



OAS | MESECVI

**FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM OF THE
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)**
Seventeenth meeting of the Committee of Experts
December 14 and 15, 2020
Virtual platform: ZOOM

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**AGREEMENTS OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
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 *BELEM DO PARA*” (CEVI)**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belem do Para Convention (MESECVI), gathered during the XVII Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on December 14 and 15, 2020 through the electronic platform Zoom;

AGREED TO:

1. Express its concern about the generalized situation of decline in women's human rights and especially the right of women to live free from violence seen in a significant number of countries in the region, having a negative impact on the implementation of public policies and budget allocations to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women in all levels of government, especially in the legislative and judicial;
2. Express its concern about the institutional weakness of the justice administration systems to address, investigate, punish and offer reparation for victims and survivors of violence against women, which is manifested in high rates of impunity; the use of gender stereotypes in the addressment, investigation, and prosecution of victims, which continues to promote a message of tolerance to violence against women; and the strengthening of gender stereotypes and unequal power relations and mechanisms, and social structures of subordination;
3. Formally begin the *Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI* that will focus on access to justice for women victims and survivors of violence and their families;
4. Continue to monitor the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to mitigate the pandemic on the lives of women and girls in the region; the increase in violence and the adoption of the necessary means to address complaints, promote the rights of women and girls and guarantee access to justice;

5. Take note of the forthcoming publication of the *Third Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI* and of the National Reports, as well as support the Experts in strategies for their dissemination;
6. Approve the matrix of indicators for the Fourth Evaluation Round including the observations received in the next month, aimed at evaluating public policies in justice administration systems, women's access to justice, and reparation of their rights;
7. Show the Committee's commitment to strengthen ties between the Latin American countries and the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean and Haiti, and in that sense create a Working Group composed of Experts from the English-speaking Caribbean and Latin American Experts, and request the Technical Secretariat to prepare a calendar of joint activities in the next year 2021 to facilitate this approach;
8. To request the Technical Secretariat, in consultation with the Working Group to strengthen ties with the English-speaking Caribbean and Haiti, to prepare a proposal to determine the indicators that will be used in the framework of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round for those countries, taking into account the work and projects that are being developed in this sub region aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating violence against women and girls, and circulate it to the Committee for final review and approval;
9. Request the Technical Secretariat to send communications to the Permanent Missions at the OAS and to the authorities of the English-speaking Caribbean and Haiti to publicize this work and encourage involvement in the activities of the Mechanism to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women;
10. Take note and request the Technical Secretariat to keep the Experts informed about the progress on the projects that are being carried out with the Spotlight initiative, UNDP, EUROsociAL+ and the Senate of the Republic of Mexico;
11. Strengthen the CEVI, as an independent and autonomous Committee of Experts, and request the Technical Secretariat to implement the guidelines agreed in the document *Guidelines, mechanisms and tools for the processing of communications and documents from the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará (CEVI) and the strengthening of its independence and institutional image* (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.263/20) to guarantee its visibility;
12. Publish all documents updated to date on the MESECVI website;
13. To request the Technical Secretariat to issue communiqués referring to risk circumstances for the right of women to live a life free of violence, in particular about situations indicated by this Committee that occurred in Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Brazil;
14. Follow up on a collaboration strategy through a letter of understanding with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in particular, with the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women to develop on issues and actions of common interest;
15. Continue strengthening actions to confront violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean, through coordination and articulation with other mechanisms, such as those that make up the Platform for Independent Mechanisms for Women's Human Rights (Platform EDVAW), and others bodies that address the issue of violence against women at the sub regional, regional and international level, and all those multilateral organizations that bring together authorities on the matter of violence against women;

16. Greet the States Party that have designated Experts in 2020 and reiterate the request to the States Party that have not designated Experts to appoint them as soon as possible;

17. Remind the States Parties of their obligation to contribute regularly to the maintenance of the MESECVI in accordance with the established by the States themselves in Art. 11 of the MESECVI Statute and Art. 12 of the CEVI Regulations in order, among others, to facilitate the implementation of the meetings of both the Committee and the States Party and to finance the participation of their Experts and Authorities, so as to guarantee the conditions and financial resources for the regular activities of the MESECVI; and

18. Express its gratitude to the Experts who have ceased to belong to the Committee, Alma Coello from Honduras, Flor María Díaz from Colombia; Farmala Jacobs from Antigua and Barbuda; Mónica Soto from Mexico; and Roxana Zaconeta from Bolivia.