



Communique Committee of Experts

Committee of Experts of the MESECVI expresses deep concern and rejection of the decision to dissolve the Ministry of Women and Human Rights in Ecuador

Washington, DC, August 15, 2025. [The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women "Belém do Pará Convention" \(MESECVI\)](#) expresses its rejection of the decision, taken at the highest level of the State of Ecuador, to merge the Ministry of Women and Human Rights with the Ministry of Government, which effectively leads to its disappearance. The elimination of the main governing body for gender equality and the eradication of violence against women in the country directly affects the State's institutional capacity to guarantee the human rights of Ecuadorian women and girls and compromises Ecuador's compliance with its international commitments.

The Committee of Experts (CEVI) has taken note of the executive decree issued on July 24, 2025, which formalizes the dissolution of the Ministry of Women and Human Rights, created in November 2022. The Committee also takes note of the concern expressed by civil society organizations dedicated to the defense of women's rights regarding the impact that this decision could have in a context of high prevalence of gender-based violence against women, as indicated by official statistics¹ and civil society organizations that record one femicide every 21 hours in Ecuador².

The CEVI reiterates that the elimination of the national mechanism for the advancement of women's rights constitutes a violation of the progressive nature of human rights and the principle of non-regression that governs them, established in Article 8 of the Belém do Pará Convention, a legally binding treaty for Ecuador. It also goes against the international commitments made by the Ecuadorian State in the field of women's human rights.

In this context, the Committee stresses the importance of having a gender institution with ministerial rank, technical and decision-making autonomy, and sufficient resources, as a key element for the effective implementation of public policies and regulations aimed at the

¹ See: https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Estadisticas_Sociales/Violencia_de_genero_2019/Principales%20resultados%20ENVIGMU%202019.pdf

² See: <https://www.fundacionaldea.org/mapas>

prevention, attention, protection, reparation, and access to justice for women victims and survivors of violence. These obligations, which seek to guarantee the right of women and girls to live free from violence, are related to the standards set out in the Belém do Pará Convention, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and other international regulatory frameworks on women's human rights.

The CEVI notes with concern that this decision is part of a broader regional trend, identified in recent communications by the Committee, in which processes of weakening, downgrading or elimination of national mechanisms for the advancement of women have been observed. In light of this situation, the Committee emphasizes the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of States to respond adequately and sustainably to gender-based violence against women and girls.

For all these reasons, the Committee of Experts emphatically calls on the authorities of the State of Ecuador, in particular the Executive Branch, to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the protection and exercise of women's human rights, including the strengthening of a robust, specialized gender institution with political support at the highest level to ensure its effective functioning. Likewise, the Experts urge the State authorities to continue advancing in the development of comprehensive public policies, national plans, and sustained strategies aimed at the prevention, attention, punishment, and reparation of violence against women, in compliance with the international commitments assumed by Ecuador.

The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention, through its Committee of Experts, makes itself available to the State of Ecuador for any technical support they may require in this matter.

The Committee of Experts is the technical body of the MESECVI, responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Convention of Belém do Pará. It is made up of independent Experts, appointed by each of the States Parties from among their nationals, who perform their duties in a personal capacity.