



OAS

COMMUNIQUE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

MESECVI

Follow-Up Mechanism to the
Belém do Pará Convention

Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Calls for Safeguarding Gender Equality Institutions and Strengthening the National Mechanism for the Advancement of Women in Colombia

Washington, DC, June 26, 2026. [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) has become aware of the uncertainty surrounding the future of the National Mechanism for the Advancement of Women in Colombia. In light of the possibility of a weakening or disappearance of the governing body responsible for gender equality and the eradication of violence against women, the Committee expresses its concern and underscores the importance of ensuring the continuity of policies and programmes aimed at protecting women's rights within the framework of a strengthened gender equality institutional structure. All of this must be carried out in accordance with the obligations assumed under the Belém do Pará Convention and other international instruments.

During a recent technical visit to Colombia, a delegation of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) received information from various sectors and actors regarding concerns about the future of the Vice Ministry for Women and the continuity of the programmes, policies and mechanisms promoted by that institution. These include the Salvia Programme — National System for the Registration, Attention, Follow-up and Monitoring of Gender-Based Violence — as well as other initiatives aimed at strengthening the State's response to violence against women.

The CEVI recalls that the principles of progressivity and non-regression of human rights, enshrined in Article 8 of the Belém do Pará Convention, require States to preserve and consolidate progress achieved in the area of women's rights, including with respect to institutional frameworks and State capacities. In this regard, the weakening of national mechanisms for the advancement of women undermines the fulfilment of the obligations assumed under the Convention.

National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women play a fundamental role in the design, coordination and implementation of policies and plans aimed at guaranteeing women's rights and preventing violence against women. Strengthening these mechanisms is essential to ensuring a sustained, coordinated, cross-sectoral and effective State response to the various manifestations of gender-based violence.

In this context, the Committee reiterates the importance of ensuring that gender equality institutions are supported at the highest political level and provided with technical autonomy and dedicated and adequate resources for the effective development and implementation of

policies, plans and programmes aimed at preventing, addressing and eradicating violence against women. The Committee further recalls the commitment undertaken by States through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which calls for the establishment or strengthening of national mechanisms for the advancement of women with a specific mandate for the promotion of women's rights.

The Committee also welcomes the recent adoption of legislation aimed at preventing and eradicating female genital mutilation in Colombia, which constitutes an important step forward in the protection of the rights of women and girls. This progress highlights the importance of having strong institutions capable to ensure the effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes aimed at preventing and eradicating violence against women.

In light of the foregoing, the Committee of Experts calls upon the Colombian authorities to adopt the necessary measures to ensure the continuity and strengthening of gender equality institutions, including the existence of a National Mechanism for the Advancement of Women with the capacity to effectively carry out its mandate. The Committee further urges the State to continue advancing the development and implementation of policies, plans and programmes aimed at preventing, addressing and eradicating violence against women, , while ensuring access to reparations for victims, in compliance with the obligations assumed by Colombia under the Belém do Pará Convention.

The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention, through its Committee of Experts, makes itself available to the State of Colombia 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.