

FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM OAS/Ser.L/II.7.10

BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)MESECVI/CEVI/268/21

**Eighteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts** December 8, 2021

7 and 8 December 2021 Original: Spanish

Virtual platform: Zoom

**AGREEMENTS OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION TO PREVENT, PUNISH AND ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION TO PREVENT, PUNISH AND ERADICATE**

**AND ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,**

**"CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ" (CEVI)**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the "Convention of Belém do Pará", gathered during the XVIII Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on December 7 and 8, 2021, through the virtual platform zoom;

**AGREES:**

1. To approve the "Annual Report of activities of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI", document MESECVI/CEVI/doc.266/21;

2. To celebrate the launch of the new digital tool for the System of Indicators for Monitoring the Implementation of the MESECVI and to request the Technical Secretariat continue with the implementation of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI, which will focus on addressing access to justice for women victims and survivors of violence and their families;

3. To approve the matrix of indicators for the English-speaking Caribbean countries to be used in the framework of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round, taking into account the work and projects being developed in this subregion aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating violence against women and girls, taking into account the comments made by the Experts;

4. To request that the Technical Secretariat launch a campaign for civil society organizations to join the OAS registry and participate in the process of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round;

5. To request that the Technical Secretariat continue disseminating and supporting the experts in the strategies for disseminating the results of the Third Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, and their corresponding National Reports;

6. To request that the Technical Secretariat continue with initiatives to publicize the work of the MESECVI in the English-speaking Caribbean and Haiti, and to encourage their involvement in the activities of the Mechanism to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women;

7. To request that the Secretariat find financing to develop a specific approach to the work that the MESECVI undertakes in Haiti;

8. To take note of the projects being carried out with the Spotlight initiative, UNDP, EUROsociAL+ and the Senate of the Republic of Mexico, and to request that the Technical Secretariat keep the experts informed of progress;

9. To approve the ad referendum publication of the report on child marriage and early unions, with the incorporation of the observations received until January 3, 2022;

10. To approve the publication of the General Recommendation of the MESECVI Committee of Experts (No. 3): The Concept of Consent in Cases of Sexual Violence against Women for Gender Reasons, and request that the Secretariat send it to the Parliaments of the region to guarantee legislative harmonization in accordance with the standards established therein;

11. To take note of the study on the follow-up to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and its budgetary analysis, and to continue to observe the measures to mitigate the pandemic in the lives of women and girls in the region; with an intersectional perspective that includes girls, indigenous women, afro-descendant women, migrant and refugee women and women with disabilities; and to request the Secretariat prepare a Draft Declaration that reflects the concerns raised in this Report;

12. To approve that a letter from the Committee of Experts to the States Parties be sent, calling attention to the increase of all types of violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to increase resources for its assistance, prevention and punishment;

1. To request that the Secretariat dedicate efforts to seek funds to monitor the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the English-speaking Caribbean, specifically to study and document the rise in domestic and intimate partner violence; sexual violence; women’s economic exploitation the rise in women’s and girls’s unpaid care work; their unequal access to healthcare and raising concerns on economic ways to address women’s economic insecurity during and post pandemic;

14. To take note of the research on shelter standards and alternative measures for women victims of violence and their families and to request that the Secretariat prepare a draft for publication of its conclusions and recommendations within the framework of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round;

15. To request a meeting with the Executive Secretariat, the Presidency, and the Rapporteurship for Women of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in order to seek coordination mechanisms and strategic alliances in the work of preventing violence against women and guaranteeing access to justice;

16. To request that the Secretariat coordinate a dialogue with other agencies to advance actions related to the prevention, care, investigation, punishment, and reparation of sexual harassment and harassment in the workplace, educational and health facilities;

17. To deepen the debate on the need to strengthen policies to prevent violence with men and the impact of socio-cultural patterns and existing beliefs in unequal power relations and symbolic violence and misogyny, likewise to request that the Secretariat coordinate the participation of the Committee of Experts in the project for the creation of a Declaration on symbolic violence from the Conference of States Parties;

18. To deepen the research on forced disappearances faced by women and girls in the region, particularly women and girls living in vulnerable communities, and migrant women and girls, identifying the existing intersectionalities with the migratory situation in the region;

19. Encourage the States Parties to adopt training programs and public policy recommendations for women in politics to reduce systemic sexism and violence, online violence, and to raise awareness of the need to eliminate them and facilitate the participation of women in public policy without fear of violence;

20. To take notice of the re-launch of the website dedicated to the Belém do Pará Convention and request that the Secretariat incorporate the recommendations of this Committee;

21. To request that the Secretariat coordinate a meeting between the Executive Commitee and the Presidency of the Conference of Party States to coordinate joint work and discuss the progress and challenges posed by the right of women to a life free of violence;

22. To recognize the States Parties that have appointed experts in 2021 and to reiterate the request to the States Parties that have not appointed experts to appoint them as soon as possible. Notwithstanding to raise the concern of the Committee of experts on the absence of contributions from the States Parties to the operation of the MESECVI in accordance with the provisions of the States themselves in Article 11 of the Statute of the MESECVI and Article 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the CEVI, and highlight the permanent contributions of Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago;

23. To welcome the election of the new authorities of the Committee of Experts and their appointment: Marcela Huaita, Expert from Peru expert as President, and Gloria Camacho, Expert from Ecuador and Barbara Bailey, Expert from Jamaica as Vice Presidents of the CEVI;

24. To express its gratitude to the Experts who will leave the Committee in 2021 for their enormous contribution to the efforts of the past years: Mónica Bayá, Expert from Bolivia; Alma Coello, Expert from Honduras; Mónica Soto, Expert from Mexico y Gaietry Pargass, Expert from Trinidad y Tobago;

25. To express, by means of written communication, its appreciation to the Expert from Chile, Tatiana Rein, for her term as President of CEVI during 2020 and 2021.