

Authorities from Latin America and the Caribbean Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention and the Beijing Platform at a High-Level Event During CSW69

New York, March 13, 2025. Within the context of the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Ministers for Women and high-level authorities from Latin America and the Caribbean, alongside representatives from international and regional organizations, Experts from MESECVI's Committee of Experts (CEVI), and civil society organizations, reaffirmed their commitment to protecting women's human rights during the high-level event "*Celebrating the Belém do Pará Convention and the Beijing Platform for Action: 30 Years Eliminating Violence and Discrimination Against Women*"

The reception, held on Tuesday, March 11, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, was organized by the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), the Belém do Pará Regional Articulation, and CAF – development bank of Latin America and the Caribbean. The event also received support from the Government of Chile, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and UN Women. It marked three decades of progress in advancing women's rights and served as a platform to reaffirm commitments to the effective implementation of the Convention and the Platform for Action

In this context, ministers and authorities ratified their call to accelerate the implementation of these fundamental instruments, which serve as a roadmap for advancing gender equality and protecting the human rights of women, girls, and adolescents from violence across the region.

The event began with remarks by Eva Villarreal, representing the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, followed by an intervention by the Executive Secretary of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora. This was followed by a speech by the former President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, who emphasized that: "The Convention of Belém do Pará continues to be the only binding international treaty on the subject, and that fills me with pride. The human rights of women and girls must remain non-negotiable."

For her part, the Brazilian Minister of Women and current President of the Conference of States Parties to MESECVI, Aparecida Gonçalves, stressed the importance of redoubling efforts to eradicate gender-based violence and protect the rights won, especially in the face of increasing attacks on women in public and political spaces: "Misogyny against women is manifested in the various forms of gender-based political violence. It affects not only women candidates and parliamentarians, but also journalists, women in social networks and all those who raise their voice firmly."

International and regional organizations, including United Nations agencies, also played a key role in the event. Leah Tandeter, Advisor at UN Women's Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, and Ana María Baiardi, Manager of Gender, Inclusion, and Diversity at CAF, emphasized how these instruments have driven significant changes in the lives of women and girls in the region and highlighted the urgent need to reinforce coordinated efforts for their effective implementation.

For her part, the Vice-Chair of the Committee of Experts, Sherna Alexander Benjamin, emphasized the role of the MESECVI and its Committee in promoting progress in the implementation of the Convention: “Over the past 20 years, the MESECVI, through the work of its Committee of Experts, has ensured that the commitments made are translated into concrete actions at the legal, political and institutional levels. This has been possible through the provision of technical assistance, the issuance of recommendations and the strengthening of regional cooperation.”

The commemoration also brought together feminist activists and representatives from civil society organizations working to prevent violence against women and girls. The Belém do Pará Regional Articulation, which includes networks and organizations such as Equality Now, the Center for Reproductive Rights, CLADEM, the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network, among others, played a central role in the discussions.

Representatives of the Regional Articulation issued a joint call to States to strengthen their commitments. Catalina Martínez Coral, Regional Vice President of the Center for Reproductive Rights, and Bárbara Jiménez-Santiago, Regional Representative for Equality Now in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighted the achievements made over the past 30 years under the Belém do Pará Convention and the Beijing Platform for Action—two instruments that have driven the transformation of legal frameworks and public policies. At the same time, they urged States to safeguard and build on these advances in women's rights in the face of potential setbacks, as well as to review and repeal persistent discriminatory norms and practices to ensure full equality for women and girls

Also in attendance was the Deputy Minister of Women and Gender Equality of Canada, Frances McRae, whose country signed the Convention of Belém do Pará on March 7, thus contributing to strengthening regional efforts for the protection of women and girls.

The event concluded with remarks from Antonia Orellana, Minister of Women and Gender Equity of Chile, who emphasized the need to continue strengthening the Belém do Pará Convention as a fundamental framework for eradicating gender-based violence in the region.

At 30 years of the Belém do Pará Convention and the Beijing Platform for Action, this commemoration not only provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress made but also served as a collective call to action to intensify efforts toward a more equal and violence-free world for women and girls, ensuring their rights remain a top priority on national and regional agendas.