientation and gender identity...

⁶ Hereinafter, when reference is made to women and girls, it shall be understood to mean any woman or girl...

DECLARE:

1. To continue working to strengthen the capacities of the different bodies of the States Parties responsible for the protection of women's rights, including, especially, the National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women and its hierarchy at the highest level, to fulfill their duty to act with due diligence to prevent, investigate, and punish violence against women, as established by Article 7.b of the Belém do Pará Convention, by adopting legislative changes, generating programs and public policies with sustainable and resilient budgets, promoting the generation of disaggregated statistical data and information collection, and with evaluation and monitoring mechanisms.
2. To implement accelerator strategies for the effective application of the Belém do Pará Convention at the regional, national and community levels, through the adoption of legislative, administrative and judicial measures associated with indicators such as the updating and strengthening of existing laws to ensure the eradication of all forms of violence against women, institutional empowerment, and adequate financing of the National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women and the programs and institutions that combat violence against women that contribute to the enjoyment of the right of women and girls.
3. To promote measures and mechanisms for the elimination of legal, cultural, social, political, labor, economic and institutional obstacles, and threats that undermine progressivity in equality issues, in order to ensure the right to a life free from all forms of violence and discrimination for women in all their diversity and throughout their life cycle.
4. To promote the harmonization of the work plans of the MESECVI with the Strategic Plan of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), to strengthen coordination and enhance the role of the Executive Secretariat of the CIM as the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI.
5. Strengthen the participation channels for civil society participation in the MESECVI, including instances of intervention within the framework of the sessions of the Conference of States Parties and the working groups, through transparent and public mechanisms for convocation, accreditation, and selection.
6. To institutionalize the constant and coordinated interaction between Competent National Authorities and the experts, through effective procedures that promote the commitment of the States Parties to the effective implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention and the evaluation rounds.
7. To promote synergies with the Regional Gender Agenda resulting from agreements reached in the Regional Conference on Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, where States Parties to the Convention are members, with the purpose of promoting the implementation of commitments related to the eradication of all forms of violence against women, adolescents, and girls in the hemisphere. In particular, to consider the agreements of the Buenos Aires Commitment (2022), in which countries agree to promote the adoption and implementation of comprehensive and multisectoral laws, policies, action plans, and educational awareness programs, to prevent, address, punish, and eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination based on gender against women, adolescents, and

girls in all their diversity, in their different spheres and manifestations, including harmful practices such as trafficking, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, and early unions; the rise in the use of firearms and organized crime

8. Recognizing the particular impact of the climate crisis on the Caribbean islands, and the importance of promoting cross-cutting initiatives addressing gender, violence, and climate change;

8. Express appreciation to the Government of Chile for the leadership demonstrated in the Presidency of the political body of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention, within the framework of the IX Ordinary Conference of the States Parties, as the host country. Additionally, extend gratitude to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the support and commitment shown towards seeking synergies at the regional level among States for the prevention, punishment, and eradication of gender-based violence in the region.



FOOTNOTES

1. the field of human rights, both at the Inter-American and universal levels, particularly in protecting the rights of all women, adolescents, and girls, equitably and without any form of discrimination. El Salvador reserves the right to interpret or apply the terms contained in this Declaration in a manner consistent with its Constitutional principles and internal legal order. This reservation also applies to any legal interpretations that do not align with public policies aimed at benefiting the majority or that seek to alter the language agreed upon in international treaties ratified by the country.

El Salvador reiterates its commitment to fully applying the Constitutional principle of Equality and Non-Discrimination of individuals and to fulfilling the obligations derived from this principle in national legislation.

Furthermore, it reaffirms its responsibility to continue working collaboratively to transform sociocultural patterns that generate violence, inequality, and discrimination in all areas.

2. ... all their diversity; women and girls in all their diversity; sexual orientation and gender identity These terms will be interpreted in accordance with its national legislation and will not be considered in case of contravention to its regulations.
3. ... reservation to the reference to women and girls in all their diversity throughout the text.
4. The Dominican Republic establishes reservation to the reference to girls in all their diversity throughout the text.
5. ... throughout the text.
6. ... who may belong to these groups or populations subject to situations of greater vulnerability.