

MESECVI concludes official visit to Brazil with high participation in the consultation on the Model Law on gender-based digital violence against women and announcement of the X Conference of States Party

Brasília, April 15, 2025 — The official visit of the delegation of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) to the city of Brasília, from April 7 to 9, concluded with important contributions to the process of drafting the Inter-American Model Law on gender-based digital violence against women and progress in the organization of the Tenth Conference of States Parties of the MESECVI. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen cooperation with Brazilian State authorities and promote dialogue on strategic issues for the protection of women's rights.

The delegation was composed of the Experts of the MESECVI Committee of Experts, Leila Linhares Barsted (Brazil) and Mónica Maureira (Chile), accompanied by the Technical Secretary of the Mechanism, Luz Patricia Mejía, and the communications officer, Tatiana Bensa.

The visit began with a meeting with the Minister of Women, Aparecida Gonçalves, current president of the Conference of States Parties of the MESECVI, and her team. During the meeting, the Minister confirmed that the 10th Conference of States Parties (CEP) will be held on June 5 and 6, 2025, in the city of Fortaleza, and will mark the official closing of the commemorations for the 30th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention. The event will bring together representatives of the States Parties to the Mechanism, authorities from the legislative and judicial branches, civil society, international organizations and other actors who, throughout these three decades, have contributed to the promotion and defense of women's human rights in the Americas.

Subsequently, the delegation met with the Director of Rights Protection of the Ministry of Women, Patrícia Rodrigues da Silva, and with Patrícia Melo from UNFPA Brazil. The meeting focused on initiatives to address violence and discrimination against Afro-descendant and Indigenous women, including actions related to the Day of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean, and Diaspora Women, and the promotion of the General Recommendation No. 5 of the Committee of Experts, developed in collaboration with UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean and the Network of Afro-descendant, Afro-Caribbean, and Diaspora Women.

As part of the process to develop the Inter-American Model Law on Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women, the MESECVI delegation held meetings with key government teams responsible for working on the regulation of digital gender-based violence and the formulation of related policies. Representatives from the Ministry of Women, the Secretariat for Social Communication (SECOM), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Racial Equality participated in the meeting. The exchange provided an opportunity to share regulatory advances and challenges, discuss ongoing national policies, and reflect on how

the future Model Law could contribute to strengthening legal frameworks in Brazil and the region.

The delegation was also received at the Supreme Federal Court (STF) by the Court's Ombudsperson, Judge Flávia Martins de Carvalho, and STF staff. During the meeting, the Draft Model Law was presented, and the discussion centered on the importance of guaranteeing women's access to justice through updated legal frameworks aligned with current digital realities, particularly in response to online gender-based violence.

The agenda of the visit also included an in-person consultation on the Draft Model Law, held on April 9 at the UN House in Brasília. The activity, organized by MESECVI, CLADEM Brazil, CLADEM Regional, and UN Women Brazil, brought together around 40 participants, including representatives from the government, the legislative branch, the judiciary, civil society, and international organizations.

Opening remarks were delivered by the Minister of Women, Aparecida Gonçalves; MESECVI Technical Secretary, Luz Patricia Mejía; Acting Representative of UN Women Brazil, Ana Carolina Querino; and CLADEM Regional Coordinator, Milena Páramo, who emphasized the importance of joint action and regional cooperation to address the challenges posed by digital violence against women. The activity also counted on the support and participation of Tamara Rusansky, communications officer at Equality Now.

The consultation aimed to gather input from the Brazilian experience in addressing digital gender-based violence, in order to enrich the content of the Model Law, which is currently undergoing a public consultation process. With this session, more than 500 people have now participated in the regional consultation activities in person, in addition to contributions received virtually.

The delegation also attended the launch of the book *"Parental Alienation: A New Form of Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Children in Latin America and the Caribbean"*, published by CLADEM. The event was attended by the Minister of Women, members of parliament, government officials, and civil society representatives, and reaffirmed collective efforts to repeal the Parental Alienation Law in Brazil.

The visit concluded with a coordination meeting with the UNFPA Brazil team, reaffirming the commitment to continue working together on strategic issues for the promotion of women's rights, including Indigenous, migrant, and Afro-descendant women, and those affected by digital violence.