



Communique Committee of Experts

Committee of Experts of MESECVI welcomes Canada’s signature of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women “Belém do Pará Convention”

Washington, DC, March 11, 2025. The Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the [Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) celebrates and congratulates Canada on signing the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, known as the Belém do Pará Convention. This milestone reaffirms the country’s commitment to the human rights of women and girls and strengthens regional efforts to eradicate gender-based violence in all its forms.

The Belém do Pará Convention, adopted in 1994, is the first legally binding international treaty in the world to explicitly recognize women’s right to a life free from violence, committing States to adopting comprehensive measures for its prevention, punishment, and eradication. Canada's signature represents a fundamental step in strengthening the inter-American protection framework and consolidating an effective and coordinated response to gender-based violence.

The CEVI emphasizes that the incorporation of Canada into this regional instrument will contribute to broadening international cooperation and shared strategies to address violence against women and girls, ensuring that their rights are protected more effectively, and that States continue to make progress in fulfilling their international obligations.

The Committee of Experts of the MESECVI reiterates its willingness to accompany Canada in the implementation of the Convention, promoting the exchange of best practices and providing technical assistance for the adoption of effective public policies, with special attention to the most vulnerable groups of women.

With this signature, Canada joins a collective effort that, over 30 years, has driven significant advances in the region, contributing to the strengthening of regulatory frameworks,

improving access to justice and the recognition of gender-based violence as an obstacle to development and democracy.

The CEVI welcomes this step and encourages Canada to continue to move forward in ratifying the Convention, thus consolidating its commitment to gender equality and the human rights of women and girls in the hemisphere.

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.

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