

OAS Committee of Experts to Conduct Visit to Peru on the Situation of Indigenous Girls and Adolescent Girls Affected by Sexual Violence

Washington, D.C., August 28, 2026. From September 4 to 11, a delegation of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) of the Organization of American States (OAS) will conduct a technical assistance visit to Peru to gather information on the situation of Indigenous girls and adolescent girls who are victims of sexual violence in the province of Condorcanqui, Department of Amazonas, as well as on the measures and institutional responses adopted to guarantee their protection, care, access to justice, and reparations.

For more than a decade, public institutions, local and community authorities, women leaders, and Indigenous women's and civil society organizations have documented numerous cases of sexual violence against girls and adolescent girls in the province. Reports on these cases identify teachers, family members, and other actors present in the territory as alleged perpetrators.

In March 2026, the Committee of Experts (CEVI) issued a [statement](#) expressing its concern over the persistence of these forms of violence and the barriers victims face in accessing adequate protection and care services and effective mechanisms for access to justice. The CEVI emphasized the need to strengthen prevention measures and guarantee a comprehensive, coordinated, and culturally appropriate response.

In view of this situation, the Judiciary of Peru, headed by its President, Janet Tello Gilardi, invited the Committee to conduct the technical assistance visit. The invitation was extended through Supreme Court Justice Elvia Barrios Alvarado, in her capacity as Coordinator for the Follow-up, Monitoring, and Oversight of the Results-Based Budget Program for the Reduction of Violence against Women. The mission builds on the work carried out by the MESECVI and the Judiciary and is made possible through the support of the German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and International Justice Mission (IJM).

The visit will allow the Committee to gather information on the efforts undertaken to strengthen access to justice for girls and adolescent girls who are victims of sexual violence and to identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities to improve the institutional response. Based on the information collected, the Committee will formulate recommendations aimed at supporting the Peruvian State in complying with its obligations under the Belém do Pará Convention.

The MESECVI delegation will comprise the Vice-Chairs of the Committee of Experts, Mónica Maureira of Chile and Yildalina Tatem Brache of the Dominican Republic; the Expert from Panama, Jennifer Delgado; the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía Guerrero; and specialists Eva Villarreal Pascual, Tatiana Bensa, and Julieth Palomo. Peru's Expert before the Committee, Ana María Mendieta, will accompany the mission.

The working agenda will begin on Friday, September 4, with a high-level meeting in Lima attended by authorities from the Judiciary, government ministries, and other State institutions with responsibilities in this area, as well as women leaders and representatives of Indigenous women's and civil society organizations. The meeting will allow participants to exchange information on the measures adopted, progress achieved, and main challenges, as well as on the coordination mechanisms among the institutions involved in the response.

The mission will subsequently travel to Santa María de Nieva and the districts of El Cenepa and Río Santiago in the province of Condorcanqui. There, it will hold meetings and engage in dialogue with local and community authorities, justice officials, women leaders, Indigenous women's and civil society organizations, and other relevant actors. The delegation will also hold private hearings with victims' family members to receive information on the experiences of the girls and adolescent girls affected and the obstacles they face in exercising their rights and accessing protection, care, justice, and reparations.

As part of its work in the territory, the delegation will visit institutions and services that form part of the care and access-to-justice pathway for girls and adolescent girls who are victims of sexual violence and their families. These visits will allow the delegation to assess how these institutions and services operate, as well as the interinstitutional coordination and interoperability among the responsible entities.

The mission coincides with the commemoration of the International Day of Indigenous Women on September 5 and will address the inequalities that affect the full exercise of the rights of Indigenous girls and adolescent girls. From an intersectional and intercultural perspective, it will pay particular attention to the State's duty of due diligence to prevent, investigate, punish, and provide reparations for violence, as well as to the need to guarantee specialized, accessible, and culturally appropriate services.

The information collected during the meetings, hearings, and visits will serve as the basis for the preparation of the mission's preliminary observations and recommendations, which will be presented on the morning of Friday, September 11, during a press conference in Lima. It will also contribute to the process being initiated by the Committee of Experts to prepare its General Recommendation No. 7 on gender-based violence against Indigenous women in the region.

This will be the MESECVI's third technical assistance visit, following those conducted in Argentina in 2023 and Colombia in 2026, and forms part of its mandate to support States Parties in complying with their obligations under the Belém do Pará Convention.

[The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) is the body of the Organization of American States (OAS) responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women—the Belém do Pará Convention—the first international treaty to recognize that violence against women constitutes a violation of their human rights.

The [Committee of Experts](#) (CEVI) is the technical body of the Mechanism. It is composed of Experts appointed by each State Party, who serve in an independent capacity.

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