



Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

OEA/Ser.L
CIM/doc.129/15
February 13th 2015
Original: Spanish

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE
PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
“CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ,” IN FULFILLMENT OF RESOLUTION AG/RES. 2832
(XLIV-O/14)**

Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
I. Background, Legal Foundations, Structure, and Objectives.....	3
II. OAS General Assembly Mandates (2014).....	4
III. Progress of the Second Multilateral Follow-up Round.....	6
IV. Strengthening of the MESECVI	
a. First Special Conference of States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention.....	8
b. Agreements of the First Special Conference.....	8
c. Workshops on the System of Indicators for Measuring Progress in the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention.....	9
V. Promotion of the MESECVI.....	10
VI. Funding the MESECVI.....	12
VII. Annexes:	
a. Second Multilateral Evaluation Round (2010-2014): Responses to the questionnaire, preliminary reports, comments from the CNAs, final reports, and final observations on the country reports adopted by the CEVI.....	14
b. Status of Designation of Experts and Competent National Authorities during the First and Second Multilateral Evaluation Rounds.....	16
c. Participation in the Conferences of States Party during the First and Second Multilateral Evaluation Rounds.....	18
d. Participation of Experts in the Meetings of the Committee of Experts (2005- 2014).....	20
e. States With Appointment or Official Notification of Expert Pending in February 2015.....	22

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. 2832 (XLIV-O/14), hereby submits to the Permanent Council of the OAS this report on the efforts made to implement the MESECVI between March 2014 and February 2015.^{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 2014,^{2/} the Second Follow-up Phase culminated with the presentation of the Second Follow-Up Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts and the 19 reports of the countries that participated. 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 Second Follow-up Phase, this year also saw the continuation 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.

This year also marked the 20th Anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention, which served as the basis for building and developing both strategic forums for reflection that 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.

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. 2832 (XLIV-O/14), hereby submits to the Permanent Council of the OAS this report on the efforts made to implement the MESECVI between March 2014 and February 2015.⁴

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. 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

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/mese cvi/default.asp>.

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. The Technical Secretariat is currently in the process of publishing and disseminating the *Second Follow-Up Report on the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI* (MESECVI/I-CE/doc.10/14 rev1).⁵

II. OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MANDATES

From June 3rd to 5th 2014, the Forty-Forth Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) was held in Asunción, Paraguay. The President of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), Alejandra Mora, presented the annual reports of the CIM and of the MESECVI. Once those reports had been presented, the General Assembly adopted resolution AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14) “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 encourage 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 to participating as observers in the Mechanism, in accordance with Article 4.1 of the MESECVI Statute, and to take steps to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women.
2. To encourage the States Parties to the Convention to:
 - a. implement the recommendations of the MESECVI to promote full compliance with the Convention of Belém do Pará;
 - b. foster coordination between 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 levels;
 - c. promote, through technical cooperation with national machineries for the advancement of women and other government bodies, the adoption of protocols for guaranteeing that women victims of violence have access to justice;⁶
 - d. make voluntary contributions to the MESECVI fund in order to provide the Mechanism with the necessary human and financial resources to ensure its full, stable, and effective operation;
 - e. establish or support mechanisms that facilitate technical assistance and cooperation at the national, regional, and international levels for the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices in implementing the Convention, in keeping with Articles 1.1.c and 10.4 of the MESECVI Statute;
 - f. designate their Competent National Authorities and Experts to the Mechanism if they have not already done so; and
 - g. support the participation of their Competent National Authorities and Experts in the MESECVI process in order to ensure its continuous and effective operation.
3. To request the Secretary General:
 - a. within 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;

5. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecevi/conferenceofstatesparty.asp>

6. The State of Guatemala declares that, pursuant to its national legislation, it recognizes the right to life from the moment of conception.

- b. encourage awareness and use of the results of the work of the MESECVI, particularly its hemispheric reports, at the national and international levels in order to strengthen the MESECVI's role as a hemispheric authority on eradication of violence against women.
4. 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 available financial resources;
 - b. advise the OAS Permanent Council and its respective organs on specific and relevant aspects of the situation of violence against women in the States Parties; and
 - c. continue promoting cooperation and the exchange of best experiences and information between the MESECVI and other entities that address violence against women at the sub-regional, regional, and international levels.
5. To request the Secretary General to report, through the Permanent Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
6. To thank the Governments of Argentina, France, Mexico, Nicaragua, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago for their contributions to the MESECVI fund in 2013.
7. 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 with the mandates emanating from this Resolution, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI 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;
- c. Promote, through technical cooperation with the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women and other entities of the State, the adoption of protocols in order to guarantee access to justice for women victims of violence;
- d. Make voluntary contributions to the MESECVI Fund in order to furnish the Mechanism with the necessary human and financial resources to ensure its full, stable, and effective operation;
- e. 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;
- f. Appoint their Competent National Authorities and Experts to the Mechanism if they have not already done so; and
- g. Support the participation their Competent National Authorities and their Experts in the MESECVI in order to ensure its continuous and effective operation.

Additionally, the MESECVI Technical Secretariat to-date 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 Party;
- c. Continuing to promote cooperation and exchange of good practices and information between the MESECVI and other bodies that address violence against women at the sub-regional, regional and international levels.

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;
- 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. PROGRESS OF THE SECOND MULTI-LATERAL FOLLOW-UP ROUND

The Second Multilateral Follow-Up 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.”

A total of nineteen (19) states, of the 32 States Party to the Convention, have submitted their responses to the questionnaire,⁷ to wit: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Committee of Experts, with the support of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, has analyzed the information received for the preparation of the Second Follow-Up Report to the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts.

Eleventh Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI

The Eleventh Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI was held on September 18-19, 2014, in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay. Participating in the meeting’s opening session were Daniel Olesker, Minister of Social Development of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; Beatriz Ramírez, Director of the National Women’s Institute (INMUJERES) and Competent National Authority of the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI); Alejandra Mora Mora, Minister for the Status of Women, National Women’s Institute (INAMU) and President of the Inter-American Commission of Women; Flor de María Díaz, President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI; Ambassador John Biehl del Río, Representative of the Organization of American States in Uruguay; Silvana Guerra, President of the Gender Affairs Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; Collin Cadier, of Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR) and Luz Patricia Mejía, Technical Secretary of the MESECVI.

At the request of the host country, a Forum was held on “Women’s Human Rights: Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Rights,” with the participation, as speakers, of Sergio Araujo Gambaro, Legal Advisor on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Uruguayan Ministry of Public Health; Soledad García

⁷ For more information, see Annex I.

Muñoz, of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH); Diana González Perrett, Expert of Uruguay to the CEVI; Barbara Bailey, Expert of Jamaica to the CEVI, and Susana Chiarotti, Expert of Argentina to the CEVI. Throughout these presentations, Experts were given the opportunity to exchange concerns and observations with the guest speakers, and a dialogue was opened with the civil society organizations in attendance at the forum.

This meeting was also the stage for the approval of the Declaration on Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Rights,” which contains the states’ principal obligations in guaranteeing the exercise of the sexual and reproductive rights of women, free from violence.

During the meeting, the Experts then reviewed the Draft Second Follow-Up Report on the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts and the corresponding Country Reports, and an agreement was reached to submit these to the First Special Conference of States Party to the MESECVI in accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the CEVI. On October 2, 2014, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI distributed the document to the Competent National Authorities and the Permanent Missions to the OAS for consideration.

IV. STRENGTHENING OF THE MESECVI

In issues relating to 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 prior to this conference and as a result of the Fifth Conference of States Party, the Working Group for the Strengthening of 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 met on November 7, 2013. The objective of the 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, on the order of topics on the schedule of activities, and on the order of precedence to be followed. Both 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, we informed the Center for Reproductive Rights (Colombia) about the procedure for registering as a civil society organization with the OAS in response to its request to attend the Fifth Conference of States Party. Likewise, on November 14, 2013, an invitation to take part in the Fifth Conference of States Party to the Belém Do Pará Convention was extended to the civil society organizations registered with the OAS.

The Fifth Conference of States Party was attended by twenty-one (21) States; detailed information on the participation of the States is provided in the table contained in the corresponding annex. At the meeting, the Agreements document (MESECVI-V doc.109/13 rev. 4 corr. 1) was approved. Included in this document was the mandate to create a Working Group for the Strengthening of the MESECVI to be chaired by the Permanent Mission of Peru to the OAS. The instructions to the Working Group would be to consider and make the corresponding recommendations on the topics below to the Conference:

- a. The Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2014-2017. The Strategic Plan should adhere to the scope of mechanism and is to take into account the competencies established in the Statute of the MESECVI for the Conference of States Party and the Committee of Experts;

- b. Guidelines for holding dialogues and/or meetings between the Conference of States Party and the CEVI;
- c. Recommendations on tools for promoting broad participation of the experts in CEVI meetings, including financing their participation in official CEVI meetings using the MESECVI Specific Fund created under Article 11 of the Mechanism's Statute;
- d. Promotion of the participation of civil society and other actors within society in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities" [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]"

In order to fulfill its mandate prior to the First Special Conference of States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention, the Working Group met seven times prior to the First Special Conference of States Party to the MESECVI, details of which are provided in the Report of the Working Group for the Strengthening of the MESECVI, document MESECVI/I-CE/doc.12/14.

a. First Special Conference of States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention

The First Special Conference of States Party to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention), was held on October 23rd and 24th 2014 in Mexico City. It was made possible by the support of the Government of Mexico, which offered to be the host country during the Fifth Conference of States Party, held in Washington, DC on November 18th and 19th 2013.

The Secretary General of the OAS convened the States Party to the Convention in a communication dated June 30th 2014. In addition to the States Party, the Conference was attended by the diplomatic corps, authorities from the judicial and legislative branches, and international and non-governmental organizations that work to eliminate violence against women.

The main objectives of the conference were: to receive the Second Follow-up Report to the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI during the Follow-up phase of the Second Multi-lateral Evaluation Round, the approval of which marks the conclusion of this round, and the adoption of various documents prepared by the Working Group on Strengthening of the MESECVI.

In accordance with article 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, two preparatory meetings were held in Pachuca, Hidalgo (Mexico) on May 16th 2014, and in Washington, DC, on October 17th 2014, which were attended by the National Competent Authorities of the MESECVI and the Permanent Missions to the OAS of the States Party. The first meeting centred on the draft Guidelines for carrying out dialogues between the Competent National Authorities (CNA) and the CEVI; the Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2014-2017; and the Procedure and criteria for the use of funds allocated for the special financing of the participation of experts in the meetings of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (CEVI), and it was agreed that all three documents be elevated for the consideration of the First Special Conference. The second meeting centred on the draft agenda; organization of work; Recommendations on the tools to promote broad participation of the experts in CEVI meetings; and Agreements of the First Special Conference of States Party to the MESECVI.

All of these documents of this meeting were published by the Secretariat and are available on the MESECVI Webpage at: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/conferenceofstatesparty.asp>

b. Agreements of the First Special Conference

During the Special Conference, the Competent National Authorities present considered the documents elevated by the Working Group on Strengthening of the MESECVI, represented by Marisol

Nieto, Alternate Representative from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the OAS. Submitted for approval were the following:

- a. “Guidelines for carrying out dialogues between the Competent National Authorities (CNA) and the CEVI” (MESECVI/I-CE/doc.6/14). The Technical Secretariat explained the details and objectives of the document, which was approved without modification.
- b. “Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2014-2017” (MESECVI/I-CE/doc.4/14). At the suggestion of the Delegation of Nicaragua during the meetings of the Working Group, a note was incorporated into a revised version of the document, which was then circulated to the States.
- c. “Procedure and criteria for the use of funds allocated for the special financing of the participation of experts in the meetings of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (CEVI)” (MESECVI/I-CE/doc.5/14). The debate centred on the need to guarantee greater effort to provide the funding necessary to finance the meetings and the participation of the Experts. Observations were incorporated into a revised version of the document that was circulated to States.
- d. “Recommendations on the tools to promote broad participation of the experts in CEVI meetings” (MESECVI/I-CE/doc.8/14). The Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism explained the details and objectives of the document. The President offered the floor to the States Party.
- e. Second Follow-up Report on the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts (MESECVI/I-CE/doc.10/14)
- f. The document Agreements of the First Special Conference of States Party to the MESECVI (MESECVI/I-CE/doc.11/14) was approved, and contains the agreements reached by the Competent National Authorities in the framework of the Special Conference.

c. Workshops on the System of Indicators for Measuring Progress in the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention

In the context of the project “Enhancing the capacity of OAS Member States to implement the Belem Do Para Convention” and with the support of the Government of Canada, the MESECVI developed and adopted the *System of Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention*. The aim of this initiative is to support States Party to the Convention in monitoring and evaluating its implementation, as well as its real impact on women’s ability to exercise their rights in practice.

Once the *System of Progress Indicators* was adopted, the MESECVI organized a series of training workshops on its utilization. In an initial phase, workshops were held in Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala and Paraguay. These workshops seek to orient the main actors involved (National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, Ministries of Justice, Health, Education and other relevant sectors, the National Statistics Office, the National Planning/Programming Office, other public entities, women’s and feminist organizations/movements and other relevant civil society actors, and key partners from the international level) in the use of the system and its incorporation into national planning, programming and reporting processes on human rights and violence against women.

In each case, the MESECVI presented the “Guide to the application of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention).” This document aims to serve as a tool for strengthening knowledge, interpretation and application of the Convention in the States Party. Thus, it seeks to facilitate understanding by the States of their obligations under the Convention and promote compliance with these obligations in the context of the response to violence against women.

Country	Date	Number of participants
Asunción, Paraguay	November 3 – 4, 2014	41 (36 women & 5 men)
Quito, Ecuador	November 20 – 21, 2014	34 (27 women & 7 men)

Buenos Aires, Argentina	December 1, 2014	36 (34 women & 2 men)
Bogotá, Colombia	January 26 – 27, 2015	43 (39 women & 4 men)
San Salvador, El Salvador	February 17 – 18, 2015	
Guatemala City, Guatemala	February 19 – 20, 2015	
Saint George, Grenada	March 24 – 25, 2015	

IV. PROMOTION OF THE MESECVI

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention, a live-streamed side event was held on March 10, 2014, at the 58th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York City on “The Belém do Pará Convention and the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe: A response to violence against women worldwide.” At this event, the publication entitled “Regional Tools to Fight Violence Against Women: The Belém do Pará and Istanbul Conventions” was presented, a joint work by the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI and the Council of Europe, which contains a welcome contribution from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations.

With the support of the Technical Secretariat, the CEVI Experts produced a Guide to the Interpretation of the Belém do Pará Convention, with a foreword kindly provided by Linda Poole, former Executive Secretary of the CIM and architect of the Convention, which will be presented at the First Special Conference of States Party to the MESECVI.

To mark the anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention, the Secretariat designed a commemorative anniversary logo and organized the “Wear Red for Women” Campaign to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women, held on May 2 in the Hall of the Americas in the Main Building of the OAS. This event consisted of the presentation of a video on violence against women and some brief remarks from OAS Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza, and by a number of permanent representatives to the OAS and observer countries. Invitees included OAS staff, representatives of the permanent missions, permanent observers, civil society, and representatives of academia

On May 13, the Executive Secretary of the CIM and with the President of the CEVI were invited to take part in an event on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict: Reflections from Latin America, which took place in Mexico City.

The Belém do Pará +20 Hemispheric Forum: “Prevention of violence against women: Good practices and proposals for the future,” was held in the city of Pachuca, Hidalgo, in Mexico, on May 14-16. Participating in the opening ceremony were OAS Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza; José Francisco Olvera Ruiz, Governor of the State of Hidalgo; Lía Limón, Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of the Interior of Mexico; Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB); and Lorena Cruz, President of the National Women’s Institute and the Competent National Authority of México to the CIM, among other senior authorities.

The Competent National Authorities of the MESECVI, the CEVI Experts and other guests took part in the event. The meeting adopted the Declaration of Pachuca: “Strengthening efforts to prevent violence against women,” a document that brings together proposals and recommendations on how to prevent violence against women effectively.

The States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention agreed at the Fifth Conference of States Party “To continue motivating and promoting the participation of civil society and other actors within society in the activities of the MESECVI under the framework of Article 10.2 of its Statute, taking into consideration the “Guidelines for the participation of civil society organizations in OAS activities” [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]” Pursuant to this agreement, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI

implemented two strategies:

- a) It developed a campaign, which started in June, to provide key information and support to organizations promoting the human rights of women, interested in registering with the OAS. The campaign consisted of preparing e-bulletins, disseminating information on assistance on the MESECVI website and through social media, and condensing and simplifying information on requirements.

As a result thereof, 14 organizations and three human rights defenders from six countries responded to the campaign requesting information on the Mechanism and how to register. The MESECVI provided information and support to help strengthen their processes and capacities, which would enable them to register in the coming months.

As a result of this assistance, to-date, two organizations have been able to register with as civil society organizations with the OAS – Just Associates/JASS and the Centre for Reproductive Rights.

- b) In early June, the Technical Secretariat identified almost one hundred organizations promoting the human rights of women registered with the OAS and contacted them with information on how to send in submissions for the preparation of the Second Follow-Up Report. This step has the objective of promoting the participation of these organizations, pursuant to the legal instruments of the MESCVI. Following these actions, eight organizations registered with the OAS sent submissions (shadow reports) for the preparation of the Second Follow-Up Report, the largest ever participation for a follow-up report.⁸

Continuing the commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Belém do Para Convention, on September 16-17, the National Women’s Institute of Uruguay invited the President of the CEVI, Argentine Expert Susana Chiarotti, Brazilian Expert Leila Linhares, and the Secretary of the MESECVI to take part in the event.

On September 29, the Technical Secretariat was invited to take part in a meeting with the Parliamentary Women’s Group in El Salvador. That same day, it took part in a meeting of civil society addressing sexual and reproductive rights in El Salvador. On September 30, a visit was made to the women’s prison in Xilopango.

On October 7-9, Costa Rica hosted the International Congress on Inclusiveness, Non-Discrimination and Access to Justice, organized by the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica, which was attended by the Technical Secretariat.

On December 2nd 2014, the MESECVI organized a seminar in Argentina on “Access to Justice for Women Victims of Gender-Based Violence,” together with the Ministries of Defense and Budget and in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the context of the 20th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

The seminar identified good practices from public prosecutors and defenders offices in the application of justice to women, girls and adolescent victims of gender-based violence. The event was attended by Eduardo Zuain, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alejandra Magdalena Gils Carbó, Attorney

8. CLADEM (Regional and Country-specific reports: Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay); MERCOSUR Women’s Forum (Argentina); ORMUSA and CEJIL (El Salvador); the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights – CMDPDH (Mexico); Regional Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and Girls in Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico); Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights – WGNRR et al (Dominican Republic); and Fundación Construir (Bolivia).

General, Stella Maris Martínez, Advocate General, Gallianne Palayret, Coordinator of the ESCR and Discrimination Office of OHCHR, representatives of the Public Defender's Office, the Ministry of the Interior and the Latin American Gender Justice Team (ELA).

On December 4th 2014, the MESECVI participated in the “Day of Reflection: 20 Years of Belém do Pará,” organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina in Buenos Aires. The event was attended by Eduardo Zuain, Minister for Foreign Affairs, María Julia Rodriguez, Minister/Director of the Women's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mariana Gras, President of the National Council for Women, Giovanna Martelli, Member of Parliament and Advisor to the President of the Italian Council on Equal Opportunities, Natalia de la Paz Álvarez Yáñez of SERNAM/Chile's Program on Violence against Women, Flor de María Díaz Chalarca, President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, Susana Chiarotti, Principal Expert of Argentina to the MESECVI, Cynthia Ottaviano, Public Ombudsperson, Claudia Giaccone, Member of Parliament, and Natalia Gherardi, Executive Director of the Latin American Gender Justice Team (ELA), among other high-level authorities.

On January 28th 2015, the MESECVI met with non-governmental organizations that work on the defense of women's rights in Colombia. The meeting sought to present the Mechanism and its operation, inform of possible avenues of participation and relation between NGOs and the Mechanism, and present the Guide to the application of Belém do Pará Convention. The activity brought together 22 organizations, including Casa de la Mujer, Profamilia/Colombia, the Centre for Reproductive Rights, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), Catholics for a Free Choice, DeJusticia, ASSALUD, SISMA Mujer, Women's Link, Clínica Jurídica PAIS, Comisión Colombiana de Juristas, Universidad de los Andes, Universidad Externado de Colombia, and gender experts.

On January 29th and 30th 2015, the MESECVI, with the support of the National Gender Commission of the Judiciary, met with representatives of the justice sector in Colombia: Rapporteurs, auxiliary magistrates of the high courts of Colombia (Supreme Court, Constitutional Court and State Council), as well as, under the coordination and with the support of the National Directorate for Public Policy of the Attorney General's Office, with representatives of the Office for Technical Cooperation and Management, the Gender Office of the National Directorate for Public Policy, and the Office of Constitutional Affairs, with a view to presenting the work of the MESECVI on indicators for monitoring access to justice and the progress of the Mechanism in terms of the justice sector, and discussing initiatives to strengthen access for women and girls in the Americas in 2015-2016.

V. Funding the MESECVI

Sum of Annual 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
2014	Argentina	15,000.00
	Mexico	34,529.59
	Nicaragua	6,000.00
2014 Total:		55,529.59
Grand Total:		705,875.39

In 2014, the fund created for the MESECVI received contributions from Argentina, Mexico and Nicaragua.

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 foreign ministers of the States Party to the Conference requesting financial contributions, human resources, or other in-kind donations for the MESECVI.

It is worth noting that, presently, the MESECVI has very limited resources for fully complying with its multiple mandates and its objectives 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 through the development and implementation of specific projects.

This situation is long-standing. As the table below illustrates, contributions to the Mechanism have always been limited and thus, within the strengthening process, it is necessary to take into account both the objectives laid out and the resources required to meet them.

ANNEX I

**Second Multilateral Evaluation Round (2010-2014):
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	Final Report
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	YES
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 ⁹	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
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 ¹⁰	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
19. Jamaica	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
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

9. 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.

10. 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	Final Report
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	YES
32. Venezuela	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
TOTAL	28	28	21	28	21	19

ANNEX II

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 (2014)
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	YES
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
29. Suriname	YES	YES	NO	NO
30. Trinidad and Tobago	YES	NO	YES	YES

COUNTRY	EXPERTS		CNA	
	1 MER	2 MER (2013)	1 MER	2 MER (2014)
31. Uruguay	YES	YES	YES	YES
32. Venezuela	YES	NO	YES	YES
TOTAL	29	23	28	29

ANNEX III

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

PAÍS / COUNTRY	1 st MER		2 nd MER			
	I CONFERENCE (2004)	II CONFERENCE (2008)	III CONFERENCE (2011)	IV CONFERENCE (2012)	V CONFERENCE (2013)	I SPECIAL CONFERENCE (2014)
1. Antigua and Barbuda	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES
2. Argentina	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
3. Bahamas	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
4. Barbados	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
5. Belize	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
6. Bolivia	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
7. Brazil	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
8. Canada ^{11/}	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
9. Chile	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
10. Colombia	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
11. Costa Rica	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
12. Dominica	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
13. Ecuador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
14. El Salvador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
15. Grenada	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES
16. Guatemala	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
17. Guyana	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
18. Haiti	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
19. Honduras	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
20. Jamaica	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
21. Mexico	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
22. Nicaragua	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
23. Panama	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
24. Paraguay	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
25. Peru	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
26. Dominican	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

11. 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)	I SPECIAL CONFERENCE (2014)
Republic						
27. St. Kitts and Nevis	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES
28. Saint Lucia	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
29. St. Vincent and the Grenadines	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES
30. Suriname	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
31. Trinidad and Tobago	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
32. United States^{12/}	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
33. Uruguay	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
34. Venezuela	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
TOTAL	26	21	23	24	23	23

12. *Idem.*

ANNEX IV

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)	Eleventh Meeting (2014)
Antigua and Barbuda	NO	YES	YES	SI	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Argentina	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Bahamas	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
Barbados	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
Belize	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
Bolivia	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Brazil	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Chile	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Colombia	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Costa Rica	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES
Dominica	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Ecuador	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
El Salvador	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Grenada	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
Guatemala	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Guyana	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Haiti	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Honduras	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Jamaica	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
Mexico	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Nicaragua	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Panama	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
Paraguay	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Peru	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Dominican Republic	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES
St. Kitts and Nevis	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Saint Lucia	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES

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)	Eleventh Meeting (2014)
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Suriname	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Trinidad and Tobago	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Uruguay	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Venezuela	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES
TOTAL	20	17	18	15	13	21	19	8	18	14	14

ANNEX V**States With Appointment or Official Notification of Expert Pending in February 2015**

Country		Name
4	Ecuador	Appointment of Principal Expert pending
5	Honduras	Appointment of Experts (P and A) pending
7	Nicaragua	Appointment of Experts (P and A) pending