

MESECVI closes its period of Sessions with the VIII Conference of States Party and the XVII Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism (CEVI)

Symbolic violence, the post-pandemic and the evaluation of the justice administration system mark a new Evaluation Round.

Washington, D.C., December 18th, 2020. On December 11, 14 and 15, were held the Eighth Conference of States Parties (CEP) and the Seventeenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI), political and technical bodies of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women (MESECVI). The Eight CEP was attended by Competent National Authorities from 20 countries in the region who elected the new authorities by acclamation: Nadine Gasman, National Authority of Mexico, as President of the Conference of States Party (CEP); Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, ANC of Argentina; and Cecilia Chacón, ANC of Ecuador, as Vice-Presidents of the CEP.

The meeting also had the participation of Mayra Jiménez, Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic and President of the CIM/OAS and María Inés Castillo de Sanmartín, Minister of Social Development of Panama and President of the CEP for the previous period. Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS, opened the session and highlighted the importance of follow-up mechanisms to international human rights instruments, such as the Convention of Belém do Pará, for the construction of the right to a life free of violence. Likewise, Tatiana Rein Venegas, President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, presented the Third Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts and the MESECVI's report on the new patterns of gender-based violence identified during the pandemic of the COVID-19.

Nadine Gasman, new President of the CEP, reaffirmed Mexico's commitment to the agenda of gender, equality, non-discrimination and the inclusion of women and girls as central and cross-cutting axes within the framework of the Mexican government's Feminist Foreign Policy. She also welcomed the progress of Panama as the outgoing presidency of the CEP. Participated in the Conference the National Competent Authorities of Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, San Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay and Venezuela.

During the Conference, the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará agreed to continue working and deepening the issues related to violence against women, girls and adolescents, emphasizing their diversity, and also the violence that occurs both in the public and private spheres. Likewise, they also agreed to deepen the analysis of the effect of the pandemic on the lives of women, girls and adolescents and the development of policies focused on the post-pandemic scenario, highlighting the right to a life free of violence, contemplating autonomy and economic empowerment of women as binding elements to achieve this right.

Finally, the Conference of States Party agreed to promote a joint declaration of all the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará, for the eradication of gender stereotypes in public spaces that translate into symbolic violence and political violence based on gender.

Committee of Experts of the MESECVI celebrates its Seventeenth period of meetings. The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention met on December 14 and 15, to evaluate the work carried out in the year and design its work plan for 2021. During the meeting, it was decided to begin the Fourth Round of Follow-up to the Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations, which will study the result of the

implementation of the [System of progress indicators for measuring the implementation Belém do Pará Convention](#) in the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará. This Fourth Round will emphasize the right of access to justice for women in the region, from a gender and diversity perspective.

Likewise, the Committee expressed its concern, among other issues, about the situation of decline in the human rights of women and especially the right of women to live free of violence. This was identified in a significant number of countries in the region and has had 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.

On the same note, it was proposed to continue monitoring the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to mitigate the pandemic in the lives of women and girls in the region. Likewise, the Committee will continue to analyze the increase in gender-based violence and the responses of the States to effectively address complaints and ensure services aimed at women and girls.

On the other hand, the Committee agreed to the development of a strategy to deepen the work of the MESECVI in the prevention, care, punishment, and investigation of cases of violence against women and girls, based on gender, with the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Haiti. To the same end, it was agreed to continue the strengthening of cooperation and the exchange of better experiences and information between the Mechanism and other entities that address the issue of violence against women at the subregional, regional and international levels, and with the EDVAW Platform.

In addition to this, it was pointed out the need to remind the States Party of their obligation to contribute regularly to the maintenance of the MESECVI in accordance with the provisions of agreed by the States in Art. 11 of the MESECVI Statute and Art. 12 of the CEVI Regulations to, among others, facilitate the holding of 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.

The full agreements of these meeting will be available promptly on the MESECVI website.

The Conference of States Party is the political body of the MESECVI made up of the Competent National Authorities in the area of violence against women, responsible for issuing the Mechanism's guidelines, promoting technical cooperation among the States, and implementing agreements to eradicate violence against women in the region.

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 exercise their functions in a personal capacity.