



MESECVI Launches Regional Consultations on the Model Law to Combat Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women in Argentina, Colombia, and Panama

Washington, December 2, 2024. More than 150 specialists from various fields participated in the first in-person consultations organized by the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), with the support of the Republic of Italy, to present and gather input on the draft Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Women. These series of meetings, held in Buenos Aires, Bogotá, Cartagena, and Panama City, marked the beginning of a broad regional consultation process that will continue in the coming months.

The consultations, conducted between November 19 and 26 in three countries of the region, brought together a broad spectrum of specialists working on issues that intersect with digital and technology-facilitated violence against women. These included experts in gender, human rights, justice administration, freedom of expression, activism, and cybersecurity, among others. Thus, representatives of the three branches of government, civil society and women's organizations, academia, think tanks and international organizations attended these working meetings in which their contributions to the text of the future Model Law were received.

These consultations, promoted by the MESECVI, are a fundamental part of the process of drafting the Model Law, which will be adopted by the Committee of Experts (CEVI), the technical body of the Mechanism, composed of independent experts from Latin America and the Caribbean appointed by the States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention.

Since 2017, the Committee has been raising awareness about the impact of violence against women through technology and in digital environments, emphasizing the urgent need to develop tools to address this issue. In this context, MESECVI began work in 2022 to draft a Model Law that would establish the highest standards for protecting women's human rights against the various forms of this violence and guide countries in adopting effective legislation, mechanisms, and policies for its regulation and prevention.

The consultations began in Buenos Aires with two sessions co-organized with the Postgraduate Program on Gender-Based Violence in Digital Spaces and Legal Responses, as well as the Gender and Law Program of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), the Regional Alliance for Freedom of Expression and Information, the National Ombudsperson's Office of Argentina, and Amnesty International.

Additionally, during the visit to Argentina, meetings were held to present the project at the Argentine Chamber of Deputies; with the Undersecretary for Gender-Based Violence Policies of the Province of Buenos Aires; and with the Secretary of Women, Gender, and Diversity of the Province of Santa Fe.

The consultations continued in Colombia, where the draft Model Law was first presented to prosecutors from 17 countries participating in the Gender Specialized Network of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutor's Offices (AIAMP). Subsequently, a broader consultation session was held in Bogotá, co-organized with the Externado University through its Department of Constitutional Studies.

During this first round of consultations to introduce the Model Law to a regional audience, the President of the Committee of Experts, Gloria Camacho, presented the project at the event "Building Safe, Inclusive, and Violence-Free Digital Spaces," co-organized by ParlAmericas, the Ministry of Women of Panama, and the National Assembly of Panama, in Panama City.

This series of consultations included the participation of CEVI Experts Lourdes Montero (Bolivia), Mónica Maureira (Chile), Adriana Benjumea (Colombia), Gloria Camacho (Ecuador), and Ana María Mendieta (Peru), with the support of MESECVI's Technical Secretariat. Equality Now and UN Women also participated in these meetings.

The regional consultation process, which will continue in Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, Central America, and Brazil, is taking place within the framework of the 30th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention and the 20th anniversary of MESECVI. The Convention, the first international treaty to enshrine women's right to a life free of violence, remains the main regional framework for action on gender-based violence, while the MESECVI has played a key role in the implementation and monitoring of its standards.

Following the example of previous model laws developed by MESECVI's Committee of Experts on [femicide/feminicide](#) and [violence against women in political life](#), the new Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Women aims to strengthen national legislative frameworks and ensure women's rights both online and offline.