



**OAS | MESECVI**

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

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10  
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.154/24  
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTY TO THE FOLLOW-UP  
MECHANISM TO THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE  
PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN  
*CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ***



# OAS | MESECVI

The Ninth Conference of States Party to the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI) was held on June 11 and 12, 2024, in the city of Santiago, Chile. The main objectives of the meeting were to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention of Belém do Pará, present progress and challenges in its implementation, define the MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024-2029, discuss amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Party, and approve the Declaration on Accelerating Strategies for the implementation of the Inter-American Convention to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women.

Twenty-four States Party participated in this meeting, including Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. The conference was chaired by Antonia Orellana, Minister of Women and Gender Equality of Chile, and featured invited panelists from various sectors. The sessions were structured into four plenary sessions, along with an inaugural and a closing session.

During the opening, the President of the Conference and Chile's Minister of Women, Antonia Orellana, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the recent approval of the Comprehensive Law against Violence in Chile. Luis Fidel Yáñez, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to violence against women and offered support for the Draft Model Law on technology-facilitated violence. Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of CIM, highlighted the importance of the Conference in assessing progress and challenges in the implementation of the Convention, thanking allied organizations. María Noel Vaeza, Regional Director of UN Women, underscored the relevance of instruments against gender-based violence and UN Women's commitment to the Convention and the Follow-up Mechanism. Finally, Luis Almagro, Secretary-General of the OAS, stressed the urgency of strengthening institutions and laws to protect women. Upon conclusion of the inaugural session, the Conference formally began.

The Conference opened with the approval of the agenda and calendar of activities, followed by the election of Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic as the official reporters of the Ninth Conference. Following the election of the Rapporteurs, the day's panels began.

The first panel presented regional experiences in preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women. Countries such as Chile, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago shared their national policies and the challenges they face in complying with the provisions of the Convention of Belém do Pará. Panel 2 discussed regional articulations and the implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará 30 years after the Beijing Declaration. During the dialogue between delegations, Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, Uruguay, and Colombia shared their experiences, challenges, and progress in the field.



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The second plenary session began with panel 3, dedicated to analyzing the regional context: Perspectives of key actors. The day continued with item 3 of the agenda, focused on progress in drafting an Inter-American Model Law to prevent, punish, and eradicate technology-facilitated gender violence. The MESECVI Technical Secretariat presented progress on the Law, supported by UN Women and Italy, highlighting the need for a model law that recognizes the continuum of traditional violence. Following the presentation, Mayra Jiménez, Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic, moderated the debate, emphasizing the importance of transforming the fight against gender-based violence through technology and the need for sensitized individuals in political positions.

On Wednesday, June 12, at 9:20 am, the third plenary session of the second day of the MESECVI Conference of States Party began. During the second day, the results of the work of the MESECVI Committee of Experts (CEVI) were presented. Gloria Camacho, President of the CEVI, presented the main findings of the Subregional Report: Access to Justice, Truth, and Reparation for women in Latin America, while Teresa Incháustegui, Vice President of the CEVI, highlighted the content of General Recommendation No. 5 on gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women. Additionally, Barbara Bailey, CEVI Expert from Jamaica, presented the Subregional Report on Legislative Advances to Prevent and Punish Violence against Women in the Caribbean, emphasizing the prevalence of sexual violence and legislative challenges in the English-speaking Caribbean.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of the Draft amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Party, presented by the President of the Conference (MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.147/24). Following interventions by the States, the Minister approved the amendment to the MESECVI Rules of Procedure, emphasizing the importance of transparent and well-established procedures.

After resuming the third plenary session, the draft MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024-2029 (MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.148/24.rev2) was considered and approved, celebrating the collaborative work and thanking all the States, the Technical Secretariat, and the experts. The Declaration on Accelerating Strategies for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women (MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.149/24.rev1) was then discussed and approved.

Next, the proposal and selection of the host country for the Tenth Conference of States Party (item 10 on the agenda) took place. The President recalled Brazil's offer to host, made during the seventh preparatory meeting of the IX CEP. The floor was then given to the delegation, who reaffirmed their offer. The Minister of the Dominican Republic also took the floor to offer her country as the host for the Eleventh Conference of States Party. Both proposals were unanimously approved by the States present.

Finally, the President proceeded to read the agreements of the IX Conference, document MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.150/24. After receiving comments, the President concluded the Conference with the approval of these agreements.



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

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10  
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.153/24  
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## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Title	Languages
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.145/24	Agenda	E I
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.146/24	Calendar of Work	E I
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.147/24	Modification of the Rules of Procedure of the CEP	E I
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.148/24.rev2	MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024-2029	E I
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.149/24.rev1	Declaration on Accelerating Strategies for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence Against Women	E I
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.150/24.rev1	Agreements	E I
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.151/24	Rapporteurship	E I
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.152/24	List of Participants	E I
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.153/24	List of Documents	E I
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.154/24	Minutes	E I



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM  
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)  
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## **AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Calendar of Activities.  
Consideration and election of the Rapporteurship for the IX Conference of States Party.
2. Violence against Women: Progress and challenges 30 years after the Belém do Pará Convention and 20 years after the MESECVI. Ministerial Dialogue on Accelerator strategies for the effective implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention.
3. Towards the construction of an Inter-American Model Law to prevent, punish and eradicate gender-based violence facilitated by technologies.
4. Presentation of findings on Subregional Report: Access to justice, truth and reparation for women in Latin America.
5. Presentation of the General Recommendation No. 5 of the CEVI: Gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women.
6. Presentation of the CEVI Subregional Report on Legislative Advances to prevent and punish violence against women in the Caribbean.
7. Consideration and approval of the Draft for the modification of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of State Parties.
8. Presentation and approval of the Draft Strategic Plan of the MESECVI (2024-2029).
9. Presentation and approval of the Draft Declaration on Accelerator Strategies for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women.

10. Proposal and selection of host country for the Tenth Conference of States Party (2025-2026).

11. Reading and adoption of Agreements of the Ninth Conference of States Party of the MESECVI.

12. Presentation and approval of the Report from the Conference Rapporteurship.

13. Other matters.



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## CALENDAR OF WORK

### **Tuesday, June 11th**

**Location:** Raúl Prebisch Hall, Av. Dag Hammarskjöld 3477, Vitacura, Santiago de Chile

8:30 - 9:00 Registration of participants

9:00 – 10:00 **OPENING SESSION**

- Message from Gabriel Boric, President of Chile (TBC)
- Antonia Orellana, President of the Conference of States Party (COSP), Minister of Women and Gender Equality, Chile
- Luis Fidel Yáñez, Executive Secretary of ECLAC
- Alejandra Mora, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
- María Noel Vaeza, UN Women Regional Director
- Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (virtual)

10:00 - 10:15 **Official Photograph**

10:15 – 10:30 **First Plenary Session**  
**Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 1)**

**Adoption of the Calendar of Work**

**Consideration and election of the Rapporteurship for the IX Conference of States Party**

- 10:30 - 11:30      **Violence against Women: Progress and challenges 30 years after the Belém do Pará Convention and 20 years after MESECVI. Ministerial Dialogue on accelerator strategies for the effective implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. (Agenda item 2)**
- Panel 1:** Regional experiences in prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women.
- Antonia Orellana, President of the COSP, Minister of Women and Gender Equality, Chile
  - Gloria Camacho, President of Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (CEVI), Ecuador
  - Anabel López Sánchez, General Director for the Promotion of a Life Free from Violence, National Institute for Women (INMUJERES), Mexico
  - Ian Rampersad, Director, International Law & Human Rights Unit of the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago
- Moderator: Luz Patricia Mejía, MESECVI Technical Secretary
- 11:30 – 12:00      Interventions from High Authorities (3 minutes)
- 12:00 - 12:15      **Coffee break**
- 12:15 - 13:15      **Panel 2:** Regional Articulations: Regional Conference on Women and Belém Do Pará 30 years after the Beijing Declaration.
- Alejandra Mora, Executive Secretary of the CIM
  - Ana Güzmes, Director of the Gender Affairs Division of ECLAC
  - María Noel Vaeza, Regional Director of UN Women
  - Bárbara Jiménez, Equality Now, Regional Articulation to Follow-up the Belém do Pará Convention
- Moderator: Ángela Teresa Hernández, Vice President of the Conference of States Parties, Minister of Women and Vulnerable Population, Peru
- 13:15 – 13:30      Interventions from High Authorities (3 minutes)
- Moderated by the COSP Presidency
- 13:30 – 15:00      **Free time for lunch**



15:00 – 16:30	<p><b><u>Second Plenary Session</u></b></p> <p><b>Panel 3:</b> Analysis of the regional context: Perspectives from key actors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gloria de la Fuente, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Chile</li> <li>- Luz Vidal, Undersecretary of Women and Gender Equality, Chile</li> <li>- Quentin Weiler, Delegation of the European Union, Chile</li> <li>- Lourdes Martínez Betervide, Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women's Network</li> <li>- Fernanda Vanegas, Center for Reproductive Rights</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Priscilla Carrasco, Director of the National Women's Service of Chile</p>
16:30 – 16:45	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:45 – 17:40	<p><b>Towards the development of an Inter-American Model Law to prevent, punish and eradicate gender-based violence facilitated by new technologies: (Agenda item 3)</b></p> <p><b>Panel 4:</b> Presentation of progress and challenges in the development of a Model Law aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating gender-based violence facilitated by new technologies. Presented by: Luz Patricia Mejía, MESECVI Technical Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ana Pelaez, Co-Chair of the EDVAW Platform, Chair of the CEDAW Committee (virtual) (TBC)</li> <li>- Virginia Albert-Poyotte, Minister for the Public Service, Labour and Gender Affairs, Saint Lucia</li> <li>- Sherna Alexander Benjamin, Vice-Chair of the MESECVI Committee of Experts</li> <li>- Marcela Hernández, Red LAC Defensoras Digitales, Regional Articulation to Follow-up the Belém do Pará Convention</li> <li>- Cecilia Ananías S, NGO Amaranta</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Mayra Jiménez, Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic</p>
17:40 – 18:00	<p>Interventions from High Authorities (3 minutes)</p> <p>Moderated by the COSP Presidency</p>
18:00 – 19:00	<b>Closing</b>

## Cocktail/Cultural Event (TBC)

### Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Raúl Prebisch Hall, Av. Dag Hammarskjöld 3477, Vitacura, Santiago de Chile

- Tercera Sesión Plenaria**
- 9:00 - 9:15      **Presentation of Findings on Subregional Report: Access to justice, truth, and reparation for women in Latin America. (Agenda item 4)**
- Gloria Camacho, Co-Chair of the EDVAW Platform, CEVI President, Ecuador
- 9:15 - 9:30      **Presentation of the General Recommendation No. 5 of the CEVI: Gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women (Agenda item 5)**
- Teresa Incháustegui, CEVI Vice President, Mexico,
- 9:30 - 9:45      **Presentation of the CEVI Subregional Report on Legislative Advances to prevent and punish violence against women in the Caribbean. (Agenda item 6)**
- Barbara Bailey, Jamaica CEVI Expert (virtual)
- 9:45 - 10:45      Interventions from High Authorities (3 minutes)
- Moderator: Mónica Maureira, CEVI Expert, Chile
- 10:45 - 11:45      **Consideration of the draft for the modification of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of State Parties (Agenda item 7)**
- a. Presentation of draft reform of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Party  
Minister Antonia Orellana
  - b. Statements from Competent National Authorities
  - c. Approval of the modified rules of procedure of the Conference of States Parties.
- Moderated by the CEP Presidency.
- 11:45 - 12:00      **Coffee break**
- 12:00 - 13:00      **Presentation of the Draft Strategic Plan of the MESECVI (2024-2029) (Agenda item 8)**

- a. Presentation of MESECVI's Technical Secretary
- b. Dialogue between High Authorities and CEVI experts
- c. Approval of the Strategic Plan

Moderated by the CEP Presidency.

13:00 - 14:30

**Free time for lunch**

14:30 - 15:30

**Fourth Plenary Session**

**Presentation of the Draft Declaration on Accelerator Strategies for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women. (Agenda item 9)**

- a. Reading of the Declaration  
Minister Antonia Orellana
- b. Comments from the Competent National Authorities
- c. Approval of the Declaration on Accelerator Strategies for the implementation of the Inter-American Convention to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women.

Moderated by the CEP Presidency.

15:30 - 15:45

**Coffee break**

15:45 - 16:15

**Proposal and selection of host country for the Tenth Conference of States Parties (Agenda item 10)**

Intervention of Competent National Authorities

16:15 - 16:40

**Reading and adoption of the Agreements of the Ninth Conference of States Parties of the MESECVI (Agenda item 11)**

16:40 - 17:15

**Report from the Conference's Rapporteurship (Agenda item 12)**

17:15 - 17:45

**Other matters (Agenda item 13)**

17:45 - 18:30

**Closing Session**

- Ángela Teresa Hernández, VicePresident of the COSP, Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru
- Milena Páramo, CLADEM, Regional Articulation to the Follow-up of the Belém do Pará Convention
- Gloria Camacho, President of the CEVI
- Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the CIM

- Antonia Orellana, President of the CEP, Minister of Women and Gender Equality, Chile



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FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM  
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## **AGREEMENTS OF THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)**

The States Parties to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," gathered at the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the MESECVI on June 11th and 12th, 2024, in Santiago, Chile;

RECALLING that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention, the First Meeting of States Parties was held on October 26, 2004, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), where the "Statute of the Mechanism for Follow-Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, Convention of Belém do Pará" (MESECVI) was approved;

RECOGNIZING the advances and challenges of the regional context on the 30th anniversary of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women and the 20th anniversary of the creation of its Follow-up Mechanism;

REITERATING the importance of the MESECVI as a multilateral instance that contributes to the implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará while respecting the diversity of the countries in the region; as well as to increase the resilience of the Caribbean through adaptive capacity, including gender-responsive budgeting and costing;

AFFIRMING the need to promote mechanisms for cooperation and exchange of information and best practices among the States Parties to the Convention, especially between Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the non-Party States to the Convention, Permanent Observers to the OAS, and other bodies addressing the issue of

gender-based violence against girls, adolescents, and women at the subregional, regional, and international levels;

REAFFIRMING the importance of dialogue between the National Competent Authorities and the CEVI for the exchange of experiences on progress and obstacles in relevant issues regarding the strengthening, compliance, and dissemination of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the institutionalism of both bodies, with the aim of strengthening the MESECVI and positioning it as a reference in the regional and universal spheres;



CONVINCED that the strengthening of the MESECVI requires the support of the States Parties in terms of human and/or financial resources, as well as the need to find financing alternatives that allow for the proper functioning of the Mechanism;

CONSIDERING that the Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2018-2023 was approved during the Second Extraordinary Meeting of States Parties, and its validity was extended during the Third Extraordinary Meeting of the States Parties of the MESECVI, with successful implementation; and also considering the obligation to develop a proposal for the new Strategic Plan 2024-2029;

IDENTIFYING that the issue of technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women has become a turning point to evaluate lessons learned from the past and renew commitments for the future considering the new threats emerging from online spaces, as well as for the present;

CONFIRMING the importance of dialogue between the MESECVI and women-led organizations and movements and women's human rights defense organizations, girls, and adolescents;

**AGREE TO:**

1. Request the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to continue working on the issue of violence against women, adolescents, and girls, taking into account various factors, including, among others, the ethnic origin or race of women, minority or indigenous status, color, socio-economic situation, the condition of living in urban or rural areas, language, religion or beliefs, political opinion, national origin, marital status, motherhood, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, refugee or asylum status, internally displaced, or stateless, widowhood, migratory status, deprivation of liberty, trafficking in women and in situations of armed conflict, the use of firearms and organized crime and the stigmatization of women who fight for their rights, particularly women human rights defenders, or any other condition that may make women and girls vulnerable, in accordance with national legislation in various areas of the public and private spheres, to continue promoting the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention;

2. Request the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to take note of the issues raised in this space related to technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women and to continue promoting the creation of a Comprehensive Model Law to prevent, punish, and eradicate technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women and tools to ensure its regional regulation;

3. Take note of the main findings of the *Subregional Report: Access to justice, truth, and reparation for women in Latin America*;

4. Take note of the recommendations issued in the *General Recommendation No. 5 of the CEVI: Gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women*;

5. Take note of the main findings of the *Subregional Report on Legislative Advances to prevent and punish violence against women in the Caribbean*;
6. Approve the publication of the document amending the *Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Parties to the MESECVI*;
7. Approve the publication of the *Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2024-2029*, which will guide the work of the Mechanism and its component bodies for the next five years;
8. Approve the publication of the *Declaration on Accelerator Strategies for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence Against Women*;
9. Continue periodically holding dialogues between the National Competent Authorities and the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on progress and challenges in relevant issues regarding the strengthening, compliance, and dissemination of the Belém do Pará Convention;
10. Continue to encourage and promote the participation of civil society and other social actors in the activities of the MESECVI, within the framework of Article 10.2 of its Statute, taking into account the "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities", document CP/RES. 759 (1217/99);
11. Implement measures to adapt to climate change with a gender perspective and establish a gender focal point to lead and coordinate the mainstreaming of gender, violence, and climate change issues;
12. Congratulate the States Parties that have appointed Experts in 2024 and urge the States Parties that have not yet done so to appoint the Experts, both titular and/or alternate, in accordance with the rules established in the Mechanism's Statute;
13. To acknowledge the support of the Government of Chile for hosting the Ninth Conference of States Parties and to welcome the invitation of the Government of Brazil to host the Tenth Regular Conference of States Parties, to be held in Belém do Pará in 2025. To accept the invitation of the Government of the Dominican Republic to host the XI Conference of States Parties in 2027.



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## **RAPPORTEURSHIP**

**Tuesday, June 11th, 2024**

The Ninth Conference of States Party to the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women "Belém do Pará Convention" (MESECVI), was held on June 11 and 12, 2024, in Santiago, Chile. Twenty-four countries participated: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

The President of the Conference of States Party and Minister of Women and Gender Equity of Chile, Ms. Antonia Orellana, highlighted the commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention and 20<sup>th</sup> of the MESECVI, and the approval of the Comprehensive Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women in Chile. Luis Fidel Yáñez, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, emphasized the need to look comprehensively at violence against women and offered support to the Mechanism in the development and promotion of the Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women Facilitated by Technologies. This was followed by the intervention of Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of CIM, who greeted the authorities and thanked the MESECVI Technical Secretariat team for preparing the Conference. Among other issues, she highlighted the importance of this space, which seeks to evaluate progress and also the challenges and obstacles in the implementation of the Convention, and celebrated the support of allied organizations that help to promote the standards emanating from the Convention. The Secretary emphasized the history of this extraordinary instrument, and the role of CIM in its adoption, the result of a collective and broad effort, and paid tribute to all the women who have participated.

María Noel Vaeza, Regional Director of UN Women, underlined the relevance of the instruments in the fight against gender-based violence, UN Women's commitment to the Convention and the Follow-up Mechanism, and the need to address the cultural and structural



challenges that persist in the region. Finally, the OAS Secretary General, Luis Almagro, intervened virtually to stress the relevance of the Belém do Pará Convention and urged States to strengthen institutions and laws to protect women.

After the opening ceremony, the Conference formally began at 10:51 am local time. The quorum of the session was verified according to the Rules of Procedure of the MESECVI Conference of States Parties, and the official photograph was taken.

During the first plenary session, documents related to the agenda (MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.145) and calendar of activities (MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.146) were approved, and the Authorities of Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic were elected as the Conference Rapporteurs.

Following the election of the Rapporteurship, the panels began. In the first one, regional experiences in the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women were presented. Minister Antonia Orellana highlighted Chile's efforts in women's economic autonomy and the recently approved comprehensive law, which includes measures for the reparation of femicide victims, among others. Gloria Camacho, President of CEVI, highlighted progress in making new forms of violence visible and the importance of strengthening access to justice and the collection of statistical information. Anabel López Sánchez from INMUJERES, Mexico, pointed out the importance of incorporating gender parity in political decision-making and investing in the prevention of violence. The panel concluded with Ian Rampersad from Trinidad and Tobago, who highlighted the implementation of an accelerated legal strategy in the Caribbean for the implementation of the Convention and national laws.

The States reacted to the panel with progress and challenges in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention according to their experiences. The Dominican Republic reported on its Strategic Plan for a Life Free of Violence for Women, while Bolivia and Brazil highlighted their efforts in violence laws and the creation of women's shelters. Colombia emphasized the adoption of Resolution 1325 and its feminist foreign policy, and Costa Rica mentioned its National Policy and the Gender Route with violet points. Honduras shared its national violence plan, and Paraguay talked about its prevention policy led by the Ministry of Women. Peru underscored its state commitment to gender equality and specialized services to prevent violence. Suriname noted that it has made progress in adopting legislative and administrative measures, including information campaigns and legal reforms on human trafficking and domestic violence. Additionally, the impact of climate change on women and communities was highlighted as a crucial issue to address in the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women. To finish the panel, Brisa Angulo from the Regional Articulation in Follow-up to the Belém do Pará Convention shared her testimony and emphasized the importance of the standards generated by the Convention and the General Recommendation on Consent from the MESECVI Committee of Experts in resolving her case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

In Panel 2, regional articulations and the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention 30 years after the Beijing Declaration were discussed. Ana Güezmes, Director of the Gender Affairs Division of ECLAC, presented virtually the articulation between the Convention and the Regional Gender Agenda, while Alejandra Mora highlighted the "Building Bridges" program. María Noel Vaeza from UN Women called for redoubling political efforts to

prioritize gender-based violence. Bárbara Jiménez from Equality Now emphasized the importance of including civil society in the formulation of the new MESECVI strategic plan.

During the dialogue between delegations, Bolivia emphasized the importance of eradicating poverty and reducing infant mortality, while Guatemala highlighted progress in institutional mechanisms to address violence against women. Honduras mentioned the signing of a memorandum of understanding with CIM and the conduct of a national time-use survey, and Uruguay emphasized the need for strong State policies to prevent setbacks in the gender agenda. Colombia supported the work of Caribbean women and called on States to declare a decade for rural women and girls.

At 1:30 pm, a lunch break was called, with the Authorities invited to return at 3:00 pm. The second plenary session of the agenda began with the start of Panel 3 dedicated to an Analysis of the Regional Context: Perspectives from Key Actors.

Undersecretary Gloria de la Fuente highlighted the importance of the Belém do Pará Convention and CEDAW, reaffirming Chile's commitment to women's rights and the 2030 Agenda. Undersecretary Luz Vidal thanked civil society organizations and presented policies for a life free of violence for women, highlighting the update of equality and violence plans. She highlighted the Gender Violence Law for coordination between various State ministries. The EU delegation emphasized its collaboration with MESECVI in preventing gender-based violence and strengthening laws and policies. Lourdes Martínez emphasized the importance of addressing violence against Afro-descendant women and proposed an intergenerational and interracial approach. She urged funding for national mechanisms and better communication with the Committee of Experts. The panel concluded with Fernanda Vanegas, who emphasized the importance of advances such as recognizing abortion as a health service. She stressed the need to strengthen MESECVI with adequate resources and partnerships between States and civil society organizations.

The debate was then opened. Jacquie Burgess from the NGOs Network of Trinidad and Tobago expressed agreement with most of the points discussed but voiced concern over the lack of civil society representation from the Caribbean in the institutions, stressing the need to ensure women's participation at all levels of decision-making. Colombia celebrated the space and highlighted its feminist foreign policy committed to protecting women's rights and promoting a participatory and intersectional gender agenda.

The delegation from the Bahamas congratulated the Convention and highlighted advances in protecting women, though noting the need for more resources. Ecuador celebrated the 30th anniversary of the CBP and the creation of MESECVI, highlighting its influence in implementing specific programs to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women in their State. Haiti noted that its State has demonstrated significant commitment to combating violence against women since ratifying the Belém do Pará Convention. With the creation of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in 1994, Haiti has worked on its implementation as an integral part of its legislation, marking significant milestones such as the July 6, 2007 decree that penalizes and criminalizes violence against women. Despite persistent challenges such as the economic crisis and public security crisis, including the instrumentalization of women's bodies in conflict situations, Haiti has made significant efforts in awareness and creating platforms to

address gender-based violence, including declaring violence against women a medical emergency in 2021 and establishing the national consultation table against violence towards women and girls in 2023.

Panama spoke about establishing mechanisms to address various situations without gender bias, with an emphasis on women's physical and political autonomy. Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda highlighted their efforts in laws and policies to close discrimination gaps and to support and assist women survivors of gender-based violence. The Authority of the Dominican Republic recognized the importance of uniting all authorities in the fight against violence and called for raising awareness among the media, health, and education personnel, with a call for international cooperation for funding. It mentioned a new UN resolution to commemorate the Day against the Elimination of Violence and announced a high-level meeting to define a joint strategy; likewise, Mexico emphasized the importance of including men and local governments in the prevention of violence.

The day continued with agenda item 3, focused on progress in drafting an Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence. The MESECVI Technical Secretariat presented the progress of the Law, supported by UN Women and Italy, highlighting the need for a model law that recognizes the *continuum* of traditional violence. Following the presentation, Mayra Jiménez, Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic, began moderating the debate, emphasizing the importance of transforming the fight against technology-facilitated gender-based violence and the need for sensitized people in political positions.

Ms. Virginia Albert-Poyotte, Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Gender Affairs of Saint Lucia, highlighted the importance of leveraging new technologies to combat gender-based violence and the need to pass laws on the subject. She emphasized the importance of having sensitized people in political positions, involving men in the process, and training those who will implement the laws, especially on gender issues. The Vice President of CEVI, Sherna Alexander Benjamin, emphasized the need for a comprehensive law to eradicate violence facilitated by technologies, recognizing that the lack of laws increases the violence that disproportionately affects women. Marcela Hernández from the LAC Digital Defenders Network shared Mexico's experience with the Olympia Law, highlighting the need for legal reforms and better judicial understanding of the crime. Cecilia Ananías from the NGO Amaranta highlighted the severe consequences of digital violence on mental health and online participation, urging for more support and resources for organizations addressing this issue.

During the dialogue with Authorities, the representative from Italy reaffirmed her country's support for MESECVI to prevent gender-based violence facilitated by technologies, highlighting the cooperation between Europe and the OAS. The Alliance for Freedom of Expression emphasized that digital violence affects girls, young women, journalists, and activists, impacting their freedom of expression and mental health, and called for addressing this violence through policies and platforms. Peru reported that 5000 cases of digital harassment have been registered since 2019, leading to the implementation of Decree 1410 and the Law on Cybercrimes, in addition to developing a mobile application to protect people at risk. The Authority of Saint Kitts and Nevis addressed violence against women with a

national policy that includes environmental factors. They commented on improving data collection and training officials and police in ICT to create more effective responses.

At 6:21 pm, the President proceeded to close the first day of sessions and invited the participants to enjoy the cultural event offered by the Chilean government. The remarks from Brazil and Mexico were postponed to the top of the agenda for the second day of work. She thanked civil society, the Technical Secretariat, and all the authorities for their participation.

### **Wednesday, June 12th, 2024**

On Wednesday, June 12, at 9:20 am, the third plenary session of the second day of work of the MESECVI Conference of States Parties began. The President of the Conference, Minister Antonia Orellana, offered the floor to the delegations pending from the previous day, Brazil and Mexico. Both delegations decided not to speak at that time and reserved the possibility of requesting the floor later during the meeting.

The third plenary session, moderated by CEVI expert from Chile, Mónica Maureira, was dedicated to presenting the results of the work of the MESECVI Committee of Experts. The session began with the presentation of the main findings of the Subregional Report: Access to Justice, Truth, and Reparation for Women in Latin America by the President of CEVI and expert from Ecuador, Gloria Camacho.

The CEVI President thanked the Technical Secretariat for collecting the data and proceeded to present the new digital tool that will allow the States Parties to complete the Progress Indicators System for Measuring the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention in this Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round. This tool will enable the evaluation of regulations and public policies in the region. As a result of the States' efforts to respond to these indicators, Ms. Camacho presented the main findings of the information reported by Latin American countries, which will be used to prepare a subregional report. She concluded her presentation by calling for accelerating the application of the Convention and strengthening CEVI to continue its autonomous work. She recalled that although the figures are not encouraging, the new digital platform will contribute to efforts to improve existing public policies and laws and will also serve as a tool for civil society to monitor the States' compliance with their obligations.

The third plenary session continued with the intervention of Teresa Incháustegui, Vice President of CEVI and Expert from Mexico, who presented CEVI's General Recommendation No. 5 on gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women. This recommendation was made with broad participation from civil society organizations, reflecting an intersectional approach that highlights how Afro-descendant and diaspora women are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence. The work was based on related international conventions, resulting in 52 recommendations distributed in 11 subtitles based on the articles of the Belém do Pará Convention.

Specifically, the Recommendation analyzes the situation of the rights of Afro-descendant girls and women in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting the multiple violences they suffer, including femicides, sexual abuse, and trafficking. It notes that these women face higher

levels of discrimination and limitations in access to education, employment, health, justice, and participation. It also mentions obstacles such as limited access to reporting mechanisms and discrimination in judicial systems. The document recommends expanding reporting networks, adopting protocols for judicial and administrative personnel, and creating norms and mechanisms to promote the rights of Afro-descendant women, with an intersectional approach. Additionally, it emphasizes the need to radically transform narratives and practices that perpetuate inequality and racism.

Lastly, to conclude the presentations of the third plenary session, the Sub-Regional Report on Legislative Advances to Prevent & Punish Violence against Women in the Caribbean was presented by Barbara Bailey, CEVI Expert from Jamaica, who participated virtually. During her intervention, Bailey highlighted that Caribbean women face various forms of violence, with sexual violence being the most prevalent, including high rates of rape, incest, and other sexual offenses. Domestic violence is significant but often underreported due to cultural norms that justify male domination. She also reminded that in the Caribbean, rape rates are alarmingly high, with countries like the Bahamas and Jamaica among the most affected. Although femicides are not commonly typified, they are frequent and associated with domestic violence and sexual assaults in public spaces.

On the other hand, the Expert emphasized that although the legislative framework in the Caribbean has advanced with the signing of international conventions and the enactment of national laws to protect women from gender-based violence, effective implementation faces challenges due to low State compliance, inadequate resources, and the lack of systematic data. First and second-generation laws have improved protection, but there are still significant challenges to ensuring de facto equality and effective protection of women's rights. Professor Bailey concluded her intervention by recalling that urgent actions are needed to enact specific legislation on femicides, improve data collection and State response to the Indicator System, address laws that criminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex, and enhance international cooperation in these efforts.

After the presentations of the Experts, the floor was opened for interventions from the authorities and civil society.

Rocío Muñoz from UNFPA Lacro highlighted the importance of MESECVI's Recommendation No. 5 and the need to disseminate it as a tool for political advocacy and the protection of the human rights of Afro-descendant women. Next, Christine Samarow from Guyana Civil Society spoke against violence and genocides in places like Palestine and Sudan, highlighting that one in two women in Guyana has experienced some form of violence. She stressed the need to implement the Convention locally and the active participation of civil society to promote a fairer society for women.

After these interventions, the President of the Conference called on the States Parties to appoint experts and their alternates and gave the floor to the authorities.

Antigua and Barbuda mentioned the national debate on marital rape and the need for access to justice for victims and rehabilitation for perpetrators. Mexico celebrated General Recommendation No. 5 and highlighted the constitutional reform recognizing Afro-Mexican



peoples, as well as the recent approval of a reform to prohibit forced marriage, with specific actions in the Guerrero Mountain region.

Paraguay thanked the experts for their recommendations and mentioned the 2020 amended domestic violence law, which includes electronic control devices for perpetrators, in addition to highlighting the recent publication of the social emergency law on violence. Saint Lucia recognized civil society as the driving force for change and highlighted the importance of domestic violence legislation that does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, suggesting a small working group of ministers to involve other Caribbean ministers.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines mentioned the need for legislative changes, institutional strengthening, and the importance of integrating men into the change process. Saint Kitts and Nevis reported legislative advances through the domestic violence law, which defines violence holistically since 2014, and the 2019 amendment on marital rape that emphasizes consent.

Bolivia constitutionally recognized the Afro-Bolivian people and enacted a law declaring the decade of the Afro-Bolivian people. Honduras mentioned that its government's budget incorporates the principle of intersectionality and that municipalities must prioritize the demands of indigenous and Afro-descendant women. Jamaica highlighted the inclusion of skills training measures, human rights, gender approach, and climate change. Finally, Trinidad and Tobago announced its 2020 domestic violence law, which expanded protection and strengthened the definition of psychological abuse, including electronic monitoring of perpetrators and an expanded definition of femicide in criminal law.

Next, the following agenda item considered the Draft Amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Party, presented by the President of the Conference (MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.147/24). The changes were mainly motivated by requests from the States and the COVID-19 pandemic. The main changes include updating voting protocols, strengthening standards of transparency and accountability, enhancing the role of national mechanisms and the Conference of States Parties, and implementing new deadlines and transparency in the submission of candidacies.

Costa Rica thanked the effort in drafting the text and the consultation process, highlighting the transparency of the mechanism. Peru valued the reform as an improvement in decision-making rules and procedures, in accordance with Article 12 of the MESECVI statute. The Dominican Republic supported the proposal, emphasizing the need for clarity to work effectively among so many States. Honduras praised the consultation process and emphasized the need to massively disseminate the Convention and MESECVI's work at the national and regional levels.

After the interventions from the States, the Minister, considering the States' interventions, approved the amendment to the MESECVI's Conference of States Party Rules of Procedure, highlighting the importance of transparent and well-structured procedures, thus inviting those present to a coffee break.

When the third plenary session resumed, the Strategic Plan of MESECVI 2024-2029 (MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.148/24.rev2) was considered. First, the Technical Secretary of

MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, presented the document and explained that the 2024-2029 Plan, worked on by delegations, civil society, and CEVI experts, recognizes the progress in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention and underscores the diversity of needs among women and girls. Similarly, it addresses the continuum of violence and highlights issues such as sexual violence, trafficking, genital mutilation, child marriage, and the effects of violence on women's mental health. It also considers online violence and its relationship with ICT and Artificial Intelligence and includes the need for exchange with civil society and regional mechanisms, aligning with other agendas such as the 2030 Agenda and Escazú. Furthermore, it addresses violence exacerbated by firearms, the importance of involving men in the process, and addressing institutional violence.

The Plan presents a new proposal from the Presidency for subtitle 5, which refers to the non-regression of women's rights. This proposal was delivered in print for the delegations' consideration. Additionally, the need for the mechanism to work on strengthening the States' capacity in this regard was highlighted. Furthermore, strengthening the mechanism includes its presence in the English-speaking Caribbean, recognizing the particularities of each State and strengthening the participation of Caribbean experts in CEVI. It also seeks to ensure an adequate financial response from regional mechanisms and others. The plan has clear goals and objectives to work on strengthening MESECVI and ensuring women's right to live a life free of violence in the region.

Once the content was presented, the President of the Conference acknowledged the importance of the work and effort of the Technical Secretariat, the National Competent Authorities, the Committee of Experts, and civil society and opened the floor for interventions from the High Authorities.

Colombia requested adding the principle of progressiveness alongside non-regression. Costa Rica seconded Colombia's proposal and suggested a change in wording in the third paragraph. Peru agreed with Colombia and highlighted the formulation of the plan as a commitment to equality and the strengthening of the mechanism. It emphasized the importance of intercultural exchange and listening. The Dominican Republic thanked the Presidency teams and the Technical Secretariat and joined Peru's request to ensure compliance with the strategic plan. Finally, Expert Teresa Incháustegui suggested emphasizing regression in paragraph 4 and progressiveness in paragraph 5, which was accepted by Colombia, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic. The comments received were incorporated by the Technical Secretariat into the final text. Finally, the Strategic Plan was approved, celebrating the collaborative work and thanking all the States, the Technical Secretariat, and the experts.

The President then called for lunch and invited the Authorities to reconvene at 2:30 pm to begin the fourth plenary session.

Upon return, the President put item 9 of the agenda to consideration and proceeded to read the Draft Declaration on Acceleration Strategies for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women (MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.149/24.rev1). After the reading, the document was opened for debate. Honduras, Mexico, and Peru supported its approval. The Secretariat took note of the observations received from the delegations of the Bahamas, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Jamaica,

Paraguay, and Saint Lucia. The President thanked the involved parties, and the document was approved with the suggested changes.

Next followed the proposal and definition of the host country for the Tenth Conference of States Parties (agenda item 10). The President recalled the offer from the Authority of Brazil to host at the seventh preparatory meeting of the IX CEP. She offered the floor to the delegation, who ratified their offer. Likewise, the Minister of the Dominican Republic took the floor to offer her State to host the XI Conference of States Parties. The present States approved both proposals by acclamation.

Finally, the President proceeded to read the agreements of the IX Conference, document MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.150/24. The President informed the room that reservations would be collected according to the approved language in the Declaration. The Authority of Jamaica thanked the inclusion of the topic related to climate change of great importance to the Caribbean. Mexico also requested to incorporate the use of firearms and organized crime. With no further comments, the agreements of the IX CEP were approved.





# OEA | MESECVI

MONITORING MECHANISM  
OF THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)  
**NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES**  
June 11th-12th, 2024  
Santiago, Chile

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10  
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.152/24  
Original: Spanish

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FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM  
TO THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)  
**NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTY**  
June 11 and 12, 2024

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10  
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.147/24  
Original: Spanish

**Modification of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Party of the MESECVI**

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
<p>RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE MECHANISM TO FOLLOW UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN "CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ" (MESECVI)</p> <p>(Adopted at the First Plenary Session of the Second Conference of States Parties held in Caracas, Venezuela, on July 9, 2008)</p>	<p>RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERAMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN "BELEM DO PARA CONVENTION" (MESECVI)</p> <p>(Draft reform proposal)</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
	<b>PREAMBLE</b>
	<p>BEARING IN MIND that on July 9th, 2008, at the first plenary session of the Second Conference of States Parties, held in Venezuela, the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Parties to the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the InterAmerican Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women "Convention of Belem do Para" (MESECVI) were approved;</p> <p>CONSIDERING that Article 12, number 12.1 of the Statute of the MESECVI establishes that "The Conference shall periodically review the functioning of the Mechanism, taking into account the observations of the Committee, and may introduce such modifications as it deems appropriate";</p> <p>CONSIDERING that Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties establishes that "(the Rules of Procedure) shall govern the organization and functioning of the Conference of the States Parties to the MESECVI (the Conference) and the Mechanism, respectively. The Conference shall perform its functions within the framework of the purposes, fundamental principles, characteristics and other provisions set forth in the Statute of the Mechanism, hereinafter the Statute, and the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS). Cases not provided for in these Rules of Procedure and not provided for in the Statute or the Charter of the OAS may be resolved by the Conference, or when the Conference is not in</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
	<p>session, by the President in consultation with the Vice Presidents and the States Parties;</p> <p>CONSIDERING the experiences and lessons learned from the global pandemic caused by the COVID - SARS II Virus, regarding the work and development of sessions through virtual platforms, among other technological means;</p> <p>AGREEING on the need to adapt the rules of procedures contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, in the context indicated in the previous paragraph, and considering that the improvement in the organic functioning of the Conference of the States Parties (CEP) has an impact on the improvement and the strengthening of the MESECVI;</p> <p>CONSIDERING the standards established by the Organization of American States (OAS) regarding the organizational structures and forms of operation of its organs and dependent bodies, which provide legal certainty to the decisions and resolutions adopted by them;</p> <p>TAKING NOTE of the Permanent Council document CP/doc. 5602/20 of 13 April 2020 setting out considerations on the conduct of virtual meetings of the Permanent Council and its subsidiary bodies: Draft Permanent Council Resolution CP/doc. 5646/20 of 15 October 2020 on updating the rules of procedure of the Permanent Council and its subsidiary bodies; Permanent Council Resolution</p>

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	<p>CP/RES. 115/2280/20 of 16 April 2020 on virtual meetings of the Permanent Council due to the COVID-19 pandemic; Resolution CP/doc. 5746/21 rev. 1 of November 22 2021 on the adequacy of the work of the organs, agencies and entities of the OAS; and of Resolution CP/INF. 9344/22 of April 18, 2022 regarding recommendations on procedures for in-person meetings with virtual participation of the Permanent Council;</p> <p>REPRESENTING that in all matters not modified or supplemented by these revised rules, the former rules remain in full force and effect;</p> <p>The IX Regular Conference of the States Parties of the MESECVI agrees to the following modification of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure in the following terms:</p>
I. SCOPE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE	I. SCOPE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
<p>Article 1.</p> <p>Scope of the Rules of Procedure. These Rules of Procedure shall govern the organization and operations of the Conference of States Party to the Follow-up Mechanism on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the “Convention of Belém do Pará” (MESECVI), hereinafter the Conference, and the Mechanism, respectively.</p> <p>The Conference shall carry out its functions within the framework of the purposes, basic principles, characteristics and other provisions established in the</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
<p>Statute of the Mechanism, hereinafter the Statute, as well as in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS).</p> <p>Situations not provided for in these Rules of Procedure, in the Statute or the OAS Charter may be resolved by the Conference, or when the Conference is not in session, by the President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents and the States Parties.</p>	
II. NATURE, ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION	II. NATURE, ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION
<p><b>Article 2.</b> Nature.</p> <p>The Conference, as the political body of the Mechanism, has the authority and the general responsibility for implementing the Mechanism and adopting decisions or procedures it deems necessary to the attainment of its objectives.</p>	No reform proposals.
<p><b>Article 3.</b> Composition.</p> <p>The Conference is made up of representatives from all the States Parties of the Mechanism. The States Parties shall appoint a head of delegation and any delegates they deem necessary.</p>	No reform proposals.
<p><b>Article 4.</b> Functions.</p> <p>The functions of the Conference are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To establish overall guidelines for the work of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the Mechanism and to serve as its advisory body;</li> <li>b. To receive, analyze and evaluate the reports of the CEVI;</li> </ol>	No reform proposals.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. To publish and disseminate the final report of the Mechanism, in coordination with the OAS General Secretariat;</li> <li>d. To settle any matter relating to the operations of the Mechanism;</li> <li>e. To report every two years to the OAS General Assembly on the work carried out during that period, on the progress, challenges and best practices arising from the final reports and, if appropriate, to formulate general recommendations;</li> <li>f. To periodically review the operations of the Mechanism, taking into account the observations of the CEVI, and introducing any changes it deems appropriate; and</li> <li>g. To establish criteria for determining regular contributions.</li> </ul>	
III. PRESIDENT AND VICEPRESIDENTS	III. PRESIDENT AND VICEPRESIDENTS
<p><b>Article 5.</b> President and Vice-Presidents.</p> <p>The Conference shall have a President and two Vice-Presidents, which shall be elected at the beginning of each regular meeting. Said officials shall carry out their functions until the next meeting of the Conference, including any special meetings that need to be held.</p> <p>In the absence of the President, the first Vice President shall take his/her place, and in his/her absence, the second Vice President will do so.</p>	<p><b>Article 5.</b> Presidency and Vice-Presidencies.</p> <p>The Conference shall have a President and two Vice-Presidents, which shall be elected at the beginning of each regular meeting. Said officials shall carry out their functions in any special meetings that may occur between regular meetings.</p> <p>In the absence of the President, the first Vice President shall take his/her place, and in his/her absence, the second Vice President will do so.</p> <p>Nominations for the President and Vice President shall be made through the corresponding channels of the Executive Secretariat of the CIM/OAS, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI,</p>

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	<p>five calendar<sup>1</sup> non-extendable days prior to the date of the meeting of the Conference of States Party, except in the event of an absence of nominations, in which case it will be the responsibility of the Presidency and the Vice Presidencies to define the steps to follow. The Technical Secretariat will send out a call for nominations 40 (forty) days before the date of the Conference, carrying out the pertinent procedures as required.</p> <p>When election processes are necessary, they shall be carried out following Chapter 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.</p>
<p><b>Article 6.</b> Functions.</p> <p>The functions of the President are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To propose, in collaboration with the host country, if any, the draft agenda and calendar for the Meeting of the Conference;</li> <li>b. To open and close the sessions as well as to direct and moderate the discussions;</li> <li>c. To submit for consideration and approval of the Conference, the draft agenda and calendar of the Meeting of the Conference, as well as any issues in the debate that require decision-making, and to announce the results;</li> <li>d. To follow up on decisions made by the Conference and inform the States Parties, as applicable;</li> <li>e. To coordinate the work of the bodies of the Mechanism and present any proposals he/she deems appropriate to ensure optimal operation thereof;</li> </ol>	<p><b>Article 6.</b> Functions.</p> <p>The functions of the Presidency are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Propose, in collaboration with the host State, if any, the agenda and tentative schedule for the Conference Meeting;</li> <li>b. To open and close the sessions as well as to direct and moderate the debates;</li> <li>c. Submit for the consideration and approval of the Conference the draft agenda and draft schedule for the Conference Meeting, as well as the items under discussion requiring decision and announce the results;</li> <li>d. To follow up on the decisions of the Conference and report to the States Parties as appropriate;</li> <li>e. Coordinate the work of the organs of the Mechanism and present the proposals it deems appropriate for its better functioning;</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> Throughout the document, deadlines will be understood as calendar days



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<p>f. To decide on points of order that raised during the deliberations;</p> <p>g. To represent the Conference before the CEVI;</p> <p>h. To represent the Mechanism before the Organs of the OAS and participate in acts, conferences or activities to which he/she is invited;</p> <p>i. To install commissions at the Meetings of the Conference, as required; and</p> <p>j. To perform other responsibilities as may arise from the Rules of Procedure and as entrusted by the Conference.</p>	<p>f. To rule on points of order arising during the deliberations in accordance with article 22 quáter of this Rules of procedure;</p> <p>g. Represent the Conference before the CEVI;</p> <p>h. Represent the Mechanism before the OAS bodies and in the acts, conferences or activities to which it is invited;</p> <p>i. To set up the necessary committees for the Conference meetings;</p> <p>j. The Presidency, with the agreement of the Vice-Presidencies, may propose to the Conference to adopt measures which are understood to be exceptional, not covered by these Rules of Procedure, in order to allow for the normal and transparent development of ordinary and extraordinary meetings. Such measures shall require the approval of a majority of the States Party.</p> <p>k. Such other duties as are conferred by these Rules of Procedure and the Conference.</p>
IV. SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE	IV. SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE
<p><b>Article 7. Secretariat.</b></p> <p>The Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is the Technical Secretariat of the Conference and shall have the following functions:</p> <p>a. To prepare the documents for each Meeting of the Conference and present them to the Presidency for approval;</p> <p>b. To ensure the safe-keeping of all Conference documents and files;</p> <p>c. To disseminate by any adequate means of communication, including the CIM website,</p>	<p><b>Article 7. Secretariat.</b></p> <p>The Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is the Technical Secretariat of the Conference, and will have the following functions:</p> <p>[according to the reform of the Statute of the InterAmerican Commission of Women, approved by the 36th Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (2012)].</p>

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<p>information and public documents relating to the Mechanism, as well as the final report of the CEVI issued at the end of each multilateral evaluation round, once they have been made public in accordance with the provisions of the Statute, and the Final Report of the Conference;</p> <p>d. To act as the nexus for coordination and contacts for sending and exchanging documents and communication for the Conference, the CEVI, the OAS organs, and other organizations or institutions;</p> <p>e. To present the Final Report of the Meeting of the Conference and the Hemispheric Report to the Assembly of CIM Delegates and the OAS General Assembly;</p> <p>f. To prepare summary minutes of the Meetings of the Conference;</p> <p>g. To submit financial reports to donors as required;</p> <p>h. To perform functions for the effective fulfillment of its functions; and</p> <p>i. To perform other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Conference.</p>	
V. MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE	V. MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE
<p><b>Article 8. Venue.</b></p> <p>The Conference may hold meetings in the State Party that offers to host them, or otherwise, at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat.</p> <p>Said offer, if not made at the preceding meeting of the Conference, should be communicated in writing to the Secretary General of the OAS, who will then inform all States Parties on the matter through their Permanent Missions to the OAS.</p>	<p><b>Article 8. Venue.</b></p> <p>This offer, if not made at the previous meeting of the Conference, shall be communicated in writing at least 8 months in advance, to the Executive</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
	<p>Secretariat of the CIM in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, which shall inform all the States Parties through their Permanent Missions to the OAS. In the event that two or more offers are found, the Presidency will consult to find a solution.</p>
<p><b>Article 9.</b> Convocation.</p> <p>As set forth in Article 5 of the Statute, the Conference will hold a regular meeting every two years and special meetings as often as it deems necessary.</p> <p>The OAS Secretary General will convene the regular and special meetings of the Conference by way of written communication directed to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the States Parties, through their Permanent Missions to the OAS, with copy to their respective Competent National Authorities (CNA).</p>	<p><b>Article 9.</b> Convocation</p> <p>As set forth in Article 5 of the Statute, the Conference will hold a regular meeting every two years and special meetings as often as it deems necessary.</p> <p>The State holding the Presidency of the Conference, in accordance with article 6, subsection C of these Rules of Procedure, shall convene the regular and special meetings of the Conference through the Secretary General of the OAS who will send the invitations to the regular and special meetings of the Conference by means of a written communication addressed to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the States Parties, through their Permanent Missions to the OAS, with copy to the duly designated Competent National Authorities (CNAs) in charge of gender equality and gender-based violence policies; and any others that each State may designate.</p> <p>Any State Party may request the Presidency, with a copy to the States Parties, to convene a duly justified special session, by sending the communication to the OAS General Secretariat which, through the Executive Secretariat of the CIM, in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, will forward this request to the National Competent</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
	<p>Authorities (NCA), with a copy to their Permanent Missions to the OAS. Invitations to regular and special meetings will be issued at least 90 calendar days in advance.</p> <p>To determine the realization of special meetings of the Conference, the Presidency, in consensus with the Vice-Presidencies, and after carrying out the consultations deemed appropriate, will communicate its decision to the States Parties.</p>
<p><b>Article 10.</b> Preparatory Meetings.</p> <p>The State which presides over the Conference will convene the preparatory meetings of States Parties of the Mechanism to for the Meeting of the Conference. The purposes for the preparatory meetings will be, among others:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To determine the venue and date of the next Meeting in case these were not established in the preceding meeting of the Conference;</li> <li>b. To consider the draft agenda and calendar of the Meeting of the Conference;</li> <li>c. To agree on the documents which will be presented for the consideration of the Conference;</li> <li>d. To establish the work methodology and the working commissions;</li> <li>e. To establish the order of precedence, in accordance with Article 17 of this Rules of Procedure; and</li> <li>f. To decide upon the approximate duration of the meeting of the Conference.</li> </ol>	<p>No reform proposals.</p>
	<p><b>Article 10 bis (11).</b> Advance notice of convocation.</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
	<p>Preparatory Meetings may be held as deemed necessary for the preparation and negotiation of the documents to be submitted to the Conference. Such preparatory meetings shall be convened by the Chair of the Conference at least 20 calendar days prior to the meeting, which shall be communicated by the Executive Secretariat of the CIM, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, to the States Party through their Competent National Authorities (CNAs), with a copy to their Permanent Missions to the OAS.</p>
	<p><b>Article 10 ter (12).</b> Duration of interventions.</p> <p>At the Preparatory Meetings, which shall be directed by the Chair of the Conference, each intervention or contribution by the Competent National Authorities or delegates designated for this purpose by the State Party may not exceed 5 minutes per intervention, taking into consideration the total duration of the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair of the Conference shall be responsible for deciding questions of order arising during the Preparatory Meetings.</p>
	<p><b>Article 10 quater (13).</b> Adoption of agreements with respect to proposals made to the Conference.</p> <p>For the purpose of submitting documents or proposals for the consideration of the Conference for approval, in accordance with art. 10 octies (17), each State Party shall have the right to one vote, which may be expressed orally by its delegation,</p>

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	<p>either in person or remotely or through the use of virtual communication platforms.</p>
	<p><b>Article 10 quinquies (14).</b> Voting remotely or through the use of virtual communication platforms.</p> <p>In the case of a roll call vote in virtual or hybrid meetings, this shall be carried out through the OAS virtual platform or another that, in its absence, duly safeguards the security of the data and the simultaneous interpretation of official OAS languages; designated for such purposes in advance by the Chair of the Conference, which shall be stated in the notice of the Meeting(s). The result of the vote shall be recorded in the respective minutes.</p> <p>At the end of the vote, the Chair shall announce the result in accordance with the votes expressed by delegations. At the request of any delegation, the Chair shall conduct a formal count of the votes. Each delegation may challenge the result of the formal count by raising a point of order</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
	<p><b>Article 10 sexies (15).</b> Order of Precedence</p> <p>For the purposes of adopting agreements, discussing and/or negotiating the proposals dealt with at the Meetings, the order of precedence for casting the vote shall be determined following the alphabetical order of the name in Spanish of the States, or following the order of precedence of the Permanent Council.</p>
	<p><b>Article 10 septies (16).</b> Closing of the debate.</p> <p>Once the contributions, comments or interventions by the corresponding State Party to the technical proposal subject of the Preparatory Meeting have been finalized, the corresponding debate shall be closed by the Chair of the Conference.</p> <p>The total duration of each Preparatory Meeting shall be determined by the Chair of the Conference prior to its holding, which shall be communicated in the corresponding convocation.</p> <p>Minutes shall be taken of the discussion by the Technical Secretariat, which shall include an excerpt of the dialogue promoted between the delegations. The extracts shall be submitted for consideration by the delegations concerned for an eventual reformulation, in accordance with the proceedings of the corresponding meeting.</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
	<p><b>Article 10 octies (17).</b> Remission of Documents and/or Agreements.</p> <p>The Executive Secretariat of the CIM, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, shall send the text to be submitted to the Conference 15 calendar days prior to the corresponding session.</p> <p>In the following preparatory meetings, the Secretariat shall send the documents with the systematized modification proposals well in advance of the upcoming sessions.</p>
<p><b>Article 11.</b> Delegations.</p> <p>Accreditation of the delegations appointed by the States Parties shall be effected through written communication sent to the OAS Secretary General through the Technical Secretariat of the Conference.</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>
VI. GUESTS	VI. GUESTS
<p><b>Article 12.</b> Non-party States.</p> <p>Member States of the OAS which are not party to the Convention may be invited as Observers to the Meeting of the Conference and its preparatory meetings, if they so request.</p>	<p>Member States of the OAS which are not Party to the Convention, may be invited as Observers to the Meeting of the Conference, if they so request.</p>
<p><b>Article 13.</b> Permanent Observers.</p> <p>Permanent Observers of the OAS may be invited to attend the Meeting of the Conference, if they so request.</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>
<p><b>Article 14.</b> Organs and Organizations.</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>



ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
<p>Inter-American, sub-regional and hemispheric organs and entities as well as international organizations may be invited to the Meeting of the Conference. They may intervene in accordance with the manner that the President of the Conference deems appropriate.</p>	
<p><b>Article 15.</b> Civil Society.</p> <p>If it is deemed convenient, the Presidency may, in joint consultation with States Party in the preparatory meetings, invite representatives of civil society organizations related to the matters of the Convention to attend the meetings of the Conference, in accordance with the principles contained in the Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)].</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>
<p><b>Article 16.</b> Special Guests.</p> <p>Special guests deemed appropriate by the President may be invited to attend the Meeting of the Conference.</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>
<p><b>Article 17.</b> Precedence.</p> <p>The order of precedence of the delegations shall be established by drawing lots in a preparatory meeting. To this end, the alphabetical order of the States in Spanish will be followed</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>
<p><b>Article 18.</b> Languages.</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
<p>The official languages of the Meeting of the Conference are Spanish, French, English and Portuguese.</p>	
VII. SESSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE	VII. SESSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE
<p><b>Article 19.</b> Sessions.</p> <p>The Meeting of the Conference shall comprise an opening session, plenary sessions, and a closing session. These sessions shall be public. However, they may be private if so ruled by the President or requested by any of the representatives.</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>
<p><b>Article 20.</b> Rapporteur.</p> <p>The Conference will elect Rapporteurs as needed. These Rapporteurs will provide written reports which will be presented verbally prior to the conclusion of the Meeting of the Conference and will be included in its Final Report.</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>
<p><b>Article 21.</b> Adoption of Decisions.</p> <p>In the deliberations of the Conference, each State Party will have the right to one vote. Decisions will require the affirmative vote of the majority of the States Parties that are participating in the meeting of the Conference, except as set forth in Article 26 of the Rules of Procedure.</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>
<p><b>Article 22.</b> Quorum.</p> <p>A simple majority of the States Parties to the Conference shall constitute a quorum for holding sessions.</p>	<p>No reform proposals</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
	<p><b>Article 22 bis.</b> Duration of the Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair of the Conference, in consultation with the host country, shall determine the maximum duration of the Meeting, whether regular or special.</p>
	<p><b>Article 22 ter.</b> Use of the floor</p> <p>It shall be determined by the Chairperson of the Conference, in the order in which each delegate requests to speak or, alternatively, according to the alphabetical order in Spanish of the participating States, with a maximum of 5 minutes of speaking time.</p>
	<p><b>Article 22 quater.</b> Point of Order.</p> <p>During the regular or special meetings, any duly designated delegate of the participating States may request the intervention of the Chairperson of the Conference, so that he/she may resolve the matter in accordance with the provisions of these rules of procedure.</p> <p>In this situation, the Chair of the Conference shall call a recess to resolve the matter. In case of disagreement, it shall be approved by a simple majority of the attendees. In case of a tie, the Chair of the Conference shall decide.</p>
	<p><b>Article 22 quinquies.</b> Suspension of the debate.</p> <p>This power is only granted to the Presidency of the Conference in view of its organic faculties, and may</p>

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
	<p>be submitted to a vote of the participating States, which motion shall be understood to be approved by a simple majority of the participating States. In the event of a tie, the Chair of the Conference shall decide.</p>
	<p><b>Article 22 sexies.</b> Closing of the Debate</p> <p>When the Agenda submitted for the consideration of the regular or special session has been sufficiently discussed in the judgment of the Chairperson of the Conference, having certified that each of the matters included in the Agenda has been reviewed and decided upon, the corresponding session shall be terminated.</p>
	<p><b>Article 22 septies.</b> Procedure of motions</p> <p>Each participating State may propose interventions on topics not included in the initial agenda. In such a case, the Chair of the Conference shall allow for their discussion after the end of the regular or special session, and may also allow their presentation in writing.</p> <p>In case of written presentation, if the merit of the background requires it, it may be put in the agenda for the following meeting; all of the above at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Conference.</p>
VIII. MINUTES AND FINAL REPORT	VIII. MINUTES AND FINAL REPORT

ORIGINAL	CEP PRESIDENCY REFORM PROPOSAL
<p><b>Article 23.</b> Minutes</p> <p>Summary minutes shall be recorded of the plenary and working sessions and must contain a summary of the discussions and the full text of agreements reached.</p> <p>The Secretariat shall distribute to the delegations as soon as possible, the provisional draft of the minutes from each session in all the official languages of the Conference. Delegations may submit to the Conference Secretariat any corrections they consider necessary within a period of 15 days following the distribution of that text.</p>	<p>No proposal</p>
<p><b>Article 24.</b> Final Report of the Meeting of the Conference.</p> <p>A final Report of the Meeting of the Conference will be produced which will include, in addition to the conclusions and agreements reached, background information on the organization of the Conference, the list of participants, and basic information on the development of the Conference as well as reports from the respective Rapporteurs.</p>	<p>No proposal</p>
IX. ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE	IX. ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
<p><b>Article 25.</b> Adoption and validity of the Regulations.</p> <p>These Rules of Procedure shall be adopted by the Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties and shall enter into force upon their adoption.</p>	<p>No proposal</p>
<p><b>Article 26.</b> Amendments to the Rules of Procedure.</p> <p>The Rules of Procedure can be amended only by a motion supported by an absolute majority of the States Parties.</p>	<p>No proposal</p>

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	<p data-bbox="1288 240 1505 266">Transitory article:</p> <p data-bbox="1288 311 1916 444">These rules of procedure shall not have retroactive effect. They shall govern in actum from the time of their approval at the session at which they shall be submitted to a vote of the attending states.</p> <p data-bbox="1288 490 1916 695">These regulations shall be made known to the States Parties through the Technical Secretariat, in a coordinated and systematized text, once they have been approved in accordance with the provisions of article 26; this text shall include all approved modifications and complements.</p>



# OAS | MESECVI

FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM  
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI).  
NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTY  
June 11 and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10  
MESECVI-IX/CE/doc.148/24.rev2  
Original: Spanish

## MESECVI STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029<sup>12</sup>

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, commonly known as the Convention of Belém do Pará (1994), stands as a significant milestone in recognizing women's right to live free from violence as a fundamental human right.

Three decades have passed since that pivotal moment, and twenty years since the establishment of the Convention's Follow-up Mechanism (MESECVI). This ongoing commitment provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the past, recognize the progress that has been made, and address the new challenges that are emerging as cultural shifts shape our understanding of how to promote the rights of women<sup>3</sup>, adolescents and girls in all their diversity. To this end, the States Parties take into special consideration the vulnerability to violence experienced by women due to various factors, including: ethnic or racial origin of women, minority or indigenous status, the condition of living in urban or rural areas, color, socio-economic status, language, religion or beliefs, political opinion, national origin, marital status, maternity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, refugee or asylum status, internally displaced status, statelessness, widowhood, migratory status, deprivation of liberty, trafficking in women, situations of armed conflict, and the stigmatization of women who advocate for their rights, particularly human rights defenders or any other condition that may render women and girls vulnerable, in accordance with national legislation in various spheres of public and private life, in order to continue promoting the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Republic of El Salvador reaffirms its strong commitment to fulfilling its obligations and commitments in the...

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

<sup>3</sup> According to the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Violent Death of Women...

<sup>4</sup> Henceforth, when reference is made to women and girls, it shall be understood to mean any woman or girl who...



As a trailblazer in advocating for women's rights, the region has compelled its Member States to develop comprehensive public policies, establish supportive structures, facilitate educational initiatives, launch prevention campaigns, and allocate significant human and material resources. These collective efforts aim not only to bring visibility to the scourge of gender-based violence against women and girls but also to understand and address its underlying causes and far-reaching consequences. However, there is also increasing resistance based on public discourse and unequal power structures, both with respect to social norms and the institutions that articulate the region's legal and juridical scaffolding.

A decade after the Convention entered into force, MESECVI has accumulated 20 years of experience in data collection and evaluation, providing a comprehensive overview of the region. This history provides insight into the initiatives implemented, the lessons learned, and the challenges that remain. Significant progress has been made on several fronts, including the recognition and protection of rights, the strengthening of state capacity, cultural shifts, and increased awareness of women's right to live free from gender-based violence. There have also been notable advances in the establishment of laws and mechanisms for access to justice.

In addition, MESECVI has facilitated peer-to-peer exchanges through platforms such as EDVAW (The Platform of International & Regional Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women) and intergovernmental mechanisms. These avenues have fostered a more nuanced understanding of the international obligations stemming from the Convention. Concepts such as due diligence in preventing, investigating, punishing and redressing violence against women in all its forms, and the obligation to collect information and statistics disaggregated by sex and other relevant variables to assess State efforts, have become fundamental. This framework of equitable indicators has allowed for the analysis of progress and, at times, setbacks in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention by Member States.

In this context, it is imperative to expedite compliance with the commitments outlined in the Convention and to bolster international cooperation to effectively combat violence against women and girls in all its manifestations and across all sectors.

## **II. A NEW SCENARIO: THE CONTINUUM OF VIOLENCE**

The global prevalence of violence against women is increasingly well-documented and substantiated. According to UN Women, in 2022 alone, nearly 48,800 women and girls were killed by their partners or other family members worldwide. In addition, an estimated 736 million women worldwide—nearly one in three—have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner, sexual violence outside of a relationship, or both, at least once in their lives (affecting 30%





of women aged 15 and over). It's important to note that these figures do not even include instances of sexual harassment<sup>5</sup>.

The preliminary findings of the subregional report: "Access to Justice, Truth, and Reparation for Women in Latin America" by the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (CEVI), corresponding to the IV Multilateral Evaluation Round, which is expected to be approved at the next CEVI meeting, also revealed alarming figures related to gender-based violence in the region. Between 2018 and 2022, 700,126 women and 482,227 girls under 18 were reported as victims of sexual crimes. Additionally, 158,177 of these female victims belonged to an ethnic group. Furthermore, 1,973,326 cases of women with disabilities suffering physical, psychological, or sexual violence were documented. Lastly, 1,131,052 cases of pregnant girls were recorded.

Women who have endured violence are disproportionately affected by a range of health issues, including higher rates of depression, anxiety disorders, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV, among others, compared to those who have not experienced such violence. These health challenges may persist even after the violence has ceased<sup>6</sup>.

Most of the violence against women is perpetrated by their current or former spouses or partners. Shockingly, more than 640 million women aged 15 and older—equivalent to 26% of the total population—have been subjected to intimate partner violence<sup>7</sup> while current or former partners have the highest probability of perpetrating a femicide.

Among those who have been in relationships, nearly one in four adolescents aged 15-19 years (24%) has experienced physical or sexual violence from a spouse or partner. Furthermore, sixteen percent of young women aged 15 to 24 have endured this type of violence within the past 12 months.

Despite concerted efforts to shed light on the issue including femicide or feminicide, in the region, significant challenges remain that impede progress toward eradicating violence against women and girls. Both sexual and physical violence against women and girls persists in both the public and private spheres. Moreover, the *continuum* of this violence is expanding into new areas, with technology facilitating new forms of violence, enriched by mechanisms of symbolic violence that previous efforts have struggled to eliminate.

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<sup>5</sup> UN Women, Facts and figures: Ending violence against women. September 2023. Available at: ...

<sup>6</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*.



Within these challenges, sexual violence and barriers to the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights remain pervasive realities at the regional level, with devastating effects on the lives of women, adolescents and girls. Trafficking and crimes associated with sexual exploitation, forced marriage and pregnancy of women and girls, genital mutilation, as well as other forms of abuse expose girls and women to a high risk of physical and mental trauma. These include sexual violence in domestic or family settings, educational institutions, and the workplace, as well as challenges related to access to justice for victims and survivors. Stigma, mistrust, fear, and delays continue to characterize the right to access justice, which remains largely unfulfilled in the Americas for victims, survivors, and their families.

Simultaneously, the proliferation of public discourses that challenge gender equality and downplay the gravity of violence against women poses a concerning setback in the fight against this issue. These discourses not only undermine the strides made in advancing women's rights but also contribute to the erosion of institutions tasked with safeguarding and defending women's rights in all their diversity. This, in turn, perpetuates attitudes and behaviors that legitimize gender-based violence against women and girls and symbolic violence. Therefore, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary, it is imperative to bolster the political will of the States Parties through a robust Strategic Plan aimed at realizing the commitments made with the adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará to combat all forms of violence.

In this regard, it is essential to redouble efforts to promote gender equality and prevent violence against all women and girls, both domestically and internationally. This requires the adoption of concrete actions to translate the commitments made upon ratification of the Convention of Belém do Pará into tangible results, accelerating its effective implementation thirty years after its adoption and twenty years after the creation of the MESECVI. These actions must also address the root causes of gender-based violence and ensure access to justice and appropriate remedies for victims, survivors, and their families.

In this context, the previous MESECVI Strategic Plan, which covered the period from 2018 to 2023 and was extended to 2024, proved to be a crucial tool for guiding action in the region. Despite the disruption in women's lives caused by COVID-19 and the subsequent increase in gender-based violence and discrimination, as well as the stark evidence of persistent inequalities in the region, more than 90% of the plan's objectives were successfully achieved.

Furthermore, the advent of COVID-19 marked a definitive shift from the nascent virtual world for some to a stark reality. Despite the significant digital divide and resulting exclusion, this transition has resulted in a significant shift in the types of violence experienced by women and girls, from offline manifestations to the online sphere.



All forms of violence known up to this point have transitioned into the digital realm, facilitated by the rapid pace of technological advancements and the proliferation of online platforms. This shift has presented new challenges and brought to light additional actors beyond those initially identified in the early years of the Convention and MESECVI.

For instance, in the region, there has been a consistent rise in technology-facilitated violence targeting women, adolescents, and girls as their engagement in digital spaces has increased. Victims commonly report instances of cyberstalking, cyber-sexual harassment, and the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, with social networks serving as the primary medium for these acts of aggression and gender-based violence. Facebook and X have emerged as the predominant platforms where such violence occurs in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, it is important to keep in mind that the list of these platforms is likely to continue to expand during the years of the Plan's implementation.

Furthermore, there is a concerning and sustained uptick in the use of technology to perpetuate domestic and intimate partner violence, often without victims managing to identify that the cyber-control exerted by their partners constitutes a form of violence. Additionally, women who utilize social media platforms to advocate for gender equality, women's rights, and minority rights are particularly susceptible to acts of cyberbullying and threats.

In addition, it has been recognized that women parliamentarians, politicians, journalists, and other women active in digital discourse are disproportionately targeted through digital smear campaigns. These campaigns often involve identity impersonation to silence and send death threats to these women, highlighting the deeply entrenched patriarchal tendencies within Latin American societies<sup>8</sup>.

To make significant strides in addressing these issues, it is imperative to overcome existing obstacles and intensify efforts to promote women's rights based on gender and prevent such violence. This entails not only the development of more robust laws and public policies but also a commitment to strengthening national and regional structures for the prevention and protection of women's rights. Central to this effort is prioritizing the planning and allocation of resources to address both historical challenges and emerging forms of gender-based violence.

There is also an urgent need to strengthen platforms for exchange, thematic dialogues, and the inclusion of diverse women's voices, taking into account an intercultural perspective. Only through

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<sup>8</sup> MESECVI/UN Women: Report on Cyber-stalking and Cyber-violence in the framework of the Belem do Para...



coordinated and determined action can we envision a future in which all women can live free from gender-based violence and fully enjoy their human rights.

In order to strengthen the work of MESECVI within the English-speaking Caribbean, it is critical to advocate for their active and meaningful participation as an integral part of the mechanism. Recognizing the cultural diversity and unique characteristics of each state, efforts will be directed towards promoting interregional cooperation and sharing best practices in the prevention and elimination of violence against women. This will involve the establishment of platforms for dialogue and cooperation to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences, professional training and the implementation of inclusive policies tailored to the specific needs of women and girls in the English-speaking Caribbean. In this way, the strengthening of MESECVI in the English-speaking Caribbean will contribute significantly to the protection of women's rights and to the building of more equitable and just societies.

Furthermore, it is essential to reinforce and sustain interaction between the two bodies of MESECVI—the Conference of States Parties and the Committee of Experts—to ensure effective coordination in policy formulation, implementation of recommendations, monitoring of policy implementation, and evaluation of their efficacy, both at the national and hemispheric levels. This underscores the importance of fostering an ongoing and constructive dialogue between the two bodies, while facilitating the exchange of information and best practices to comprehensively address violence against women and girls in the region.

Additionally, it is imperative to ensure the effective functioning of national and regional mechanisms to respond to violence against women. This includes promoting the participation of women in structures directly or indirectly influencing public policy related to security, health, employment, migration, education, gender-based violence eradication, the 2030 agenda, and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

Ensuring equitable representation of women in decision-making and leadership, and allocating sufficient resources for the execution of programs and actions aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women and girls in all its forms is essential. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programs is essential to ensure an effective and sustainable response to this issue.

The Strategic Plan should have a maximum duration of five years, with implementation proposed between June 2024 and December 2029. This timeframe will allow for the evolution of the content, periodic review and adaptation of the plan based on regional needs and the progress, achievements and rights that women are advocating for through their local efforts.

### III. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ENHANCED BY THE PRESENCE OF VIOLENCE WITH FIREARMS IN THE REGION'S TERRITORIES

Discrimination and violence that victimize women and girls and impede the enjoyment of their rights intersect with their social condition, class or economic position, age, race, skin color, disabilities and gender differences. In addition, these intersections are linked to the situations of vulnerability that affect their lives, such as: massive migration, displacement of communities due to climate disasters, the presence of armed violence and firearms violence, as well as of criminal organizations that appropriate their resources and territories, trafficking for sexual exploitation, femicides, among others.

The presence of firearms completes the knot of all forms of violence, interconnecting and exacerbating all forms of gender-based violence, reconfiguring the continuum of violence experienced by women in private, public and community spaces<sup>9</sup>.

With the proliferation of firearms, the continuum of violence that crosses the private and public spheres has subjected women to two incessant offensives: aggressions in the private sphere derived from men's resistance to the advancement of women's rights and autonomy, and attacks by criminal organizations that mark their territory of operation on women's bodies<sup>10</sup> and destroy living conditions, security and democracy in the territories where they establish their dominion.

The presence of firearms has made Latin America and some Caribbean countries the most violent region in the world in terms of homicide deaths and one of the most heavily armed in the world. The UNODC report (2020)<sup>11</sup> provides evidence of how weapons deteriorate living conditions and social and economic development in the region's precarious areas. The presence of criminal or delinquent groups deteriorate democratic life everywhere, but more intensely affects the poor populations with greater vulnerability and risk conditions, where women tend to be the majority.

The increasingly ubiquitous presence of illegally trafficked small arms and light weapons (SALW) has significantly increased the number of violent deaths from alleged homicides, with a significant impact on the increase in femicides due to the use of these weapons, as shown by studies carried out in Argentina<sup>12</sup>, Mexico<sup>13</sup>, Ecuador, Peru and some Caribbean countries<sup>14</sup>.

On the other hand, the ease of acquiring SALW in the illegal trade circuits in many areas of the Americas is having a negative impact on efforts to move towards more egalitarian and peaceful

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<sup>9</sup> Incháustegui Romero, T. (2023). The Trafficking of Weapons and its Impact on the Life and Security of Women...

<sup>10</sup> Rita Segato (2006). Writing on the bodies of murdered women in Cd. Juárez. Territory, sovereignty and...

<sup>11</sup> According to UNODC (2020) Global Study on Firearms Trafficking, by 2012 homicides by firearms...

<sup>12</sup> Otamendi, Ma. Alejandra (2015) suicides, femicide-suicides and firearms in Argentina Hegemonic masculinity...

<sup>13</sup> See Cos, Magda (2012). Tráfico de Armas en México. Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial México and also...

<sup>14</sup> In the case of Ecuador see: #8M Nothing to celebrate Fundación Aldea Ecuador (2022) Femicidios 2022. At...



gender relations by promoting new forms of masculinity, which has been achieved through the various actions aligned with the objectives of the Belém do Pará Convention. Overcoming violent forms of masculinity is essential to favor the structural and institutional adjustment of women's progress with male expectations and behaviors, in order to overcome cultural obstacles to the eradication of violence against women and girls.

In this context, the prevention policies promoted by the Convention of Belem do Para must address the effect of the armament of SALW, paramilitarism and the presence of criminal organizations on the territories, lives and security of women, as they severely affect their human rights and destroy their lives and are an obstacle to the advancement and full exercise and enjoyment of their rights.

This requires joining the just demand of feminist pro-peace and disarmament organizations from all continents, to position the control of small arms and light weapons as an urgent and strategic issue in policies for the prevention and eradication of violence. In order to address it, MESCVI-CEVI proposed at the XIX EDVAW Meeting held in New York (13/03/2024) to incorporate the gender perspective in the reports of the international protocols for the control of illegal trafficking in arms and ammunition corresponding to the International Convention against Organized Crime (Palermo Convention, 2000) and to follow up on the actions of the signatory states in the trafficking and possession of SALW. This also means including the impact of SALW on the lives and safety of women in the reports of the OAS States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (OAS, 1997)<sup>15</sup>.

Likewise, within the framework of EDVAW, MESECVI plans to demand the incorporation of the violent situations created by the presence of criminal organizations and armed violence and by firearm in our territories, as part of the reports and follow-up to Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council, in addition to strengthening the policies for the prevention of gender-based violence that the State Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention have in place.

#### **IV. INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE AS A FACTOR THAT INTENSIFIES ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE**

Along with the growth and diversification of violence against women and girls, the failure of States' capacities or the weakness of the institutionalization of their commitments does not seem to be resolved. Stigmatization, resistance, omissions, indifference, misconduct, offenses and even criminal behavior on the part of police, prosecutors, forensic experts, judges, as well as mistreatment of women by healthcare workers when they come to seek help, support and

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<sup>15</sup> The Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and...





protection, generate distrust, fear and fear in the victims. This discourages reporting, but also grants impunity to the aggressors. As a result, the prosecution and administration of justice continue to be indebted to victims, survivors and relatives of victims in the Americas.

Institutional violence is a silent, but persistent and omnipresent violence that adds victims and re-victimization on a daily basis. Institutional violence intensifies all forms of violence because it re-victimizes women. Therefore, one of the fundamental commitments of the States Parties to the principles and recommendations of the Convention is to reverse discriminatory and/or misogynistic and inferiorizing attitudes, behaviors and treatment of police officers and justice operators that result in refusals to provide care, protection and justice to women who report and seek protection or support. From this perspective, the consequences of violence weaken the rule of law.

Complaints from women who face the various forms of institutional violence on a daily basis are common and recognized, but little is known about what these practices are made of and the institutional background they rely on. Therefore, it is essential to know how these forms of resistance that are expressed in patriarchy and neglect are presented; to establish both their objective and subjective typicity, considering that, in the violation of the human rights of women and girls, it is the State who participates directly and indirectly, whether by promoting it, consenting to it, hiding it or generating an organizational climate that gives it shelter (Barrientos, P.2016).

In this sense, the MESECVI intends to redouble its advocacy, monitoring, analysis and recommendations to the State Parties regarding the prevention and eradication of institutional violence.

## **V. THE NON-REGRESSION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

Although there are significant advances and opportunities in the region for the fulfillment of women's rights, with sustained progress in recognizing the rights of all women, the inclusion of specific national plans, the recognition of criminal offenses related to violence against women, the increase in specialized justice and relevant jurisprudence, and greater training for officials, challenges and threats persist, some of which have been articulated through political narratives.

However, the consensus on equality and non-discrimination as an ethical and legal principle remains strong, and despite our great diversity, equality as a human good unites the will of the States Parties and enhances all our efforts towards a life free of violence for all women and girls in the region.

The challenge lies in highlighting and renewing these ideas and the efforts of the States so that the advances, including those achieved at the level of Inter-American jurisprudence, can be integrated



into the cultures of the countries and become part of an education free from stereotyped behavior patterns and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority and subordination, which our mechanisms are working to eliminate.

Hence the importance of having as a fundamental axis the principles of non-regression of women's rights, which is based on the obligation to ensure that once certain rights have been achieved, they cannot be diminished. This means that any attempt to reverse the progress in women's rights would be contrary to international human rights commitments and the principles of progressivity and non-discrimination.

Therefore, the States commit to protecting and promoting women's rights, ensuring that any legislative or policy measures or their narratives do not diminish or annul the rights already acquired. For this reason, the Belém do Pará Convention and its monitoring mechanism are important tools to guarantee the progressivity and non-regression of women's rights. The effective implementation of the Convention and participation in its monitoring Mechanism can help strengthen the protection of women's rights and prevent any attempts at regression in this area.

## **VI. THE CHALLENGES OF THE CONVENTION AND THE MESECVI IN THE FACE OF THE VIOLENCE PANORAMA**

The complex panorama of violence against women and girls in the region described above places the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the twentieth anniversary of the creation of MESECVI-CEVI at a particularly important juncture that requires deepening efforts to strengthen the political will and response capacities of the States Parties through a strategic plan that succeeds in materializing the commitments assumed with the adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará to combat all forms of violence.

This requires defining and adopting concrete actions around the old and new challenges of the mandates of the Convention and its instruments, to accelerate their effective implementation, as well as to address the underlying causes of gender-based violence and ensure access to justice and adequate remedies for victims.

The MESECVI Strategic Plan for the period from 2018 to 2023, extended until 2024, was an instrument for guiding actions in the region, which managed to successfully address more than 90% of the proposed issues, despite the irruption of COVID 19 and what it affected in terms of violence, discrimination and inequality in the lives of women and the region.

Overcoming existing obstacles and redoubling efforts to promote women's rights based on gender, as well as preventing the violence that affects their lives and rights, are conditions without which





it will not be possible to achieve significant progress. This requires, above all, strengthening national and regional structures and mechanisms for the prevention and protection of women's rights and improving the design of legislation and public policies. This, in turn, implies focusing on planning and adequate financial and human resources to address the challenges of old and new forms of violence against women and girls.

It is especially necessary to strengthen spaces for exchange, thematic dialogues and listening to the different populations of women, from an intercultural perspective. Greater coordination and interweaving of the different government agencies are also required to materialize effective and pertinent responses to the conditions and situations of violence experienced by women and girls in all their diversity. More decisive and comprehensive prevention policies and measures are also needed so that women and girls can live free from violence and fully enjoy their human rights.

It is necessary to deepen the analysis of good and bad practices and studies on the new complexity of violence, in order to clearly identify the focal points of priority attention and the entry points for attention. It is necessary to develop essential care services and forms of preventive follow-up, attending to the differentiated risks of women, according to their characteristics and situations. It becomes imperative to extend the links between the mandates of the Convention and other international instruments in order to address the new wars and armed conflicts, as well as the new criminological and sociodemographic phenomena to which thousands of women in our region are subjected.

In this context, it is essential to strengthen the work of the MESECVI, particularly in the context of the English-speaking Caribbean countries, since it is imperative to promote active and meaningful participation as States Parties to the Convention and as members of the Mechanism. Recognizing the cultural diversity and particularities of each State, we will work to promote inter-regional collaboration and the exchange of best practices in the prevention and eradication of violence against women. This will involve the creation of platforms for dialogue and cooperation to facilitate the exchange of information, the training of professionals and the implementation of inclusive policies that address the specific needs of women in the English-speaking Caribbean. In this way, the strengthening of the MESECVI in the English-speaking Caribbean region will contribute significantly to the protection of women's rights and the construction of more egalitarian and just societies.

It is also essential to strengthen and continue the interaction between the two organs of the MESECVI, the Conference of States Parties, the Committee of Experts and Civil Society, to ensure effective coordination in the formulation of policies, the implementation of recommendations, the follow-up of implemented policies and the evaluation of their effectiveness, both at the national and hemispheric levels.

This implies maintaining a continuous and constructive dialogue between the two bodies, as well as facilitating the exchange of information and best practices to comprehensively address violence against women in the region.

On the other hand, it is imperative to financially guarantee the proper functioning of national and regional mechanisms to respond to violence against women, as well as to promote the participation of women in the structures that directly or indirectly impact public policy related to security, health, labor and education for the eradication of gender-based violence, the 2030 agenda and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

This includes ensuring the equitable representation of women in decision-making spaces and the allocation of adequate resources for programs and actions aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women in all its manifestations. The inclusion of a gender perspective in all policies and programs is essential to ensure an effective and sustainable response to this problem.

The Strategic Plan should not exceed five years, and the proposed period for its execution is from June 2024 to December 2029. This will make it possible to advance in the contents, review and adjust the plan according to the needs of the region and the progress, conquest and vindication of rights that women themselves achieve through their local struggles.

### **III. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND AXES OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Goal I: Strengthen the guarantees and protection of women's human rights from the perspective of diversity, intersectionality<sup>16</sup> and interculturality (Articles 7 and 9 of the Belém do Pará Convention).**

**Main Objective:**

To promote the effective protection and assurance of women's human rights, employing an inclusive approach that acknowledges diversity, intersectionality and interculturality, from June 2024 to December 2029. This will be achieved through the implementation of public policy instruments and model regulations, aimed at facilitating and strengthening the capacities of the States Parties in eradicating violence against women, adolescents and girls in the region.

**Secondary Objectives:**

1. Strengthen the attention and response to the specific needs of women with disabilities, Afro-descendant, indigenous, migrant and elderly women, adolescents and girls, women living in rural

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<sup>16</sup> CEDAW, General Recommendation 28, paragraph 18: Intersectionality is a basic concept for understanding the...



areas, women human rights defenders, journalists, women politicians, refugees and victims of human trafficking.

2. To foster processes of investigation, truth, justice, reparation, and the eradication of stereotypes based on gender, culture, ethnicity, race and/or national origin, social or economic status, disability et al., which are crucial in combating violence in the region. This will be achieved through the implementation of specific tools, laws, and model regulations.

3. Promote the adoption of laws, policies and mechanisms to eradicate trafficking in women, girls and adolescents and associated transnational crimes in the region, from a prevention and reparation approach, identifying risk and vulnerability factors that facilitate trafficking.

4. To bolster strategic partnerships with executive powers, particularly with key sectors such as security, education, health, migration, justice, and finance.

5. Forge strong alliances with the judicial and legislative branches, as well as with public ministries and ombudsman's offices, to advocate for public policies that incorporate a gender, intercultural, diversity, and human rights perspective.

6. Strengthen alliances with civil society organizations.

7. Consolidate the MESECVI as a space for technical dialogue, promoter and interlocutor of social communication as agreed upon by the States Parties in order to move forward.

8. Strengthen adequate fund raising that guarantees the implementation of the Strategic Plan and its effective budgetary execution.

### **Compliance Indicators:**

- Short Term (until 2026):

a. Enhanced involvement of Afro-descendant, indigenous and rural women, elderly women, migrant women, women with disabilities, and civil society organizations in capacity-building initiatives aimed at monitoring the implementation of the Convention in State Parties.

b. Facilitation of at least two strategic litigation workshops in collaboration with civil society that promote gender equality and women's rights.

- Medium Term (until 2028):

a. Establish strategic agreements with each of the three branches: executive, judicial and legislative of State Parties, as well as with the public and forensic ministries and Ombudsman's offices, in accordance with the regulations of each State.



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- b. Strengthening strategies that enable the generation of resources from international cooperation for the approval of at least two Model Laws and two public policy instruments with an intercultural, intersectional, human security, and gender-sensitive approach.
- c. Increase in resource allocation for gender-based violence prevention programs in at least two State Parties.
- d. Development of at least two training on existing cooperation mechanisms for the eradication of human trafficking with civil society, network of experts, survivors and other social and institutional actors, including officials of the police, courts of justice, Public Prosecutor's Office, among other related actors.
- e. Update the Progress Indicators for the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention.
- f. Consolidation of intersectoral strategic alliances for the promotion of women's rights.

## - Long Term (until 2029):

- a. Enhanced capacity of States to report process and outcome indicators, along with comprehensive analysis of this information from an intersectional and gender approach at the regional level.
- b. Consolidation of at least three multi-sectoral strategic alliances dedicated to the advancement of women's rights in each State Party.
- c. Increase and sustainability in the allocation of resources for gender-based violence prevention programs.

## **Goal II: Strengthening the capacities of the States Parties to comply with the provisions of Article 8h of the Convention**

### **Main Objective:**

To strengthen the capacity of States Parties to comply with the protection standards set out in the Convention, using the Indicators System, from June 2024 to December 2029.

### **Secondary Objectives:**

1. Promote inter-institutional agreements and action platforms at the national, local, regional, and global levels to facilitate dialogues and exchange of experiences aimed at strengthening Convention implementation.
2. Ensure effective monitoring of compliance with MESECVI commitments or recommendations during the hemispheric rounds.

3. Provide training tools to States Parties on designing and assessing the impact of public policies related to security, education, health, justice and the eradication of gender-based violence.
4. Offer permanent technical assistance to States in transitioning to inclusive laws and public policies addressing various forms of violence against women.
5. Evaluate the situation of vulnerability<sup>17</sup> and intersectionality in the attention to the different factors of violence and discrimination that can affect all girls, adolescents and women.
5. bis Evaluate the situation of vulnerability in the attention to the different factors of violence and discrimination that can affect trans, lesbian and intersex women<sup>18</sup>.
6. Strengthen the capacity of States to prevent, punish and eradicate sexual violence, while ensuring the protection of the sexual and reproductive rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity.
7. Strengthen the capacity of the States Party to adapt legislation and criminal, civil and administrative, as well as procedures of other natures to prevent re-victimization or discrimination against women victims or witnesses during the investigation of crimes and the corresponding trial, and consequently, train judicial personnel on the importance of effectively protecting these women.
8. Facilitate and promote the incorporation of the use of the Indicator Systems, during the period from June 2024 to December 2029, for the compilation of information for the preparation of national and sub-regional reports.

**Compliance Indicators:**

- Short Term (until 2026):

- a. Establish at least two inter-institutional agreements at the regional level.
- b. Conduct at least three training sessions on public policy design for officials, including at least one session in the English-speaking Caribbean.
- c. Carrying out at least two instances of exchange of good practices in the area of procedural guarantees and standards of protection for women witnesses/victims or witnesses of gender-based crimes, aimed at officials of justice institutions and prosecutors/public prosecutors' offices.

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<sup>17</sup> Art. 9 Belém do Pará Convention: “With respect to the adoption of the measures in this Chapter, the States...

<sup>18</sup> Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines establish a reservation to this language.

- Medium Term (through 2028):

- a. Revise the current legislation related to the protection of women's rights to enhance inclusiveness and with the purpose of generating at least 3 thematic recommendations to achieve a change in the legislation of the States Party, and being at least one in the Anglophone Caribbean.
- b. Implementation of pilot programs with special attention to afro-descendant, indigenous, rural, migrant women, and progressively for other women in situations of vulnerability.
- b.bis Implementation of pilot programs with special attention to trans, lesbian and intersexual women and of sexual diversity in at least two States Parties.
- d. Conduct at least two studies, one in the Caribbean region and the other in Latin America about institutional violence and promote the exchange of experiences among the States Parties on effective programs in its reduction.

- Long Term (until 2029):

- a. Improve the capacity of States Parties to implement measurements on the prevalence of sexual violence, especially associated with transnational crimes such as trafficking of women, girls and adolescents for sexual exploitation.
- b. Review and analyze regulations in at least five States Parties in order to formulate thematic recommendations to promote changes in the legislation guaranteeing sexual and reproductive rights and the right to health.

**Goal III: Visibility of measures adopted to prevent and eradicate violence against women (Article 10 of the Convention of Belém do Pará).**

**Main Objective:**

To increase the visibility of measures implemented for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women, while identifying and addressing challenges in their implementation, from June 2024 to December 2029.

**Secondary Objectives:**

1. Strengthen the capacities of the national women and gender machineries to mainstream gender responsiveness as well as to monitor and evaluate the response to laws and policies for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence.



2. Strengthen existing bridges between States Parties of the Convention and Civil Society Organizations for the monitoring of the implementation and the response to gender responsive laws and policies for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence.
3. Develop awareness-raising and training materials, as well as Information, Education and Communication (IEC) tools for the defense of women's rights.
4. Conduct capacity-building processes in specific States Parties to improve understanding and advocacy for women's rights.

**Performance Indicators:**

- Short Term (through 2026):

- a. Implementation of monitoring programs in at least three States Parties from the region, at least one of which is from the English-speaking Caribbean.
- b. Development of awareness-raising materials on the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women and girls and women's rights in four languages: spanish, english, french and portuguese.

- Medium Term (through 2028):

- a. Increase the participation of women in all their diversity<sup>19</sup> in spaces for discussion and decision-making on public policies to eradicate violence against women and girls.
- b. Carry out five capacity building processes in different regions that include a variety of populations of women and girls.

- Long Term (until 2029):

- a. Publication of annual reports detailing the implementation of measures to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women and girls.
- b. Integration of the gender perspective into public policies in at least six States Parties.

**Goal IV: Acceleration of the implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará.**

**Main Objective:**

To compel States Parties to fulfill their commitment to eradicating various manifestations of gender-based violence and guaranteeing the right of women in all their diversity to live a life free from violence.

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<sup>19</sup> Jamaica, Paraguay and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines establish reservation to this language.



**Secondary Objectives:**

To ensure the cooperation of States Parties in the formation of one or more working groups tasked with developing concrete actions to change the narrative in Caribbean and Latin American countries, and to promote greater commitment improving synergies with the Regional Gender Agenda.

**Compliance Indicators:****- Short Term (until 2026):**

- a. Create and articulate working groups for the strengthening of the MESECVI through processes guided by the States Parties.
- b. Incorporation of civil society organizations that promote women's rights into the working groups.
- c. Strengthening of the mechanism for periodic monitoring of goal attainment through the measurement of proposed indicators.

**- Medium Term (until 2028):**

- a. Establishment of general agreements to strengthen relations between the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Latin America through the exchange of best practices, experiences and lessons learned.

**- Long Term (until 2029):**

- a. Creation of tools to enable the implementation of established agreements, as well as public policies in at least five States Parties in the English-speaking Caribbean countries and three in Latin America.





## FOOTNOTES

1. ... 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. ...their diversity; women and girls in all their diversity; any person self-perceived as a woman; sexual and reproductive rights; intersectionality; trans, lesbian, and intersex women; 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. ...(Femicide/Feminicide) which establishes in its article 3.e: "Woman: any person self-perceived as a woman".
4. ... may belong to these groups or populations that may be in a situation of greater vulnerability.
5. ...<https://www.unwomen.org/es/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures#83918>
6. Ibidem.
7. Ibidem.



8. ...Convention, pg. 54. 2022. Available at: <https://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/MESECVI-Ciberviolencia-ES.pdf>
9. ...and Girls. In: Security, International Law, and Police Institutions. Ed: University of Guadalajara et al.
10. ...second-state crimes. In: [https://www.feministas.org/IMG/pdf/rita\\_segato\\_.pdf](https://www.feministas.org/IMG/pdf/rita_segato_.pdf)
11. ...accounted for 70% in Central America and 60% in South America and the Caribbean, while in the rest of the world only 42% of all homicides were associated with firearms.
12. ...under debate. Available at: <https://rcs.cienciassociales.edu.uy/index.php/rcs/article/view/75>. Also Khatchik Der Ghougassian; Alejandra Otamendi; Diego Fleitas Ortiz de Rosas (2015) Intimate violence, femicides and firearms in Argentina. And Argentina Judicial Information Center 2022 At <https://ssl.cij.gov.ar/nota-38781-Femicidios-con-armas-de-fuego-en-uno-de-cada-cuatro-casos.html>
13. ...Incháustegui Teresa (2023) El tráfico de armas y su impacto en la vida y seguridad de las mujeres y las niñas. In Moloeznik, M.P., Padilla, López J.T and Nuño, G. Uriel (Coords) Seguridad, Derecho Internacional e Instituciones policiales. UdG -Centro Universitario del Norte, Mexico. <https://isbnmexico.indautor.cerlalc.org/catalogo.php?mode=detalle&nt=406394>
14. ...<http://www.fundacionaldea.org/noticias-aldea/primermapa2022>. Also Jenny Pontón Femicidio en el Ecuador (2009): realidad latente e ignorada. Flacso Ecuador. In Peru see Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática In: <https://m.inei.gob.pe/prensa/noticias/141-victimas-de-feminicidio-se-registraron-en-el-peru-durante-el-ano-2021-14081/> For other countries in the region including the Caribbean see IDB (2020) "Feminicidio en América Latina y el Caribe. A route towards data standardization. Case studies: Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, and Paraguay.
15. ... Ammunition (generally referred to as the Firearms Protocol), adopted by the UN General Assembly on May 2001, which complements the instrument from which it derives, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention, 200).
16. ...scope of the general obligations of States parties contained in article 2. The discrimination of women based on sex and gender is inextricably linked with other factors



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that affect women, such as race, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, status, age, class, caste and sexual orientation and gender identity”.

17. ... Parties shall take special account of the vulnerability of women to violence by reason of among others, their race or ethnic background or their status as migrants, refugees or displaced persons. Similar consideration shall be given to women subjected to violence while pregnant or who are disabled, of minor age, elderly, socioeconomically disadvantaged, affected by armed conflict or deprived of their freedom.”
18. Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines establish a reservation to this language.
19. Jamaica, Paraguay and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines establish reservation to this language.



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM  
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)  
NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTY  
June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 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, 2024<sup>12</sup>**

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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 diversity<sup>3</sup> 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,

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

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

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



maternity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity<sup>45</sup>, 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 girls<sup>6</sup>, 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;

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

<sup>5</sup> Ecuador establishes reservation to the expression related to sexual orientation and gender identity...

<sup>6</sup> 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.