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**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE
PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
'CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ' AG/RES. 2803 (XLIII-O/13)**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), as Technical Secretariat for the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), in fulfillment of resolution AG/RES. 2803 (XLIII-O/13), hereby submits to the Permanent Council of the OAS this report on the efforts made to implement the MESECVI between March 2013 and February 2014.^{1/}

The MESECVI was developed as a means to follow up on the commitments taken on by the states party to the Belém do Pará Convention, help the objectives established therein be achieved, and facilitate technical cooperation among the states party, as well as with other OAS member states and permanent observers. The MESECVI operates via Multilateral Evaluation Rounds, which consist of an *evaluation phase* and a *follow-up phase*, at the recommendations of the Committee of Experts.

In 2012,^{2/} the second evaluation phase culminated with the presentation of the Hemispheric Report and the 28 country reports, and the second follow-up phase, which is currently underway, began. For this, the CEVI developed a series of indicators entitled, “*Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women – Belém do Pará Convention.*”^{3/} These new indicators endeavor to measure not only the ability to exercise the right, but also the capacity of states to assume the commitments arising from the Convention, collect data on existing outcomes indicators, as well as on those indicators that, although not being analyzed, are important for states’ evaluations and follow-up on the recommendations. This, for purposes of launching a technical assistance process with the states that will enable them to achieve the objectives contained in their policies to prevent, eradicate, and punish violence against women and girls.

In addition to the start of the second follow-up phase, 2012 also saw the beginning of the process to strengthen the MESECVI, which has entailed the planning of new projects to make it possible to deepen not only the efforts undertaken thus far, but also the impact of the Mechanism. The Tenth Meeting of the CEVI marked the dawn of this process, which aims to strengthen and consolidate the foundations and operation of the Mechanism as a whole as well as the interaction among all its participants. This process has given rise to an intense and stirring dialogue among the states party regarding how the CEVI works, the MESECVI’s legal documents, and the Strategic Plan that should be in place for the next five years. To this end, the 20th Anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention will serve as the basis for building and developing both strategic forums for reflection that may shed light on the challenges to implementing the Convention and the mechanisms necessary to ensure that the women of the region can exercise their right to live in a world free of violence.

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1. All of the documents and background referred to here, including reports submitted in previous years, have been published on the MESECVI’s webpage: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/default.asp>
 2. Document – MESECVI-IV/doc.95/12, presented during the Fourth Conference of States Party on April 16, 2012.
 3. Document – MESECVI/CEVI/doc.188/13 rev.1. Adopted by the Committee of Experts on May 21, 2013. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/CEVI10-Indicators-ES.doc>

I. BACKGROUND, LEGAL FOUNDATIONS, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECTIVES

The Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), as Technical Secretariat for the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), in fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 2803 (XLIII-O/13), hereby submits to the Permanent Council of the OAS this report on the efforts made to implement the MESECVI between March 2013 and February 2014.⁴

The CIM, in an effort to fulfill the mandates arising from resolutions CIM/RES. 224/02 (XXXI-O/02), AG/RES. 1942 (XXXIII-O/03) and CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 6/04, undertook actions to develop a Draft Mechanism to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Belém do Pará Convention). The CIM Executive Secretariat prepared a working document with a draft follow-up mechanism and conducted prior consultations with the OAS member states and specialized international organizations and civil society groups.

On July 20–21, 2004, government experts met to study the draft mechanism and make recommendations to the states party to the Belém do Pará Convention. At the conclusion of their meeting, the experts submitted the Draft Statute of the Mechanism to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) to the Conference of States Party for its adoption.

On October 26, 2004, the Secretary General of the OAS convened a meeting of the Conference of States Party during which the MESECVI Statute was adopted.

With this action, the states party expressed their political will to have an agreed upon and independent system for monitoring and evaluating implementation of the Convention to which they would submit information on the progress made in fulfillment thereof, and from which they would accept and implement recommendations.

The MESECVI was developed as a means to follow up on the commitments taken on by the states party to the Belém do Pará Convention, help the objectives established therein be achieved, and facilitate technical cooperation among the states party, as well as with other OAS member states and permanent observers. It is based on the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and juridical equality of the states as established under the OAS Charter and must respect the principles of impartiality and objectivity in its operation in order to ensure fair implementation and equal treatment among the states party.

The MESECVI consists of two bodies: the Conference of States Party, which is a political body comprised of representatives of the states party, and the Committee of Experts, a technical body made up of specialists in the areas covered under the Convention. Even though the experts are appointed by the governments, they exercise their functions in a personal capacity and independently.

4. All of the documents and background referred to here, including reports submitted in previous years, have been published on the MESECVI's webpage: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/default.asp>.

The role of MESECVI Secretariat, both for the Conference and for the Committee of Experts, is played by the Executive Secretariat of the CIM, which is also home to the MESECVI.

The MESECVI operates via Multilateral Evaluation Rounds, which consist of an *evaluation phase* and a *follow-up phase*, at the recommendations of the Committee of Experts. During the evaluation phase, the Committee of Experts adopts a questionnaire centered on the provisions of the Belém do Pará Convention to be circulated among the states party. Based on the responses the states party provide to those questionnaires, as well as the data collected, the Committee of Experts issues a final report, with the attendant recommendations, on enhancing implementation of the Convention. Once the evaluation phase concludes, country reports and a consolidated Hemispheric Report (2008 and 2012) are published. During the follow-up phase, the Committee of Experts establishes a series of indicators for implementation of the specific recommendations coming out of the evaluation phase. Based on the information provided by the states party regarding those indicators, a Follow-Up Report to the Recommendations is prepared; the Technical Secretariat is currently still receiving information to be forwarded to the experts.

II. OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MANDATES (2013)

The forty-third regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) was held from June 4-6, 2013, in Antigua, Guatemala. The then President of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), Maureen Clarke Clarke, presented the annual reports of the CIM and of the MESECVI. Once those reports had been presented, the General Assembly—in consideration of the anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention—adopted resolution AG/RES. 2803 (XLIII-O/13), “Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, ‘Convention of Belém do Pará,’” in which it resolved:

1. To urge member states that have not already done so to give prompt consideration to ratifying or, as appropriate, acceding to the Convention of Belém do Pará, or participating in the Mechanism as observers, in accordance with Article 4(1) of the MESECVI Statute, and to undertake actions to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women.

2. In preparation for the 2014 celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the 10th anniversary of the creation of its follow-up mechanism (MESECVI, 2004):

- a. To call on the States Parties to the Convention to organize, in 2014, national and subregional forums or meetings for progress reports on implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, within the available financial and human resources;
- b. To instruct the CIM Executive Secretariat to prepare the proposal for a Hemispheric Forum on “Progress Report on the Convention of Belém do Pará: 20 years of Prevention,

Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women,” as decided at the First Regular Meeting of the CIM Executive Committee 2013-2015;

- c. To instruct the Technical Secretariat of MESECVI to prepare a review of 20 years of the Convention of Belém do Pará for states parties –at the subregional and hemispheric level– that centers on the significance and influence of the Convention with respect to laws and policies on prevention and assistance, in order to identify corrective and preventive measures and measures for effective enforcement;
3. To urge the States Parties to the Convention to:
 - a. Implement the recommendations of the MESECVI to encourage full compliance with the Convention of Belém do Pará;
 - b. Foster coordination between the bodies responsible for implementing public policy on prevention, punishment, and assistance in cases of violence against women, and civil society organizations involved in the issue at the national, regional, and international level;
 - c. Make voluntary contributions to the MESECVI Specific Fund in order to furnish the Mechanism with the necessary human and financial resources to ensure its full, stable, and effective operation;
 - d. Establish or support mechanisms that facilitate technical assistance and cooperation at the national, regional, and international level for the exchange of information, experience, and best practices in implementing the Convention, in keeping with Articles 1(1)(c) and 10(4) of the MESECVI Statute;
 - e. Appoint their Competent National Authorities and Experts to the Mechanism if they have not already done so; and
 - f. Support the participation of their expert in the MESECVI process, in keeping with Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts;
 4. To recognize with satisfaction the Committee of Experts for its initiative in preparing the Draft Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2013-2017, which will be considered by the next Conference of States Party.

5. To ask the Secretary General, within the available resources, to give priority to allocating the necessary human, technical, and financial resources for the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to optimize its work as Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI.

6. To request the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to:

- a. Identify new and emerging areas to be included in the draft questionnaire for the Evaluation Rounds of the MESECVI, in accordance with Article 7(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the CEVI and within the available financial resources;
- b. Provide advice to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States and its respective organs on specific and relevant aspects of the situation of violence against women in the states parties;
- c. Encourage awareness and use of the results of the work of the MESECVI, particularly its hemispheric reports, at the national and international level in order to strengthen the MESECVI's role as a global authority on eradication of violence against women.⁵

7. To ask the Secretary General to report, through the Permanent Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

8. To thank the Governments of Argentina, Mexico, and Suriname for their contributions to the Specific Fund of MESECVI in 2012.

9. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

In fulfillment of these mandates, the MESECVI Technical Secretariat has urged the states party to the Convention to:

- a. Implement the recommendations of the MESECVI to encourage full compliance with the Convention of Belém do Pará;
- b. Foster coordination between the bodies responsible for implementing public policy on prevention, punishment, and assistance in cases of violence against women, and civil society organizations involved in the issue at the national, regional, and international level;

5. The State of Guatemala states that, pursuant to its national laws, it recognizes the right to life from the moment of conception.

- c. Make voluntary contributions to the MESECVI Specific Fund in order to furnish the Mechanism with the necessary human and financial resources to ensure its full, stable, and effective operation;
- d. Establish or support mechanisms that facilitate technical assistance and cooperation at the national, regional, and international level for the exchange of information, experience, and best practices in implementing the Convention, in keeping with Articles 1(1)(c) and 10(4) of the MESECVI Statute;
- e. Appoint their Competent National Authorities and Experts to the Mechanism if they have not already done so; and
- f. Support the participation of their expert in the MESECVI process, in keeping with Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts;

To date, the MESECVI Technical Secretariat has been engaged in the following:

- a. Identifying new and emerging areas to be included in the draft questionnaire for the Evaluation Rounds of the MESECVI, in accordance with Article 7(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the CEVI and within the available financial resources;
- b. Providing advice to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States and its respective organs on specific and relevant aspects of the situation of violence against women in the states parties;
- c. Encouraging awareness and use of the results of the work of the MESECVI, particularly its hemispheric reports, at the national and international level in order to strengthen the MESECVI's role as a global authority on eradication of violence against women.

In response to these mandates, this report aims to provide information on three key aspects of this process:

- Progress made in implementing the MESECVI – outcomes of the Evaluation Rounds, participation of experts and competent national authorities, sharing of information, and funding of the Mechanism;
- Progress made by the states party in the process to strengthen the MESECVI; and
- Progress made in efforts to disseminate the MESECVI and the Convention of Belém do Pará.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MESECVI

a. Meetings of the CEVI

The Tenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts was held on September 11-12, 2013, in the Gabriela Mistral room of the OAS's General Services Building in Washington, D.C. The Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Coordinator of the Committee of Experts, and MESECVI's Technical Secretary took part in the meeting's opening session.

During that meeting, the new MESECVI authorities were elected, to wit: Ms. Flor de María Chalarca, Principal Expert from Colombia, Ms. Lidia Giménez, Principal Expert from Paraguay, and Ms. Miriam Roache, Principal Expert from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

As part of the process to consider and examine the operation of the CEVI and of the MESECVI, the agenda included the participation of other experts and evaluation mechanisms of the Organization in order to prompt an exchange among the different areas and, at the same time, study how other similar organizations operate. To this end, there was a panel on follow-up mechanisms to inter-American agreements. Those invited included the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), and the Mechanism for Follow-Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC). Also invited was the Department of Public Security (DPS) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS). Sofía Kosmas, representing the MEM, and Alison August Treppel, on behalf of the DPS, took part in this meeting. During the presentations, the experts had the opportunity to share questions and comments on the interaction between these other OAS areas and the recommendations of the MESECVI, and they also discussed the need to create a forum for joint efforts to benefit the women of the region.

This meeting also provided the setting for adoption of the "Declaration [of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI] on the Celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Belém do Pará Convention." In the framework of the follow-up round, the Technical Secretariat reported on the status of responses by the states to the progress indicators, which is discussed further on in this document. During the meeting, in keeping with the methodology used by the experts to analyze the information received from the states party and prepare the Follow-up Report, working subgroups were formed among the experts and different states.

At this meeting, the experts proceeded to review the Rules of Procedure of the CEVI and to make changes thereto that have not, to date, been incorporated by request of the Fifth Conference of States Party, which agreed on the creation of a working group to discuss the points that gave rise to the amendment of the Rules of Procedure.

Another of the important matters covered this year was a deepening of the analysis of the issues that affect the women of the region ever more, in consideration of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Convention. These issues include, *inter alia*, security and women, the status of pregnant girls in the region, violence and sexual and reproductive rights, and parental alienation syndrome.

The following are the main agreements^{6/} that came out of the Tenth Meeting of the CEVI:

1. Recommend to the Conference of States Party a review of the legal instruments in order to standardize the changes made to the CEVI's Rules of Procedure and strengthen the Mechanism. In this regard, the Technical Secretariat was asked to prepare the corresponding texts and whatever suggestions there might be.
2. Request that the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of American States incorporate women's human rights and the prevention of violence against women into its Strategic Plan. The Committee further suggested that United Nations standards regarding the consideration of violence against women in security programs be taken into account.
3. Reiterate the request to countries that they incorporate the rights and measures contained in the Convention of Belém do Pará into the implementation process of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.
4. Reiterate the request to states parties that have not yet designated an Expert, that they appoint their Principal and Alternate Experts.
5. Ask the Technical Secretariat to inform the Committee about situations that might warrant the formulation of specific recommendations to states parties in support of women's human rights.
6. Gather the necessary information on "Parental Alienation Syndrome," in order to hold a dialogue on the matter in the Committee of Experts.
7. Approve the table of contents of Recommendation No. 2 on sexual violence and its effects on the sexual and reproductive rights of women, girls, and adolescents. The Committee of Experts will have a period of 15 days to comment, make proposals, and provide inputs to enhance the draft, counting from the day it receives draft Recommendation No. 2.
8. Ask the Technical Secretariat to circulate the *Declaration of the Committee of Experts on the Celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará* among the Competent National Authorities belonging to the Conference of States Party and to publish the document on MESECVI's website.

b. Second Multilateral Evaluation Round (2013/2014)

The Second Multilateral Evaluation Round began in July 2013 with distribution to the states party of the *Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, "Belém do Pará Convention."* This document was forwarded to the states party to the Convention via e-mail.

6. For further information on the agreements, see: MESECVI/CEVI/doc.195/13.

To date, fifteen (15) states party have sent in their responses to the questionnaire, to wit: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Suriname. For its part, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requested an extension for submitting its response to the indicators.

The objective of the new indicators is to enable the states party to report on all of the policies developed to date for protecting women's human rights pursuant to the Convention of Belém do Pará. In this respect, each state has the opportunity to report on all aspects of the activities undertaken, the statistical data, administrative records, and plans developed thus far, framing them in each of the Convention's articles on the one hand, and on the other, within the context of the six areas the MESECVI has been prioritizing.⁷

In this report we underscore two substantive elements gleaned from the preliminary information received by the MESECVI Technical Secretariat. Firstly, passage of new laws on violence, and secondly, progress and efforts made by several of the region's countries to systematize surveys that include variables on violence against women or specialized surveys to determine violence rates in the state party. To date, and preliminarily speaking, there is continuing evidence that the information provided by the states on women's exercise of their right to live a life free of violence, has improved both in terms of capacity to respond and how substantive the data is with respect to measures that have been implemented in follow-up to the obligations stemming from the Convention. Based on the information supplied by those states that have been able to move forward in collecting statistics on violence against women and that have furnished us with the results of such efforts, we present below the advances made in legislation as well as an approximation, in figures, of the reality of the region.

1. *Outcomes in legislation*

- In April 2009, Argentina passed Law 26.485 – the Comprehensive protection law to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women in all areas where they engage in interpersonal relationships, in order to ensure the right of women to live a life free from violence.
- Since March 2013, Bolivia has had the Comprehensive Law to Guarantee Women a Life Free From Violence (Law 348), which constitutes a step forward for Bolivian women in terms of their right to a dignified life that is free from violence, beyond the family environment.
- In 2006, Brazil regulated domestic violence by passing Law 11.340/06, known as Maria da Penha's Law.
- Colombia reported that since December 2008, it has had Law 1257, "Law for a life free from violence," which ensures the adoption of provisions to raise awareness about, prevent, and punish violence and discrimination that are aimed at protecting all women from violence both in public and in private.

7. The following are the six (6) topic areas the MESECVI has been prioritizing: (i) Legislation; (ii) National Plans; (iii) Access to Justice; (iv) Specialized Services; (v) Budget; and (vi) Information and Statistics.

- Since 2007, Costa Rica has had the Criminalization of Violence Against Women Law in place. Such law was made complete with the passage, in 2008, of Law 1257 by means of which regulations were established regarding raising awareness about, preventing, and punishing types of violence and discrimination against women, the Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure, and Law 294 of 1996 were reformed, and other provisions were instituted.
- In December 2013, Ecuador passed a reform to its Comprehensive Criminal Code, making femicide and trafficking in persons, crimes; this broadens constitutional recognition of the right to a life free from violence in both public and private environments, although it only defines domestic violence. Nonetheless, legislative reforms have been introduced to ensure that women are able to assert their right to a life free from violence via the reform of the Criminal Code (2005), which established crimes, instituted harsher punishments, and introduced aggravating circumstances. Similarly, in 2006, significant reforms were made to the Labor Code in connection with sexual harassment.
- In November 2010, El Salvador passed the Special Comprehensive Law for a Life Free of Violence Against Women,^{8/} which consolidated the proposals put forth by women’s organizations and civil society. The law was analyzed by the Legislative Assembly’s Committee on Family, Women, and Children, with the technical assistance of the Salvadoran Institute for Women’s Development (ISDEMU).^{9/}
- Guatemala passed by Decree No. 22-2008, the Law Against Femicide and Other Forms of Violence Against Women, in order to ensure the highest possible level of protection for women against these crimes.
- Mexico has the 2007 General Law on Women’s Access to a Life Free of Violence, which was reformed in 2013. Currently, all federal states (31 states) and the Federal District have laws providing women access to a life free of violence, which constitute the legal basis necessary for developing policies, plans, programs, and projects aimed at this objective.
- By means of Law No. 27 of 1995, Panama regulated Domestic Violence and the Abuse of Minors. On March 31, 2004, Law No. 16 was passed; such law establishes provisions for preventing and classifying crimes against sexual freedom and [physical] integrity and amends and adds articles to the criminal and legal codes. Subsequently, on October 24, 2013, Law 82 was passed. This law “adopts measures to prevent violence against women and reforms the Criminal Code in order to classify femicide as a crime and punish acts of violence against women.”
- Paraguay has had Law 1600 Against Domestic Violence in place since 2000. This law protects all persons who are victims of family violence and requires the State—through the Secretariat for Women—to intervene in public policies related to prevention and coordinate joint actions with healthcare services, the National Police, the judiciary, and the Public Ministry, among others, in order to offer effective assistance to women and other victims of domestic violence.

8. The Legislative Assembly passed the above law unanimously, with 75 votes in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

9. The draft bill was submitted to the Legislative Assembly by the *Red Feminista frente a la Violencia contra la Mujer* [Feminist Network against Violence towards Women] and the Parliamentary Women’s Caucus.

- In 2010, Peru passed Law No. 26260, which provides protection against domestic violence, while in July 2013, it amended its Criminal Code to punish the crime of femicide.
- The Dominican Republic reported that Law 24–97, which introduces changes to the Criminal Code, represents a major step forward for women in terms of the formal protection of their right to live a life free from violence as it extends such protection to both private and public environments. The law includes both criminal and civil protection measures, punishes sexual violence within marriage, and defines violence against women as well as family or domestic violence. Additionally, the Dominican Republic’s 2010 Constitution establishes, under Article 42(2)(2), that “domestic and gender violence in any of their forms are condemned. The State shall ensure, by law, the adoption of the measures necessary to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women.”

In addition to the information provided by the countries in response to the follow-up questionnaires, the Secretariat has conducted a complete analysis of the progress made in protecting women’s right to live a life free from violence, observing that:

- In 2005, Chile passed Domestic Violence Law No. 20.066, which was amended in 2010 via Law 20.427. That same year Law No. 20.480 was also passed; such law modifies the criminal code and Law No. 20.066 on domestic violence by making femicide a crime, increasing the punishments applicable thereto, and reforming the regulations governing parricide.
- Honduras penalized domestic violence via Decree No. 132-97, which was overhauled almost completely, except for Articles 1 and 2, as expressed under Article One of Decree No. 250-2005.
- Since 2012, Nicaragua has had Law 779, the Comprehensive Law Against Violence Towards Women, and consequently introduced reforms to Law No. 641 of the Criminal Code in order to ensure the protection of women against violence.
- Uruguay has also had a Domestic Violence Law (Law No. 17.514) since 2002.
- Since November 2006, Venezuela has had the Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free From Violence, which consists of a provision that is enforced directly, with the characteristics of a fundamental law. It expressly recognizes the rights that emanate from both the CEDAW and the Belem do Pará Convention (Art. 3), thereby helping to effectively incorporate these human rights conventions into domestic legislation. A draft reform to this law incorporating the crime of femicide is currently on the table.

2. *Outcomes in information and statistics*

The MESECVI Technical Secretariat has, thus far, received responses to the follow-up indicators from 15 states,^{10/} out of a total of 32 states party to the Convention. We continue to receive responses, and thus, the Secretariat has moved forward in conducting a preliminary analysis that reflects the initial results of this follow-up round.

10. Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname.

The Secretariat observes that, since the adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará in 1994, the American region has been engaging in efforts to reflect in numbers the severity of violence against women. Such efforts, however, have been isolated and circumstantial, which has had ramifications not only on the operational capacity of states to gauge the reality of the problem, but also on the capacity of regional institutions to measure the progressive impact of public policies implemented since the Convention entered into force. Figures from surveys, health records, and different institutions involved in the administration of justice continue to be limited and still impossible to establish as national figures or, even less so, as regional numbers. That notwithstanding, some states that have been making efforts to gauge the problem enable us to move closer to a detailed image of the status of the situation.

Such image is a reflection of some of the figures provided by states that furnished information in fulfillment of the recommendations made in the Second Hemispheric Report of the MESECVI. Hence, while they fail to show the entire picture, they do enable us to move forward with policies that range from the collection of statistical data to the [determination of the] indicators necessary to respond effectively to the phenomenon of violence against women and girls in the region. In the specific case of girls, there is less data. Most of the figures obtained through surveys apply to the phenomenon starting at 15 years of age and therefore, few of these statistics make it possible for us to make broader projections about the phenomenon; the same is true in the case of older adult women. Nevertheless, the absence of data provides important elements that enable us to move forward in making recommendations in this direction.

For purposes of this report, three groups of statistical indicators were examined, to wit: violence rates, femicide^{11/} or feminicide figures, and administrative records. As the data and the way such data are collected vary in the states that responded to the indicators at the time these figures were being compiled, we are not providing figures that are similar or comparable among countries, only data and statistics by country that enable us to determine the severity of the problem as a whole.

Violence against women continues to be an underreported phenomenon for many reasons (gender stereotypes, lack of trust in the justice system, etc.) and thus official figures are partial and reflect only a portion of the reality and of women's lack of ability to fully exercise their right to live in a world free of violence. Additionally, only the figures from those states that reported having collected some statistics pursuant to the commitments taken on under the Convention are reflected. Of the total number of states that provided a response on the follow-up indicators, 13 made figures available on the three indicators surveyed, which is the information we are providing below:

11. For purposes of this document, the MESECVI defines "femicide" as "the violent death of women based on gender, whether it occurs within the family, a domestic partnership, or any other interpersonal relationship; in the community, by any person, or when it is perpetrated or tolerated by the state or its agents, by action or omission." Nevertheless, in the follow-up indicators, information was requested on existing femicide rates and thus each state has responded according to its own definition of the concept, which can range from the violent death of women at the hands of a partner or ex-partner, to broader concepts that include any type of violent death of women based on gender.

Argentina:

- In 2008, 1.8 out of every 100,000 women were victims of criminal homicide.^{12/} Argentina estimates that most of these cases were the result of gender violence.
- Every year, more than 8,000 women report having been directly and indirectly affected by some type of violence.

Bolivia:

- In the past three years (2010-2012), approximately 300 cases of femicide were reported, for an average of 100 per year.
- According to health records,^{13/} 323 out of every 100,000 women have been victims of violence.
- The rate of demand for care for women who have been victims of gender violence is estimated to be 10.46 per every 100,000.^{14/}

Brazil:

- Between 2009 and 2011, the annual femicide rate was an estimated 5.82 women killed out of every 100,000.^{15/}
- In the past 12 months, 815.04 out of every 100,000 women have been victims of violence.^{16/} 123,000 women were attacked by relatives; 348,000, by people they knew; 16,000, by police or security personnel; and 315,000 were attacked by strangers.
- From 2006 to 2011, a total of 98,990 criminal actions were brought for violence against women and girls.^{17/}

Colombia:

- In 2011, 101 women were murdered at the hands of their intimate partner or former intimate partner.^{18/}
- 65% of women reported that their husband or partner exerted control over them.^{19/}
- 37% of women who had ever been married or in a relationship reported having been victims of physical abuse by their husband or boyfriend.
- 13.9% had been physically attacked by someone other than their spouse.
- 5.9% of all women reported having been raped or forced to have sexual relations against their will by someone other than their spouse.
- Only 12,437 judgments were handed down out of a total of 580,504 cases of sexual and domestic violence: 10,386 convictions and 2,051 acquittals.^{20/} Of these cases, 123 occurred in the context of armed conflict.

12. Office of Domestic Violence. Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, Argentina.

13. National Demographic and Health Survey (ENDSA). National Institute of Statistics, 2008.

14. Records of the Special Fight Against Violence Force.

15. Study by the Applied Economics Research Institute.

16. Table 1.2.6.9.1. National Household Sample Survey (PNAD) conducted in 2009 by the Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute (IBGE).

17. National Justice Council Study.

18. National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences (NMLCF).

19. National Demographic and Health Survey (ENDSA), 2010.

20. Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, Colombia, 2012.

- Eighty-seven cases were assigned to the National Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Unit. Of these, to date, only 7 have ended in convictions, and 11 arrest warrants have been issued.

Costa Rica:

- The current femicide rate as established under Article 21 of the Law Criminalizing Violence against Women is 0.22^{21/} per 100,000 women.
- Number of cases reported under the Law Criminalizing Violence Against (older) Women (LPVCM): 20,850. Number of judgments: 704.^{22/}
- Number of cases reported under the Criminal Juvenile LPVCM: 160. Number of judgments: 5.
- Number of cases filed for the crime of femicide (under Art. 21 of the LPVCM):^{23/} 5. Number of judgments: 7.
- Number of cases filed for the crime of femicide (under the Convention of Belém do Pará): 21.
- Number of requests for protection measures: 90,507.

Ecuador:

- A total of 654,449 women reported having suffered violence at the hands of their partner or ex-partner in the past 12 months, giving us a rate of 12.164 out of every 100 women.^{24/}
- 2,487,428 women stated that they had been victims of violence at the hands of their partner or ex-partner at some point in their lives, which is a rate of 46.233 per 100,000 women.

El Salvador:

- The national rate of violent deaths of women is 21 violent deaths per 100,000 women.^{25/}
- In the 2005-2010 period, only between 2.7% and 5% of the total number of cases filed with the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic were prosecuted and ended with sentences.^{26/} This means that 95% of the violent deaths of women have gone unpunished.^{27/}

Guatemala:

- The rate of violent deaths of women is 9.17 per 100,000 women.^{28/}
- 41.9% of women have been victims of verbal violence at some point in their lives, 24.3%, of physical violence, and 12.9%, of sexual violence.^{29/}

21. For purposes of making calculations, the following is to be considered: Number of femicides – Article 21 + broader femicide + criminal homicides of women for other reasons, all multiplied by 100,000 and divided by the number of women counted in the census by INEC. Statistics Section of the Judiciary.

22. Statistics Section, Judiciary, 2013.

23. Article 21 of the LPVCM: A prison sentence of between 20 and 35 years shall be imposed on any individual who kills a woman with whom he is married, or in a relationship, whether openly or not.

24. National survey on family relationships and gender violence against women, 2001. National Institute of Statistics and Census.

25. 2012 National Report. Status and situation of violence against women in El Salvador.

26. Office of the Prosecutor for the Defense of Human Rights.

27. 2012 National Report. Status and situation of violence against women in El Salvador.

28. Data from the National Institute of Forensic Sciences, 2012; 2000-2020 Population Projections.

29. 2008-2009 Maternal-Infant Health Survey.

- From 2008 to June 2013, 226 judgments were handed down for femicide and 2,445, for violence against women in its different manifestations.
- Out of a total of 7,548 cases filed for violence against women, rulings have been made in only 909.^{30/}

Mexico:

- Out of every 100,000 women, 46,994.7^{31/} between the ages of 15 and 55 report having experienced at least one violent incident during their relationship with their most recent partner.^{32/}
- Out of every 100,000 women, 43,090.2 indicated having endured emotional violence.
- Out of every 100,000 women, 24,478.7 had suffered economic violence.
- Out of every 100,000 women, 14,029.9 had been subjected to physical violence.
- Out of every 100,000 women, 7,348.9 had endured sexual violence.
- The prevalence rate of patrimonial violence^{33/} suffered by women who were married or in a relationship at the time of the survey was 58,563 out of every 100,000, while for women who had been in a relationship at one time in their lives, the rate was 17,202.4.

Paraguay:

- In 2012, the total number of cases of deaths caused by gender violence recorded was 36, of which, 33 had been perpetrated by the woman's intimate partner or ex-partner.^{34/}
- 18.7% of women had endured verbal violence.
- 6.7% reported physical violence.
- 1.7% had been victim of sexual violence.
- Among women either currently or ever married or in a relationship, the figures go up.^{35/}
- 36% of the women reported having suffered verbal violence.
- 17.9% reported physical violence. 16.8% of the women had been victims of physical violence before the age of 15. Women between 35 and 39 years of age are the ones with the highest percentage at 22.9%.
- 5% of women had suffered sexual abuse. 24% of rapes had been committed by the husband, 16%, by an ex-husband, and 12%, by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend. The vast majority of rapes were committed by people the victim knew: 35% by neighbors, friends, employers (bosses), relatives, and stepfathers. 13% of the women who had been raped reported having been victimized by a stranger.
- Between 2006 and 2011, 1,408 cases of domestic violence were filed, of which 127 were resolved in the justice system.^{36/}

30. Judiciary, 2012.

31. The sum of the types of violence does not add up to the total, as each woman might have been victim of more than one type.

32. Data furnished by Inmujeres based on INEGI, taken from the 2011 National Survey on Household Relationship Dynamics.

33. Any act or omission that affects the survival of a woman. This manifests in the transformation, removal, destruction, retention, or diversion of objects, personal documents, property and securities, assets, or economic resources used for meeting her needs and may extend to damage to shared property and property belonging to the woman.

34. Source: Ministry of Women/National Police.

35. Source: National Demographic and Sexual and Reproductive Health Survey, ENDSSR, 2008.

- In 2012, 3,881 reports^{37/} were filed with the Assistance for Women, Children, and Adolescent Victims Divisions.
- In 2012, the Assistance for Women, Children, and Adolescent Victims Divisions handled 122 cases of sexual violence.^{38/}

Peru:

- Ninety-nine women were victims of femicide in 2012.^{39/} According to the National Institute for Statistics and Informatics (INEI), in 2012, the female population in Peru was an estimated 15,032,872 (PERU: Population Estimates and Projections by Sex, Broken Down by Department, Province, and District, 2000-2015).^{40/} The femicide rate is 0.6585 per every 100,000 women.
- 12.9% of women who have ever been in a relationship reported having endured physical and sexual violence at the hands of their husband or partner in the past 12 months.
- 37.2% of women who have ever been in a relationship reported having been victims of physical and sexual violence at the hands of their husband or partner.^{41/}
- 27.6% of the women interviewed mentioned individuals (family members, relatives, friends, employers, or strangers) as perpetrators of physical violence against them other than their husband or partner.
- 66.3% of women who have ever been in a relationship reported that their husband or partner exerted some form of control over them.^{42/}
- 21.7% of women who have ever been in a relationship reported having experienced episodes of verbal violence in the form of being humiliated in front of others.^{43/}
- 19.9% of women who have ever been in a relationship reported that their husband or partner had threatened to leave home or take away their child(ren) or financial support.
- In 2012, 141,114 reports were filed with the Public Ministry and 54,599 cases of violence were forwarded to the justice system. In that same year, the National Police received 122,689⁴⁴ reports of domestic violence, of which 110,161 (90%) involved female victims. Of these, 129 were cases of femicide and 744 were cases of trafficking in women.
- In 2012, there were a total of 6,240 reports of violations of sexual freedom, with female victims accounting for 93.41% of such reports; of these victims, 4,257 were younger than 18 years of age.
- 75.4% of victims of violence go to the police in search of help.

36. Clarification: Not all cases end with a firm judgment, but rather with other types of legal resolutions (interlocutory appeal or orders). Secretariat for Gender of the Judiciary, Supreme Court of Justice.

37. National Police.

38. National Police.

39. Crime Observatory of the Public Ministry. 2013 Report.

40. The National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI):
[Http://www.inei.gov.pe/biblioinei/pub/bancopub/Est/Lib0842/](http://www.inei.gov.pe/biblioinei/pub/bancopub/Est/Lib0842/)

41. INEI. 2013 Report.

42. INEI. Demographic and Family Health Survey - ENDES 2012. Lima: 2013.

43. INEI. Demographic and Family Health Survey - ENDES 2012. Lima: 2013.

44. Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations. 6th Report on Compliance with the Law on Equal Opportunity. Lima, 2013, p. 105.

Dominican Republic:

- In 2012, a total of 116 cases of femicide were filed.^{45/}
- Recent violence has been substantially worse among women who had a partner or who, at the time the survey was taken, were married or in a relationship (14% and 11%, respectively) compared to women who had never had [a partner] (4%).^{46/}
- The way physical violence unfolds is an illustration of the most significant differences in terms of marital status, and hence, one may conclude that development of a relationship constitutes a clear risk factor for physical violence.
- 31% of divorced, separated, or widowed women and 21% of women who are married or in a relationship reported that, at some point in their lives after the age of 15, they had experienced some type of physical violence, compared to 8% of women who have never been married or in a relationship.^{47/}
- One out of every 10 women has been the victim of sexual violence at some point in her life.
- 8% of women who have never been married or in a relationship reported having experienced some episode of physical violence. 4% of women who have never been married or in a relationship report having been the victim of sexual violence.
- In 2012, approximately 65,709 cases of violence against women were reported.^{48/}
- Also in 2012, 3,488 cases of sexual violence were reported.
- From January to September 2012, 1,469 cases of violence against women, domestic violence, and sex crimes against women were prosecuted. In 2012, 355 judgments were handed down, of which 84% were convictions.^{49/}

Suriname:

- In 2012, 2,582 women were victims of femicide at the hands of their intimate partner or ex-partner.^{50/}
- In the period from September to December 2012 alone, 176 women were victims of domestic violence.^{51/}

IV. STRENGTHENING OF THE MESECVI

In the framework of the strengthening of the MESECVI, the Fifth Conference of States Party took place on November 18-19, 2013 in Washington, D.C. Two (2) preparatory meetings were held for this conference and as a result of the Fifth Conference of States Party, the Working Group to Strengthen the MESECVI was created.

The first and second preparatory meetings for the Fifth Conference of States Party took place on November 6, 2013 and November 13, 2013 at the OAS's General Services Building in Washington, D.C. During the first preparatory meeting, an agreement was reached to create an informal working group, which was convened and met on November 7, 2013. The objective of the

45. Observatory on Citizen Security of the Dominican Republic (OCS-DR).

46. Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic, Statistics Unit.

47. 2007 Demographic and Health Survey, Dominican Republic (ENDESA).

48. Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic.

49. Statistics from the Public Ministry of the National District's Public Prosecutor's Office.

50. Suriname Police Force, 2012.

51. Suriname Police Force. Criminal Data Collection Department.

working group was to agree on the documents to be covered during the second preparatory meeting. In both preparatory meetings, work was done, and consensus reached, on the list of documents to be presented at the Conference of States Party, the order of topics on the schedule of activities, and the order of precedence to be followed. The two preparatory meetings were attended by a significant number of states: nineteen (19) states at the first meeting and twenty (20) at the second meeting according to the attendance lists they signed.

Regarding civil society participation at the Conference, on November 7, 2013, in response to its request to attend the Fifth Conference of States Party, we informed the *Centro de Derechos Reproductivos* [Center for Reproductive Rights] (Colombia) about the procedure for registering as a civil society organization with the OAS. Likewise, on November 14, 2013, an invitation was extended to the civil society organizations accredited with the OAS to take part in the Fifth Conference of States Party to the Convention of Belém Do Pará.

The Fifth Conference of States Party took place on November 18-19, 2013, and was attended by twenty-one (21) states the first and second days; detailed information on the participation of the states is provided in the table contained in the corresponding annex.

The following are the agreements that came out of the Fifth Conference of States Party (MESECVI-V doc.109/13 rev.4 corr.1):

1. Promote, through technical cooperation with the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women and other State bodies, the adoption of protocols to ensure access to justice for women victims of violence and improve the States' responses to gender-based violence;
2. Foster activities to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Belém do Pará Convention at the national, regional and subregional level that contribute to the "Reflection Process for Strengthening the MESECVI."
3. Encourage the States Party that have not yet done so, to designate their Principal and Alternate Experts, pursuant to the Statute of the Mechanism, with the objective of strengthening the operation of the Committee of Experts. To this end, States are encouraged to make these designations, where possible, before the "Hemispheric Forum on the Belém do Pará Convention" to be held in 2014 in Brazil;
4. Continue promoting, with the support of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, cooperation and exchange of good practices and information between the Mechanism and other entities that address violence against women at the subregional, regional and international levels, such as the justice institutions of the region, the bodies that bring them together, and any multilateral mechanisms that bring together authorities on gender and women's issues, including the Central American Council of Women Ministers (COMMCA), the Council on Human and Social Development of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Network of Women's Machineries of the Andean Region (REMMA), the Meeting of Ministers and Highest Authorities on Women's affairs of MERCOSUR (RMAAM), and other specialized organizations such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),

the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and the World Bank, among others;

5. Foster international cooperation for sharing ideas and experiences, as well as for executing programs designed to protect women victims of violence such as those established within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Council and the MESECVI, in order to strengthen partnerships with the Council of Europe; sharing its contributions for the future entry into force of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention);
6. Reaffirm the commitments of the States to the strengthening of the MESECVI and the importance of disseminating the progress, good practices, and challenges after 20 years of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará;”
7. Urge member states and permanent observers to the OAS to consider, as a matter of priority, increasing the financial and human resources necessary to strengthen the work of the Mechanism in order to address the situation of violence against women;
8. Encourage the Secretary General of the OAS, as a matter of priority, to consider allocating the human, technical, and financial resources necessary for the best possible operation of the Technical Secretariat and the Mechanism, to include identifying sources of external funds and hosting a donors meeting, as well as the identification of sources of external funds such as international and regional financial institutions, official national agencies, etc., in order to finance the activities necessary for the effective operation of the Mechanism and its Technical Secretariat, pursuant to Article 11 of the MESECVI Statute;
9. Ask the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to produce tools for exchange, training, and technical assistance⁵² for the States Party that request them, for the effective implementation of the “Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women – Convention of Belém do Pará” (MESECVI/CEVI/doc.188 /13 rev.1); and invite the States Party to provide information on such indicators, making the most of any exchange that might be possible with States that have made progress in this area such that the Mechanism may have a broad vision of the efforts undertaken by the States Party;
10. Continue fostering and encouraging the participation of civil society and other actors in the activities of the MESECVI, in the framework of Article 10(2) of the MESECVI Statute, taking into consideration the Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)];

52. In accordance with Art. 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI.

11. Strengthen coordination with the corresponding authorities in order to promote the work of the Mechanism at the regional and national levels, and request that the Technical Secretariat broaden its dissemination through the MESECVI webpage and other media;
12. Create a Working Group to Strengthen the MESECVI so that, prior to the next meeting of the Conference of the States Party (to take place in October 2014 in Mexico), it may consider and make the corresponding recommendations to the Conference on the following topics:
 - a. The Strategic Plan of the MESECVI, 2014-2017. The Strategic Plan must fall within the scope of Mechanism and shall take into account the competencies established under the MESECVI Statute for the Conference of the States Party and the Committee of Experts;
 - b. Guidelines for conducting discussions and/or meetings between the Conference of the States Party and the CEVI;
 - c. Recommendations on tools to promote greater participation by the experts in CEVI meetings, including funding their participation in official CEVI meetings using the MESECVI Specific Fund, as created under Article 11 of the Mechanism's Statute;
 - d. Promotion of the participation of civil society and other actors in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities" [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]."

If, as a result of the agreements reached, amendment of the MESECVI Statute is deemed necessary, the working group may also submit relevant recommendations on the issues established under the mandate to the consideration of the Conference of the States Party.

In the work calendar to be agreed on by the working group, priority shall be given to the analysis of the MESECVI Strategic Plan for purposes of submitting the working group's proposal to the consideration of the National Authorities by no later than March 2014.

The CEVI, through its Chair, is invited to send recommendations, where relevant, on the issues to be addressed by the working group for their consideration.

The working group will have the support of the MESECVI Technical Secretariat. It will be an open forum and is to be chaired by Ana Lucia Nieto Frias, Alternate Representative of Peru to the OAS. The working group will designate its vice chairs in keeping with the principle of regional representation.

13. Ask the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to draw up, for the consideration of the states, a biannual calendar, that is not to coincide with March 8th and November 25th, containing every scheduled activity and meeting that should include the

participation of the Ministers and High Authorities on Gender Issues, as well as all of the meetings of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Belém do Pará Convention);

14. Take note of the presentation of the “Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of the Violent Deaths of Women for Gender-based Reasons (Femicide/Feminicide)” developed by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women);
15. Take note of the presentation of the *Protocolo para Juzgar con Perspectiva de Género* [Protocol for Judging from a Gender Perspective], developed by the Gender Equality Unit of the Supreme Court of Justice of the United Mexican States;
16. Thank Patricia Olamendi Torres, the expert from Mexico, for her work during 2011-2013 as Coordinator of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the Mechanism to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Belém do Pará Convention – MESECVI).
17. Request that the Inter-American Commission of Women, as Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, prepare and submit within 90 days, a report to the States Party on the efforts, achievements, and challenges faced by the CEVI, including the work done by the experts, the resources available to them, when their meetings have been held, and the issues they have addressed. All of this for purposes of tracking the CEVI’s progress and its contributions to the MESECVI.
18. Welcome the accession of Italy to the Convention of Belém do Pará, which within the context of Article 8(i) of the Convention, constitutes an effective way to encourage international cooperation for sharing ideas and experiences and executing programs aimed at protecting women who are victims of violence;
19. Request that the Chair of this Conference submit a report to the Sixth Conference of States Party, based on the follow-up and periodic reports of the CEVI and the Technical Secretariat, as appropriate, on the measures adopted and progress made in the implementation of these agreements;
20. Welcome and willingly accept the offer extended by the delegation of Mexico to host the next Special Conference of States Party to be held in October 2014 and by the delegation of Peru to host the next Regular Conference of States Party, to be held in 2015.”

a. Working Group to Strengthen the MESECVI

As a follow-up to the agreements reached during the Fifth Conference of States Party, the Working Group to Strengthen the MESECVI met on January 23, 2014. The Permanent Mission of

Peru to the OAS, in its capacity as Chair of this working group, convened the meeting. The order of business considered for this meeting included: (1) Election of the vice chairs; (2) Strategic Plan of the MESECVI, 2014-2017; (3) Guidelines for holding discussions and/or meetings between the Conference of States Party and the Committee of Experts; (4) Recommendations on tools to promote the broad participation of experts in the meetings of the CEVI, including funding for their attendance at official meetings of the CEVI through the MESECVI Specific Fund; and (5) Promoting the participation of civil society and other actors pursuant to the “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.”

Eighteen (18) countries took part in this meeting according to the attendance list signed. The following are the agreements that came out of the Working Group to Strengthen the MESECVI:

Agreements of the meeting:

1. It was agreed that there would be three vice chairs: 1st – Guatemala; 2nd – Mexico; and 3rd – Belize.
2. February 6 was slated as the deadline for submitting input and comments via email regarding the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan.
3. The Chair of the working group was to send a timeline with the deadlines for submitting comments on the remaining topics and dates of the upcoming meetings.
4. The Technical Secretary was to draw up draft rules of procedure for the MESECVI Fund based on work that had already been done when draft rules of procedure were developed for the MESECVI Subfund, which the Conference of States Party decided to not create, and bearing in mind the rules of procedure for other voluntary funds at the OAS.
5. The Technical Secretariat was asked to send the tables with the information from the experts who had participated, the experts appointed.
6. Costa Rica’s CNA was asked to share the funding mechanisms it had been evaluating for the state to be able to finance its expert.
7. The delegation of Mexico promised to forward its methodology for an open call for designating experts, in case having such information would be useful.
8. The Chair asked the Technical Secretariat to consolidate all the comments on the topics indicated—appointment, fund, autonomy and independence, quorum, participation, guidelines for meetings between the Conference of States Party and the CEVI, promotion of civil society participation in the framework of OAS rules—for purposes of preparing the documents that would be necessary for future meetings.

At the time this report is being submitted, the Technical Secretariat is at work preparing all of the documents necessary for the Second Meeting of the Working Group to Strengthen the MESECVI, scheduled for February 21, 2014.

V. PROMOTION OF THE MESECVI

In its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, the CIM has taken part in a number of activities, among them:

On September 5, 2013, the Follow-Up Indicators were sent to OAS-accredited civil society organizations for their input regarding the promotion and protection of women's right to a life free from violence. To date, no alternative report has been received.

For their part, three (3) civil society organizations informed the Technical Secretariat of their interest in becoming accredited. Hence, on September 30, 2013, in response to its request, we informed the *Fundación de Asistencia Legal Comunitaria* [Community Legal Assistance Foundation] (FUNDALCOM) about the requirements for registering as a civil society organization with the OAS. On November 7, we further informed the *Centro de Derechos Reproductivos* [Center for Reproductive Rights] (Colombia) about the procedures for registering as a civil society organization with the OAS. On February 10, in response to its request for information, we informed the Université de Québec à Montréal's International Clinic for the Defense of Human Rights about the requirements for registering as a civil society organization with the OAS.

On February 11-12, 2013, the "Regional Consultations for Latin America and the Caribbean," in preparation for the Fifty-seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), were held. MESECVI Technical Secretary, Luz Patricia Mejía, attended those consultations in order to promote, on behalf of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, and at the behest of the *Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas* [International Indigenous Women's Forum], the adoption of a specific resolution on violence against indigenous women and incorporation into the document of the need to have the United Nations support for regional mechanisms like the MESECVI; this was ultimately included in document E/CN.6/2013/11, "*Conclusions reached on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls*," recognizing "...the important function that regional initiatives, agreements, conventions, and instruments and their follow-up mechanisms play in preventing and eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls in the respective regions and countries."

On February 21, in Washington D.C., the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, met with representatives of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) to promote the Second Hemispheric Report and establish mechanisms for coordinating joint activities.

On March 1, in Washington D.C., the MESECVI's Technical Secretary presented document, CIM/CD/doc.5/13, "*Report of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI for Presentation to the First Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the CIM, 2013-2015*," which included details on the activities undertaken by the CEVI and the MESECVI Technical Secretariat in the most recent period.

Patricia Olamendi, who was Coordinator of the CEVI until September 2013, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), Ambassador Carmen Moreno, and MESECVI Technical Secretary, Luz Patricia Mejía, took part in the Fifty-seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which was held in New York City, USA, on March 4

and 5. At that meeting they met with representatives of the Ministries of Women of Sweden and Finland to introduce them to the Convention of Belém do Pará and explain how the MESECVI operates in order to establish future partnerships with both countries. They also met with Marja Ruotanen from the Council of Europe's Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law and Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Head of the Gender Equality and Violence Against Women Division of the Council of Europe's Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law to establish a collaborative partnership between the MESECVI and the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Istanbul Convention, with which work is already underway on a joint project to commemorate both the 20th Anniversary of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention during a side event to the upcoming Fifty-eighth CSW, which is to take place on March 10, 2014.

On March 12, 2013, the CIM's Executive Secretary, Ambassador Carmen Moreno, and the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, met in New York with the President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of the United Mexican States, Eduardo Sojo Garza, in order to present to him the *Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará*, plan future collaborative efforts, and share their expertise on gender indicators.

On March 18-19, the MESECVI Technical Secretariat presented the *Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará* during an event with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington, D.C.

The Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, was invited to Santiago, Chile from April 13-17 to make a presentation on the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará and the *Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará* to the Universidad de Chile's Law School's Gender Postgraduate program.

The Permanent Secretariat of the CIM and the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI were invited to both Paris and Strasbourg, France, from May 25-31, to meet with representatives of the French government to strengthen cooperation with it. They also met with representatives of the Council of Europe to coordinate the partnership between the Follow-up Mechanism to the Istanbul Convention (GREVIO) and the MESECVI.

On June 12-13, Technical Secretary Luz Patricia Mejía, took part in ECLAC's "International Seminar on Indicators for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights" in Santiago, Chile, where she once again gave a presentation on the *Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará*.

From August 20-22 in San Jose, Costa Rica, the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM and the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI were invited to take part in a round table discussion about the MESECVI and the 20 years of the Convention of Belém do Pará during the "International Congress: Administration of Justice and Gender."

On August 29-30, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI was in Mexico City, Mexico, in the context of the General Cooperation Agreement between the *Comisión Nacional de Tribunales Superiores de Justicia* [National Commission for Higher Courts] (CONATrib) of the United

Mexican States and the *Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres* [National Women’s Institute] (INMUJERES), to give a presentation on the importance of the “Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará and its impact on the inter-American human rights system” in order to demonstrate the impact the Convention has had on the inter-American human rights system and on the transformation of the legal and policy frameworks of its states party.

From September 3-5, the Executive Secretary of the CIM, Carmen Moreno, and the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía, were in Aguascalientes, Mexico, to attend the Fourteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics, where they were invited to present the *Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará*.

From September 25-27, the Inter-American Commission of Women, together with the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina, held, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a seminar on “Women’s Human Rights: Good Practices in Gender Justice.” The seminar was coordinated by the MESECVI Technical Secretariat and aimed to identify specific areas of hemispheric cooperation to promote and strengthen gender justice as a tool in the fight against discrimination and violence.

VI. FINANCING THE MESECVI

In 2013, the fund created for the MESECVI received contributions from Argentina, France, Mexico, Nicaragua, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

All OAS and CIM Assemblies have repeated the call to governments to contribute human or financial resources to the MESECVI. In September 2012, the Secretary General of the OAS sent a letter to all of the Foreign Ministers of the states party to the Conference requesting financial contributions, human resources, or other in-kind contributions for the MESECVI.

It is worth noting that, presently, the MESECVI has very limited resources for fully complying with its multiple mandates and its goals as a hemispheric authority on the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women. In this respect, a key aspect of the efforts to strengthen the MESECVI lies in focusing on mobilizing resources from both the states party to the Convention and other potential donors via the development and execution of specific projects.

This is an historic situation. As the table below shows, contributions to the Mechanism have always been limited and thus, in the framework of the strengthening process, it is necessary to take into account both the objectives laid out and the resources required to meet them.

Contributions to the MESECVI (Annual)

Sum of the Contributions (US\$)		
Year	Donor	Total
2004	Mexico	29,970.00
2004 Total		29,970.00
2005	Brazil	10,000.00
	Mexico	55,575.00
2005 Total		65,575.00

	2006	Mexico	54,151.62
2006 Total			54,151.62
	2007	Argentina	9,535.40
		France	10,000.00
		Mexico	54,894.78
2007 Total			74,430.18
	2008	China	15,000.00
		Mexico	42,938.00
		Venezuela	76,466.00
2008 Total			134,404.00
	2009	Argentina	5,000.00
		China	30,000.00
		Mexico	34,349.00
		Trinidad and Tobago	15,000.00
2009 Total			84,349.00
	2010	Mexico	25,478.00
		Trinidad and Tobago	15,000.00
2010 Total			40,478.00
	2011	Argentina	20,000.00
		Mexico	19,110.00
		Trinidad and Tobago	15,000.00
2011 Total			54,110.00
	2012	Argentina	15,000.00
		Mexico	14,333.00
		Trinidad and Tobago	15,000.00
2012 Total			44,333.00
	2013	Argentina	15,000.00
		France	2,091.89
		Mexico	29,453.11
		Nicaragua	5,000.00
		Suriname	2,000.00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15,000.00	
2013 Total			68,545.00
Grand Total			650,345.80

ANNEX I

**Second Multilateral Evaluation Round (2010-2013):
Responses to the questionnaire, preliminary reports, comments from the CNAs, final reports,
and final observations on the country reports adopted by the CEVI**

Country	EVALUATION					FOLLOW-UP
	Response to the questionnaire	Preliminary Report	Comments – CNAs	Final Report	Final Observations – CNAs	Response – Indicators
1. Antigua and Barbuda	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
2. Argentina	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
3. Bahamas	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
4. Barbados	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
5. Belize	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
6. Bolivia	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
7. Brazil	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
8. Chile	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
9. Colombia	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
10. Costa Rica	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
11. Dominica	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
12. Ecuador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
13. El Salvador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
14. Grenada ⁵³	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
15. Guatemala	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
16. Guyana	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
17. Haiti	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
18. Honduras ⁵⁴	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
19. Jamaica	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO

53. Grenada's Competent National Authority submitted its response to the CEVI's questionnaire following the Seventh Meeting of the Committee and consequently, such response could not be analyzed during that meeting.

54. The OAS General Assembly lifted the suspension on the government of Honduras in June 2011.

Country	EVALUATION					FOLLOW-UP
	Response to the questionnaire	Preliminary Report	Comments – CNAs	Final Report	Final Observations – CNAs	Response – Indicators
20. Mexico	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
21. Nicaragua	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
22. Panama	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
23. Paraguay	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
24. Peru	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
25. Dominican Republic	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
26. St. Kitts and Nevis	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
27. Saint Lucia	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
28. St. Vincent and the Grenadines	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
29. Suriname	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
30. Trinidad and Tobago	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
31. Uruguay	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
32. Venezuela	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
TOTAL	28	28	21	28	21	15

24. Peru	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	SI
25. Dominican Republic	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
26. St. Kitts and Nevis	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
27. Saint Lucia	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
28. St. Vincent and the Grenadines	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
29. Suriname	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	SI
30. Trinidad and Tobago	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
31. Uruguay	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
32. Venezuela	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
TOTAL	28	22	28	20	20	15	17

ANNEX III

Status of Designation of Experts and Competent National Authorities during the First and Second Multilateral Evaluation Rounds

COUNTRY	EXPERTS		CNA	
	1 MER	2 MER (2013)	1 MER	2 MER (2013)
1. Antigua and Barbuda	YES	YES	YES	YES
2. Argentina	YES	YES	YES	YES
3. Bahamas	YES	YES	YES	YES
4. Barbados	YES	YES	YES	YES
5. Belize	YES	YES	YES	NO
6. Bolivia	YES	NO	YES	NO
7. Brazil	YES	YES	YES	YES
8. Chile	YES	NO	YES	YES
9. Colombia	YES	YES	YES	YES
10. Costa Rica	YES	NO	YES	YES
11. Dominica	YES	YES	YES	YES
12. Ecuador	YES	NO	YES	YES
13. El Salvador	YES	YES	YES	YES
14. Grenada	NO	YES	NO	YES
15. Guatemala	YES	YES	YES	YES
16. Guyana	YES	YES	YES	YES
17. Haiti	YES	YES	YES	NO
18. Honduras	YES	NO	YES	NO
19. Jamaica	YES	YES	YES	YES
20. Mexico	YES	NO	YES	YES
21. Nicaragua	YES	NO	YES	YES
22. Panama	YES	YES	YES	YES
23. Paraguay	YES	YES	YES	YES
24. Peru	YES	YES	YES	YES
25. Dominican Republic	YES	YES	YES	YES
26. St. Kitts and Nevis	NO	YES	NO	YES
27. Saint Lucia	NO	YES	YES	YES
28. St. Vincent and the Grenadines	YES	YES	NO	YES

COUNTRY	EXPERTS		CNA	
	1 MER	2 MER (2013)	1 MER	2 MER (2013)
29. Suriname	YES	YES	NO	NO
30. Trinidad and Tobago	YES	NO	YES	YES
31. Uruguay	YES	YES	YES	YES
32. Venezuela	YES	NO	YES	NO
TOTAL	29	23	28	26

ANNEX IV

Participation in the Conferences of States Party during the First and Second Multilateral Evaluation Rounds

PAÍS / COUNTRY	1st MER		2nd MER		
	I CONFERENCE (2004)	II CONFERENCE (2008)	III CONFERENCE (2011)	IV CONFERENCE (2012)	V CONFERENCE (2013)
1. Antigua and Barbuda	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
2. Argentina	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
3. Bahamas	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
4. Barbados	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
5. Belize	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
6. Bolivia	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
7. Brazil	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
8. Canada ^{55/}	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
9. Chile	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
10. Colombia	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
11. Costa Rica	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
12. Dominica	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
13. Ecuador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
14. El Salvador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
15. Grenada	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
16. Guatemala	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
17. Guyana	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
18. Haiti	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
19. Honduras	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO
20. Jamaica	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
21. Mexico	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
22. Nicaragua	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
23. Panama	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
24. Paraguay	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
25. Peru	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

55.. Participated as an observer (Article 4 of the MESECVI Statute).

PAÍS / COUNTRY	1 st MER		2 nd MER		
	I CONFERENCE (2004)	II CONFERENCE (2008)	III CONFERENCE (2011)	IV CONFERENCE (2012)	V CONFERENCE (2013)
26. Dominican Republic	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
27. St. Kitts and Nevis	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
28. Saint Lucia	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
29. St. Vincent and the Grenadines	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
30. Suriname	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
31. Trinidad and Tobago	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
32. United States ^{56/}	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
33. Uruguay	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
34. Venezuela	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
TOTAL	26	21	23	24	23

56. *Idem.*

ANNEX V

Participation of Experts in the Meetings of the Committee of Experts (2005-2013)

Country	First Meeting (2005)	Second Meeting (2006)	Third Meeting (2007)	Fourth Meeting (2008)	Fifth Meeting (2009)	Sixth Meeting (2010)	Seventh Meeting (2011)	Eighth Meeting (2012)	Ninth Meeting (2012)	Tenth Meeting (2013)
Antigua and Barbuda	NO	YES	YES	SI	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Argentina	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Bahamas	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
Barbados	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES
Belize	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO
Bolivia	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Brazil	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES
Chile	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
Colombia	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Costa Rica	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dominica	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Ecuador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO
El Salvador	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Grenada	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
Guatemala	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Guyana	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Haiti	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Honduras	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Jamaica	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Mexico	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Nicaragua	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Panama	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Paraguay	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Peru	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
Dominican Republic	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO

Country	First Meeting (2005)	Second Meeting (2006)	Third Meeting (2007)	Fourth Meeting (2008)	Fifth Meeting (2009)	Sixth Meeting (2010)	Seventh Meeting (2011)	Eighth Meeting (2012)	Ninth Meeting (2012)	Tenth Meeting (2013)
St. Kitts and Nevis	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
Saint Lucia	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
Suriname	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Trinidad and Tobago	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Uruguay	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
Venezuela	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
TOTAL	20	17	18	15	13	21	19	8	18	14

ANNEX VI

States With Appointment or Official Notification of Expert Pending in February 2014

	Country	Name
1	Bolivia	Appointment of Experts (P and A) pending
2	Chile	Appointment of Experts (P and A) pending
3	Costa Rica	Appointment of Principal Expert pending
4	Ecuador	Appointment of Principal Expert pending
5	Honduras	Appointment of Experts (P and A) pending
6	Mexico	Appointment of Principal Expert pending
7	Nicaragua	Appointment of Experts (P and A) pending
8	Trinidad and Tobago	Appointment of Principal Expert pending
9	Venezuela	Appointment of Experts (P and A) pending