

## **MESECVI States Parties elect new authorities during the Fourth Extraordinary Conference**

*Washington, February 28, 2025.* Authorities from 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries participated in the Fourth Extraordinary Conference of States Parties of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), held virtually this Thursday. During the session, new authorities were elected for the Conference of States Parties (CEP).

The Minister of Women of Brazil, Cida Gonçalves, was elected by acclamation as President of the CEP, while the Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic, Mayra Jiménez, and the Minister of Women and Human Rights of Ecuador, Arianna Tanca, were elected First and Second Vice Presidents, respectively. Additionally, the Minister for the Status of Women of Costa Rica, Cindy Quesada, was elected Rapporteur of the Conference.

The meeting brought together the highest authorities on violence against women from the countries that comprise the CEP, the political body of MESECVI and one of its four key pillars. National Competent Authorities from Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay participated in the session.

The opening session included remarks from Antonia Orellana, Minister of Women and Gender Equity of Chile, who concluded her term as CEP President, a position she had held since September 2023. In her speech, she highlighted key achievements during her tenure, including the adoption of MESECVI's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, the Declaration on Accelerating Strategies for the Implementation of the Convention, and reforms to the CEP Regulations.

Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), acknowledged and praised the commitment and efforts of the States Parties to accelerate the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. She also underscored the importance of preserving this historic legacy of the CIM, so that its standards, innovations and advances continue to have an impact on all women in the hemisphere.

Finally, Luz Patricia Mejía, Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, closed the opening session by reaffirming the importance of the Mechanism as a platform for coordination among States. She also warned about current challenges, including the continuum of violence, setbacks in acquired rights, and the rise of hate speech.

The meeting concluded with the election of the new CEP leadership, composed of Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Ecuador. In her acceptance speech, the newly elected CEP President, Minister Cida Gonçalves, expressed Brazil's pride in assuming the presidency during this commemorative year. She also announced that the Tenth Conference of States Parties will be held in person in Belém do Pará in June 2025, marking the culmination of the 30th anniversary activities of the Convention.

Finally, the authorities reaffirmed the need to strengthen cooperation, information exchange, and the dissemination of best practices among the States Parties, with special emphasis on strengthening ties between Latin America and the Caribbean. They also urged countries to make voluntary contributions to MESECVI to ensure the continuity of its work and the fulfillment of its mandate.