



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE  
BELEM DO PARA CONVENTION (MESECVI)  
**EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTY**  
December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Platform: KUDO

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**RAPORTEURSHIP**  
**EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTY OF 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)**

The Eighth Conference of States Party of the Follow-up Mechanism to the application of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, was held on December 11, 2020, through the electronic platform Kudo.

This meeting had the participation of 21 National Competent Authorities from the following countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Executive Secretary of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora, opened the floor in representation of the Secretary General of the OAS. The inauguration had the presentations of the President of the Inter-American Commission of Women and Minister for Women of the Dominican Republic, Mayra Jiménez; the President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, Tatiana Rein Venegas; the President of the National Institute of Women of Mexico, Nadine Gasman; and the Minister of Social Development of Panama and President of the Conference of the States Parties of the MESECVI, María Inés Castillo.

At the conclusion of the opening, a minute of silence was observed in memory of Linda Poole. Subsequently, the Presidency of the Conference of States Parties gave its work report.

After the approval of the agenda and calendar of activities, the official photograph of the Conference was taken.

The delegations of the countries elected the authorities of the Eighth Conference of States Party, which was composed in the following way: The Presidency was assumed by Mexico; the First and Second Vice Presidencies were assumed by Argentina and Ecuador. Panama assumed the Rapporteurship of the event. The election of the aforementioned authorities was made by acclamation.

The new President took office and began the development of the agenda.

- **Presentation of the informative documents: Third Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, and Violence against women and the measures to contain the spread of COVID-19**

The results of the *Third Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI* were presented by the President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, who explained the indicators that were studied therein, as well as the importance of this report serve as a tool for the National Women's Mechanisms for the development of public policies on violence against women and girls.

Moreover, the president of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, also presented the results of the report *Violence against women and the measures to contain the spread of COVID-19*, among which the increase in violence during the confinement, new patterns of violence, as well as public policies that must be strengthened to prevent, attend, punish, investigate and repair cases of gender-based violence against women and girls.

This was followed by a dialogue between the delegations in which they shared the experience of various countries in the context of the pandemic and shared the measures that have been strengthened in this framework to guarantee the right of women to a life free of violence.

Patricia Mora, Minister of the Condition of Women of Costa Rica, shared the national experience and the challenges of the limited resources to face violence against women, but also that nevertheless, they have managed to adjust services to the demands of women with support of international organizations and thanks to inter-institutional co-responsibility.

The representative of the Ministry of Women of Paraguay, Vice Minister Liliana Zayas, gave an account of the measures taken by the country and highlighted a protocol of care for women in situations of violence and human trafficking, especially those who were repatriated and were complying with mandatory quarantine in shelters provided by the Paraguayan State.

The representative of Brazil stressed that the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls is a priority objective for the country, with measures such as updating the *María da Penha* Law to facilitate the implementation of measures that separate the aggressor in cases of domestic and family violence.

Silvia Loli, Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru mentioned the delivery of a specific resource of a budget by results for the strengthening of a specialized national system of protection and punishment against violence against women.

Jessica Yaoska Padilla Leiva, Minister of Women from Nicaragua, highlighted the importance of continuing to promote solidarity among States to eradicate violence against women. She also added that they have made an articulation with the Ministry of the Family Economy to continue promoting the economic empowerment of women.

Argentina made mention of the new communication channels created during the pandemic, to address situations of gender-based violence, such as WhatsApp lines. She also referred to the importance of working in a network with the commitment of the entire society as a whole, against violence.

Ecuador noted various measures taken to prevent the exacerbation of mistreatment conditions during the pandemic.

The delegation of the Dominican Republic indicated, among others, the commitment to expand shelters for women and their daughters and sons, the generation of the Strategic Plan, the promotion of a comprehensive law, as well as the increase to 38% of the budget in this matter.

The delegation of the Bahamas pointed out that the context of the pandemic, together with the consequences of Hurricane Dorian, have generated a different and disproportionate impact in relation to women and girls.

Finally, it was approved the publication of the *Third Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI*.

- **Dialogue on the obligation to eradicate gender stereotypes in public spaces that translate into symbolic violence and political violence against women**

The Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI gave a presentation on the efforts that have been made to prevent gender stereotypes in the various spaces in which women and girls develop, as well as the challenges that still arise in this regard.

In the dialogue between the delegations was emphasized the importance of women being widely represented in decision-making positions.

The delegation of Peru indicated that progress has been made in the inclusion of women in decision-making positions and requested that coordinated actions be carried out with the instances of access to justice to eradicate stereotypes from the judgments and jurisprudence of the national courts.

The delegation of Argentina pointed out, among others matters, the issuance of the National Plan 2020-2022 that was carried out in conjunction with civil society organizations and the three powers of the State, as well as the work that is being carried out on masculinities.

The Brazilian delegation pointed out that violence against women in politics is a priority issue for which various public policies have been carried out in this regard, such as a specific program for women in politics, an emergency line and online courses for women candidates, among others.

The Paraguayan delegation expressed the existence of Interinstitutional Tables to prevent, address and punish violence against women and that they are currently working with the media, with educational institutions, with the Judicial Branch and with the statistics area to eradicate stereotypes and sexist practices that affect women and girls.

The Mexican delegation highlighted the structural discrimination experienced by women in education and in political life, and pointed out that both the federal government and the federal Congress have parity. It also highlighted a legislative reform that redefined the concept of political violence, the obligation to issue precautionary measures to protect women in politics, as well as the various duties that the authorities have to prevent, address and punish violence in politics. Likewise, among other issues, it pointed out the guidelines that were issued by the National Electoral Institute so that joint candidacies may be presented for the following elections of governors in the states.

**- Definition of venue for the Ninth Conference of States Party**

No proposals were received for the definition of the venue for the Ninth Conference of States Party, so it will be expected that they will be submitted in writing at a later time.

**- Consideration and adoption of Agreements of the Eighth Conference**

After the dialogue between the delegations and the corresponding adjustments, the agreements of the VIII Conference of the States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará were adopted.