



Latin American and Caribbean States Agree to Accelerate Efforts, Strengthen Mechanisms, and Increase Budgets to Eradicate Violence Against Women

Washington, DC, June 24, 2024. The IX Conference of States Parties of the [Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention \(MESECVI\)](#) culminated with a commitment to accelerate the implementation of measures and strengthen mechanisms to eradicate gender-based violence, in response to threats against the progress of equality and women's right to live free from violence. This commitment was embodied in the "Declaration on Accelerator Strategies for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence Against Women," approved by authorities from 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries, along with a new strategic plan of action for the next five years.

The IX Conference brought together representatives from the States Parties to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, Belém do Pará Convention, which is the principal regional instrument to address gender-based violence. This conference was held in the context of the 30th anniversary of the Convention and the 20th anniversary of the creation of its Follow-up Mechanism, the MESECVI, established to monitor the effective implementation of the treaty. Additionally, representatives from civil society organizations, international bodies, and United Nations agencies participated in the conference.

The event, held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), was chaired by Chile's Minister of Women and Gender Equality, Antonia Orellana, in her capacity as President of the Conference of States Parties (CEP) of the MESECVI. "The challenge of this conference is to agree on strategies to accelerate the process of change, so that this generation is the last to live under conditions of structural gender-based violence," she emphasized in her opening remarks.

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro highlighted, "This meeting represents a crucial milestone in our collective fight to eradicate violence against women in the Americas. Today, we must renew and strengthen that commitment with concrete and effective actions."

Also present at the inaugural session, ECLAC Secretary of the Commission, Luis Fidel Yáñez underscored the importance of joining efforts and seeking synergies between MESECVI and the Secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC. This collaboration aims to advance towards the eradication of gender-based violence and harmful practices affecting women and girls.

During the first day of the meeting, the regional context 30 years after the Convention was addressed. Experiences were shared, and the importance of coordinating the regional gender agenda was emphasized, including key actors from States, international agencies, and civil society. A highlight of the conference was the participation of the newly created Regional Articulation for the Follow-up of the Belém do Pará Convention, comprising various civil society organizations involved in monitoring its implementation.

Additionally, progress was presented on the development of an Inter-American Model Law to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women facilitated by new technologies. The authorities agreed to continue promoting this effort to provide tools for regulating the new forms of violence exercised through digital means.

During the second day, authorities gave the green light to [MESECVI's new strategic plan](#), an instrument that will set out the roadmap and work themes for the Mechanism over the next five years. In this regard, the importance of MESECVI as a multilateral body was reiterated. Given the complex landscape of violence against women and girls in the region, States agreed to intensify efforts, strengthen political will, and enhance State response capacities. The key axes of the plan aim to: improve guarantees and protection of women's human rights, strengthen State capacities, highlight adopted measures, and accelerate the implementation of the Convention.

In line with this, the States approved the [Declaration on Accelerator Strategies for the Belém do Pará Convention](#), through which they committed to strengthening gender institutions and their capacities, enhancing civil society participation, and fostering coordinated interaction between MESECVI's State authorities and its Committee of Experts. Besides implementing accelerated strategies, the authorities agreed to promote measures and mechanisms to eliminate obstacles and threats that hinder progress in gender equality in our societies.

In this regard, at the end of the Conference, the President of the Committee of Experts (CEVI), Gloria Camacho, expressed CEVI's concern about the disappearance of the Mechanism for the Advancement of Women in Argentina, following the closure of the Undersecretariat for Protection against Gender Violence, the last remnant of the Ministry of Women, Genders, and Diversity. "This situation is concerning as it represents a setback in all the rights gained by women and society as a whole in that country. Moreover, it contradicts international provisions, both of the Beijing Platform and the Belém do Pará Convention," highlighted the CEVI President.

The IX Conference of States Parties also provided the opportunity to present the preliminary findings of MESECVI's IV Multilateral Evaluation Round, the latest General Recommendation of the Committee of Experts on gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women, and a subregional report on legislative advances to prevent and punish violence against women in the Caribbean. In this context, [the final agreements](#) of the meeting emphasize the importance of increasing the resilience of the Caribbean by strengthening its capacities, including gender-responsive budgeting.

Lastly, the authorities from the 26 participating countries agreed on the significant impact of the climate crisis on Caribbean islands. They emphasized the importance of implementing gender-responsive climate adaptation measures and promoting the integration of gender, violence, and climate change issues.

Find all the documents from the IX Conference of States Parties [here](#).

- Declaration on Accelerator Strategies for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence Against Women. Available [here](#).
- Strategic Plan 2024-2029 of the MESECVI. Available [here](#).
- Final Agreements of the CEP. Available [here](#).