

MESECVI promotes dialogue with youth in Uruguay to incorporate their contributions into the Inter-American Model Law on gender-based digital violence against women

Montevideo, June 30, 2025 — The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) carried out an official visit to Uruguay from June 24 to 26, with the aim of advancing the incorporation of a child and adolescent rights perspective into the drafting process of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women. Through a work agenda that fostered active participation from various sectors, the visit created spaces for dialogue and the collection of proposals to address this form of violence.

The delegation—composed of the Expert from Uruguay to the Committee of Experts (CEVI), Alicia Deus; the Technical Secretary of the Mechanism, Luz Patricia Mejía; and specialist Sara Brochet—began the visit with a technical meeting with representatives of the Judiciary of Uruguay, the national offices of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF, and with the participation of the Inter-American Children’s Institute of the OAS. The meeting, held at the UNFPA Uruguay office, aimed to reflect on the integration of a child and adolescent rights approach into the Model Law through the exchange of good practices and identification of common challenges.

One of the main events of the visit was the *Intergenerational Dialogue on Gender-Based Digital Violence*, organized by MESECVI, UNFPA Uruguay, and the Platform for Children and Adolescents (PIAs), in partnership with the Parliament of Uruguay and UN Women. The activity, which took place at the headquarters of the Legislative Branch, was attended by the Vice President of Uruguay, Carolina Cosse, who engaged in dialogue with more than 50 participants—including 30 adolescents and young people—as well as national authorities and representatives from international, regional, and civil society organizations.

In her remarks, the Vice President acknowledged the contributions of the young participants and underscored the importance of having a Model Law that serves as a regional guide to comprehensively address digital violence.

The event also included the participation of the Director of the National Institute for Women (Inmujeres) and National Authority to MESECVI, Mónica Xavier, who expressed her support for the development of this regional instrument.

The dialogue focused on listening to the voices of adolescents and young people, who shared their experiences and reflections on the impact of digital violence on the lives of girls, adolescents, and women. Among their proposals, they highlighted the need for educational processes that involve not only children and adolescents, but also teachers and families. They also emphasized their right to advocate on issues that directly affect them and underscored the importance of incorporating mental health support as a core component of care and reparation, both for victims and young perpetrators.

In this context, the Technical Secretary of MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, emphasized that working with youth—one of the groups most affected by digital violence—is a priority for the Mechanism in its efforts toward a regulatory framework for technology that ensures the protection of the human rights of women, girls, and adolescents.

Also participating in the event were CEVI Expert Alicia Deus and UNFPA Uruguay Representative Valeria Ramos, who agreed on the importance of creating spaces such as this one in Uruguay to support efforts to confront gender-based digital violence.

As part of the agenda, the MESECVI Technical Secretary also participated in a session of the National Consultative Council for a Life Free of Violence against Women, held at the Ministry of Social Development and presided over by Mónica Xavier, Director of Inmujeres. The session addressed the need for coordinated institutional responses to the various forms of digital violence, with particular attention to their differentiated impacts on girls, adolescents, and women.

With this visit, Uruguay became the seventh country to host consultations and in-person meetings as part of the drafting process of the Inter-American Model Law on gender-based digital violence against women. This initiative reaffirms MESECVI's commitment to a participatory, inclusive, and effective construction of this regional instrument, strengthening ties among States, youth, civil society, and international organizations to advance the eradication of gender-based digital violence in the region.