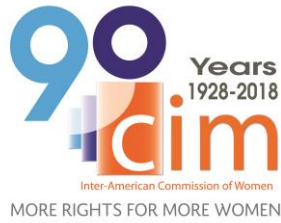




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INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

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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) PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION
AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17)**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the Technical Secretariat of the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI), the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) hereby submits this report on efforts to implement the MESECVI between February 2017 and February 2018 to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), pursuant resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17). All of the documents and background referred to in this report are available on the CIM web page under “MESECVI.”

During the course of the year, work has proceeded on strengthening the Follow-Up Mechanism, based on the commitment of the States Party to follow through on full implementation of the Convention, including by adapting their legislation and, where appropriate, implementing recommendations arising from the multilateral evaluation rounds conducted by the Mechanism.

In this period the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI has analyzed the answers from the States Party to 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)” and has elaborated the National and Hemispheric corresponding to the Third Multilateral Evaluation Round.

I. BACKGROUND, LEGAL FOUNDATIONS, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with its mandate under resolutions CIM/RES. 224/02 (XXXI-O/02), AG/RES. 1942 (XXXIII-O/03), and CIM/REMIM-II/RES. 6/04, the Inter-American Commission of Women took steps to develop a proposal for a mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará). Its Executive Secretariat prepared a working document containing a draft statute for a follow-up mechanism and carried out prior consultations with the OAS member states, specialized international organizations, and civil society groups.

A meeting of government experts was held from July 20 to 21, 2004, to analyze the proposed mechanism and formulate recommendations for the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará. At the conclusion of the meeting, the experts submitted the draft statute of the mechanism to follow-up on the Convention of Belém do Pará to the Conference of States Party for adoption.

On October 26, 2004, at a meeting convened by the Secretary General of the OAS, the Conference of States Party adopted the Statute of the MESECVI. By this action, they expressed their political will for a consensual, independent system to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Convention, to which they would report progress towards complying with the Convention and whose recommendations they agreed to implement.

The Follow-up Mechanism consists of two bodies: the Conference of States Party (CSF), a political body comprising the representatives of the States Party, and the Committee of Experts (CEVI), a technical body comprising specialists in the areas addressed by the Convention. Even though the experts are appointed by the governments, they exercise their functions independently in

their personal capacities. The CIM Executive Secretariat provides secretariat services for both the Conference and the Committee of Experts and houses the headquarters of the MESECVI.

Multilateral evaluation rounds consist of two phases: an evaluation phase and a follow-up phase. During the first phase, the competent national authorities (CNAs) of each state party respond to a CEVI questionnaire. The CEVI uses their responses to prepare preliminary reports, which it forwards to the CNAs for comment. The Committee reconsiders them and approves the final country reports and the hemispheric report. Both contain recommendations for the States Party on improving their implementation of the Convention: the country reports, specific recommendations, and the hemispheric report, general ones. Lastly, these reports are submitted to the Conference of States Party for adoption and publication. The Third Multilateral Evaluation Round is currently in its initial phase.

II. MANDATES CONFERRED BY THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2017)

The forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States was held from June 19 to 21, 2017, in Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico. The delegates adopted resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17), “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,” which, under heading xix, refers expressly to strengthening the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women.

The resolution provides as follows:

“RECALLING that the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará,” establishes the duty of the States Party to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies and programs to prevent, punish, and eradicate discrimination and violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, and mindful that it is important and necessary to strengthen the Convention’s follow-up mechanism, the MESECVI,

RESOLVES:

1. To strengthen support for the work of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI), as a hemispheric benchmark in preventing, punishing, and dealing with violence against women and girls, and to monitor the full implementation of the Convention, including adapting their laws and implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations of the multilateral evaluation rounds conducted by the Mechanism.

2. To continue to promote, through the Mechanism’s follow-up work, implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, promoting gender equality and empowerment for women and girls, taking into account the multiple and cross-cutting forms of discrimination suffered by women and girls belonging to groups in vulnerable circumstances, in the following areas: (a) sexual violence and teenage pregnancy, as well as the link between them; (b) STIs and HIV/AIDS; (c) political

violence against and harassment of women; (d) stereotype-free education; (e) access to justice; and (f) social and institutional tolerance of gender-based violence.

3. To underscore the work done by the MESECVI Committee of Experts for the drafting of the “Hemispheric Report on Child Pregnancy in the States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention.”

4. To request the MESECVI Technical Secretariat to promote and support dialogue between the competent national authorities and the MESECVI Committee of Experts on progress and challenges in important areas related to strengthening, compliance with, and raising awareness of the Convention of Belém do Pará, as decided by the Sixth Conference of States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará”.

Following-up those mandates, the MESECVI has carried out the following activities.

III. STRENGTHENING THE MESECVI

a. Appointments of CNAs and CEVI experts

From February 2017 and 2018, 12 competent national authorities and 2 alternate national authorities were appointed. In addition, 4 principal and 2 alternate experts were appointed, and one expert was reappointed. There are currently a total of 26 CNAs and 30 experts.

CNA appointments:

- Bahamas: Lanisha Tamar Rolle, Minister of Social Services and Urban Development;
- Barbados: Mildred Hunte, Director of the Bureau of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development;
- Bolivia: Maiza Ureña, (Alternate), Director General of the Prevention and Elimination of All Forms of Gender and Age-Based Violence of the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency;
- Brazil: María Aparecida de Andrade Moura (Alternate), Deputy Secretary, Secretariat for Women’s Policies (SPM);
- Chile: Isabel Plá Jarufe, Minister of Women and Gender Equity;
- Dominica: Helen Royer, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs;
- Dominican Republic: Janet Camilo, Minister of Women;
- Ecuador: Evans Lorena Herrera González, Technical Secretary of the National Council for Gender Equality;
- Guatemala: Ana Leticia Aguilar Theissen, Presidential Secretariat of Women;
- Honduras: Maritza Olivia Perdomo Monge, Technical Director, National Institute of Women;
- Mexico: Marcela Ethernod Arámburu, Executive Secretary of the National Institute of Women
- Peru: Ana María Mendieta; Minister of Women and Vulnerable People;
- Saint Lucia: Michelle Charles, Deputy Permanent Secretary , Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs;

- Venezuela: Blanca Eekhout, Minister of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality (MPPMIG).

CEVI expert appointments:

- Bahamas: Kerry Bonamy, Gender Based Violence Coordinator;
- Barbados: Tonya Haynes as Principal Expert and Andrea Simon as Alternate Expert;
- México: Mónica Alani Soto;
- Peru: Tammy Lorena Quintanilla Zapata;
- Saint Lucia: Lyndi Eristhee as Alternate Expert;

b. Publications

Hemispheric Report on Sexual Violence and Child Pregnancy in the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará¹

The MESECVI launched the "Hemispheric Report on Sexual Violence and Child Pregnancy in the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará," in order to provide information on the problem in the region and issue recommendations to the States Party, aimed at improving the effectiveness of the measures taken in compliance with the guarantee of the right of girls to live free of violence.

Inter-American Model Law On the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women in Political Life²

On May 15 and 16, 2017, the event "Empowerment and Political Leadership of Women in the Americas: Advances, Challenges and the Future Agenda" was held in Mexico City. In this event, the launching of the Inter-American Model Law of Political Violence against Women was carried out. From March 20th to April 25th 528 people have consulted the document through the social networks.

Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention Prevention of Violence against Women in The Americas. Paths to Follow³

Within the framework of the Third Multilateral Evaluation Round, the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women "Convention of Belém do Pará" (MESECVI) has elaborated a Hemispheric Report based on the Third Round of Multilateral Evaluation (2016) and analysis of the responses of the Competent National Authorities of the States Party⁴ to the System of Progress Indicators for the effective measurement of the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. From March 1st to April 25th 2018 286 people have consulted the document disseminated through the social networks.

¹ Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/mesecvi-embarazoinfantil-en.pdf>

² Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/LeyModeloViolenciaPolitica-EN.pdf>

³ Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/docs/TercerInformeHemisferico-EN.pdf>

⁴ Antigua y Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Granada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, México, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, República Dominicana, San Cristóbal y las Nieves, San Vicente y las Granadinas, Surinam, Trinidad y Tobago, Uruguay y Venezuela.

The Third Hemispheric Report illuminates the efforts of the States Party to prevent violence in both private and in public areas. These areas include workplaces, recreational spaces, politics, sports, health services, educational environments, social networks and digital spaces. It also highlights the work being done to combat violence against women currently perpetrated or tolerated by the State or its agents, such as violence that takes place in hospitals, educational centers, incarceration facilities and sexual violence in armed conflicts. The report focuses especially on evaluating the efforts made by the States to prevent violence and promote the right of women to live free of violence and to be educated free of gender stereotypes, among other labors.

The information provided by the States Party to the Convention during the Third Evaluation Round allows us to analyze the measures implemented to prevent and eradicate violence and discrimination against women in each aforementioned circumstance. The MESECVI selected 145 indicators related to the Duty to Prevent, related to the five modules that make up the System of Progress Indicators associated with compliance with articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention. The Modules are areas that specifically cover aspects associated with: 1) Legislation 2) National Plans 3) Access to Justice, 4) Information and Statistics and 5) Diversity.

The results of the Third Evaluation Round highlighted the realization that prevention is a fundamental part of the struggle to guarantee the right of all women to live free of violence. This discovery demands a set of comprehensive measures aimed at reducing risk factors and eliminating the structural causes that sustain violence against women, such as promoting education free of violence and gender stereotypes; environments that respect the right to equality in political, economic and social spaces; cultural transformations towards a society that condemns violence against women; budgets that guarantee the operation of the integral protection system, among other challenges.

The prevention and eradication of violence against women remains a pending debt in the region. For this reason, through the Hemispheric Report, the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI proposes a series of recommendations to the States for stronger implementation, with a perspective based in the Duty of Prevention established within the Convention. In the same vein, the CEVI makes a strong appeal to States Party to redouble their efforts and to take all the necessary measures to harmonize, review and design public policies based on the provisions of the Belém do Pará Convention.

National Reports

The CEVI has prepared the National Reports of 28 countries^{5*} of Latin America and the Caribbean, corresponding to the Third Multilateral Evaluation Round of the Mechanism. In accordance with the provisions of the Statute, the Committee will be responsible for the technical analysis of the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties, for which it presents in these reports the experiences, achievements and particular challenges of each State in terms of effective implementation of the Convention. These reports reflect the degree of compliance with the implementation of the Convention, but also allow identifying and analyzing the particularities and aspects in which we must emphasize in each country.

⁵ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Granada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, San Cristóbal y las Nieves, San Vicente y las Granadinas, Surinam, Trinidad y Tobago, Uruguay y Venezuela.

c. Promoting the participation of civil society organizations

In its agreements, the Fourteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts took note of the dialogue with civil society held during the meeting and, in connection with the Third Multilateral Evaluation Round, agreed to promote the implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the declarations and recommendations of the CEVI with regard to the following issues: Political Violence and Harassment Against Women; Guarantees of Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence; Comprehensive Education on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Prevention and Fight Against Social and Institutional Tolerance of Gender-Based Violence; Elimination of all Forms of Violence and Discrimination Against Disabled Persons; Promotion and Guarantee of the Right of Women to Live a Life Free From Violence, within the framework of an education free from gender stereotypes;

Likewise, the Seventh Conference of States Party to the MESECVI agreed “to continue motivating and encouraging the participation of the civil society and other social actors in the activities of the MESECVI, within 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)].’”

In accordance with these agreements and Chapter V of the Rules of Procedure of the MESECVI, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI undertook the following initiatives:

On May 23, 2017, the MESECVI, in collaboration with Women's Link Worldwide and other partners, organized the round table "Trafficking of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional challenges to address," aimed at raising awareness through the promotion of the report "Victims of trafficking in Latin America. Between the Lack of Protection and Indifference" by Women's Link Worldwide, focusing on common challenges in identification and aid.

The Technical Secretariat was invited to present the results of the he "Hemispheric Report on Sexual Violence and Child Pregnancy in the States Party to the Convention of Belem do Para" at the meeting *Sexual & Reproductive Rights in Latin America & the Caribbean: Where Are We Now?* on December 6, 2017, at the Inter-American Dialogue. The event aimed to better understand the current state of sexual and reproductive rights in the region and what changes may be in the offing. The Dialogue partnered with the Center for Reproductive Rights and the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law to host some of the region’s top analysts, activists, and lawmakers for an open and frank exchange on the issues surrounding sexual and reproductive rights. This forum reviewed legal advances and setbacks in several countries and consider possible future scenarios, such as the lingering effects of the Zika virus. Also explore what impact factors such as high rates of sexual violence, access to information, sex education, and emergency contraception may have on ensuring respect for reproductive freedom as a human right.

d. Interinstitutional cooperation meetings

On March 23, 2017, there was a *Round table on sexual violence and child pregnancy in the States Parties of the Belem do Para Convention* with the participation of Diana González-Perrett, then President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI; Margaret May Macaulay, Commissioner and Rapporteur on the Rights of Women, Inter-American Commission on Human

Rights, OAS; Rosa María Ortiz, ex Commissioner and Rapporteur on the Rights of Children, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OAS; Leonel Briozzo, Advisor to the Secretary General, OAS and Óscar Cabrera, O'Neill Institute, Georgetown University Law School.

On March 30 and 31, 2017, the then Vice-President of the CEVI, Sylvia Mesa, accompanied the delegation of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of the Child of the IACHR to Guatemala as an observer, in the framework of the follow-up of the implementation of Precautionary Measure No. 958/16 in the case “Hogar Seguro Virgen de la Asunción” vs Guatemala.

Consultation between regional and international mechanisms of women in CSW61 on March 16, 2017 in New York, convened by Dubravka Simonovic, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. This consultation was followed by a meeting of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI with the high authorities of the regional and international mechanisms on violence against women with the Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres, to establish the joint strategies of these Mechanisms with the UN.

On September 13, 2017, the European Parliament issued the resolution "EU political relations with Latin America" (2017/2027 (INI)) in which it called on States to implement gender equality, and to combat femicide, among others issues. It also called for the MESECVI Secretariat to play a more significant role, within the framework of the entry into implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and called on the States to sign it.

In the World Bank's 2017 Week of Law, Justice and Development, held from November 6 to 10, 2017, the CIM/MESECVI organized the opening Panel "International and Regional Mechanisms on Violence against Women" was held. It was attended by Sylvia Mesa President of the CEVI, Feride Acar, President of GREVIO and Dubravka Šimonović, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

On December 4, 2017, the Executive Secretary of the CIM participated in the Debate Table "Gender, health, discrimination and diversity: risks and vulnerabilities" organized by the IACHR and the Inter-American Court, within the framework of the Forum of the Inter-American System of Human Rights held in Washington, DC. On that same date, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, participated in the Discussion Table "Sexual and reproductive rights from a DESCA approach", organized by Amnesty International, the Center for Reproductive Rights, the O'Neil Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown, Planned Parenthood Global and the CIM/MESECVI.

Cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Dubravka Šimonovic, has continued. Along these lines, a joint communiqué was issued on January 12, 2018. In this, the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI made a Joint Appeal with the Special Rapporteur and the UN Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women both in legislation and in practice, and expressing their concern about the sentence that denied freedom to Teodora Vázquez. In the statement, the experts expressed their concern over the decision of the Second Court of San Salvador, which on December 13, 2017 resolved to deny Teodora Vázquez her freedom when she was imprisoned after suffering an obstetric emergency. In addition, the Special Rapporteur requested the participation of MESECVI in CSW62 (2018) in:

- A half-day conference to discuss an action plan to enhance operational cooperation (March 12, 2018)
- A panel with the Secretary General or the Assistant Secretary General to discuss the respective work of the mechanisms and discuss the institutionalization of cooperation between global and regional mechanisms on violence against women (March 13, 2018)
- A parallel event on political violence against women.
- During the week prior to CSW62: Invitation to participate in a group meeting on political violence against women, held with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Women, in order to provide contributions to the rapporteur's annual report to the United Nations General Assembly.
- Consultation between regional and international mechanisms of women in CSW62 on March 16, 2018 in New York, convened by Dubravka Simonovic, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.
- Meeting with the UN Secretary General António Guterres to continue developing joint strategies among this Mechanisms and the UN.

e. Technical assistance

In 2017, the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism delivered technical assistance to the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence Against Women (CONAVIM) in Mexico. After identifying the limited responses given regarding access to justice for women in Mexico in the last round, the assistance was focused on establishing the obstacles for the compilation of statistics in this regard, aiming to improve it and thus, the State's responses to the Indicators System of the MESECVI. Therefore, the Secretariat issued a report on challenges and recommendations, as well as a guide for the tropicalization of the indicators in the country for its implementation.

IV. DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE MESECVI RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing activities

Within the framework of International Women's Day, the MESECVI and the CIM organized an event called "[Sexual violence and child pregnancy in Latin America and the Caribbean: A regional panorama](#)", which took place on March 23, 2017 at the OAS Room of the Americas, for the launching of the "Hemispheric Report on Sexual Violence and Childhood Pregnancy in the States Party to the Convention of Belem do Para".

Participation of the Technical Secretariat in the Interregional Workshop organized by International IDEA and the Community of Democracies to discuss the topic of Regional Organizations and the Promotion of Gender Equality and Women's Political Empowerment (March 17, 2016).

On May 23, 2017, the event "[Trafficking in Women and Girls in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Challenges for its Approach](#)" was held in Washington, DC, co-sponsored by the Permanent Observer Mission of Italy and Women's Link Worldwide.

On November 5, 2017, the MESECVI participated in the Forum on Child Marriage in which the experiences of the Hemispheric Report on Sexual Violence and Childhood Pregnancy in Mexico were shared.

Similarly, on November 7th, the OAS celebrated the Regional and International Mechanisms for a comprehensive approach addressing Violence against Women and Girls with the participation of Luis Almagro, Organization of American States (OAS) General Secretary followed by a discussion panel about Violence against women, regional analysis and further proposals for the human rights follow-up mechanisms with Dubravka Simonovic, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, United Nations (UN); Sylvia Mesa, then Vice-President of the Committee of Experts of the Belem do Para Convention (MESECVI), Organization of American States (OAS), Feride Acar, President of Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Paulo Abrão Executive Secretary at Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and Jennifer May Loten, Chair of the Permanent Council and the General Committee Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada at OAS as moderator.

On March 13th, within the framework of the Sixty-second Session of the Commission on the Legal and Social Status of Women (CSW'62), at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, a side event was held with the objective of presenting the third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará. The following authorities partook in the presentation of the Report:

- Liriola Leoteau, President of the Conference of States Party to the MESECVI. Director General of the National Institute for Women (INAMU) of Panama, Challenges of the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará.
- Sylvia Mesa, President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI. Presentation of Hemispheric Report.
- Dubravka Šimonović, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and its Consequences. Comments on the Report and coordination bridges to guarantee the Prevention of Violence against Women.
- Barbara Jiménez, CLADEM. The role of Civil Society in the prevention of Violence.
- Luiza Carvalho, UNWOMEN. Latin America and the Caribbean. Building institutional bridges to address prevention.
- Carmen Moreno Toscano Secretaria Ejecutiva de la CIM. Closing remarks.

Furthermore, the Model Inter-American Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women in Political Life has been presented in the following forums:

- Mexico, November 2017, at a national training event on political violence with electoral magistrates, by Tatiana Rein, Vice President of CEVI

- Costa Rica, December 2017, at a training meeting on political violence to electoral candidates for the national election, in which Luz Patricia Mejía Guerrero, Technical Secretary of MESECVI, participated.
- Panama, February 2018, invited by the network of regional parliamentarians, COPA, attended by Marta Martínez, Specialist in Democracy, Political Rights of Women of the CIM
- New York, USA, March 2018, convened to a meeting of experts on political violence with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women of the UN, represented by Sylvia Mesa, President of the CEVI

It is programmed to continue its dissemination in the following forums:

- Mexico, April 2018, training for women candidates
- Ecuador, May 2018, meeting of the Local Agenda Summit on Gender Equality
- Mexico, Chiapas, May 2017, training for women candidates

b. Continuing education

The CIM/MESECVI co-sponsors the Diploma of Communication, Gender and Human Rights taught by the Civil Association Communication for Equality.

The Secretariat is also conducting a Higher Diploma in "Justice, Gender and Violence" in conjunction with the Supreme Courts of Argentina and Mexico, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OACNUDH) and the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO). First edition launched on September 8, 2014, concluding in June 2015. 25 qualified and 43 certified participants graduated in one or more of the seminars in which the course was distributed. In follow-up to this training process, on August 11 and 12, 2016, the Technical Secretariat attended an inter-institutional coordination meeting with the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) in which the academic content was elaborated upon in order to give continuity to the Diploma and transform it into a form of specialization.

As a result of this effort, on March 13, 2017, the "Specialization and International Course in Public Policies and Gender Justice" was launched in virtual format, organized by the OAS, CLACSO and Flacso Brazil, with the academic coordination of Magdalena Valdivieso Ide., PhD in Political Science from the University of Chile and Luz Patricia Mejía as Technical Secretary of the MESECVI. The specialization includes 52 credits acquired during 480 hours of lectures, while the international course has 12 credits acquired in 120 hours of lectures.

In February 2018, the Secretariat is convening the second edition.

c. Belém do Pará Convention portal

As a result of the Hemispheric Seminar "Women's Human Rights: Good Practices in Gender Justice" (Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 25 to 27, 2013), co-organized by the CIM and the Domestic Violence and Access to Justice Offices of the Supreme Court of Argentina, the Belém do

Pará Convention portal was developed to provide a mechanism for sharing and publicizing information on all Convention-related subjects, including the MESECVI, good practices for eradicating violence against women, reports, publications, news, and events.

In addition to centralizing information on the Convention, the platform provides two spaces for sharing information among the various stakeholders. One offers government organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders a way to share information on initiatives and good practices for preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women. To publicize information obtained by the MESECVI from the evaluation and follow-up rounds, the platform also has a space for reporting progress and challenges for implementing the Convention of Belém do Pará in the States Party.

The Secretariat is currently in the process of raising funds to maintain and update the tool.

V. THIRD MULTILATERAL EVALUATION ROUND (2015-2017)

a. Fourteenth Meeting of the MESECVI Committee of Experts

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belem do Para Convention, met during the XIV Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on November 27 and 28, 2017 in Panama City, Panama with the participation of the appointed experts from 24 States Parties⁶,

The day began with the introductory words of the Vice-President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI; Sylvia Mesa, excusing the Chair of the Committee who was unable to attend the Committee Meeting. Next, Ambassador Carmen Moreno, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women, welcomed the Committee's Experts. Luz Patricia Mejía Guerrero then welcomed the presence as guests to UNDP observers, UNCEF, highlighting the importance of maintaining links with different organizations in order to strengthen the Mechanism. Likewise, she introduced Hilary Anderson, principal specialist of the CIM, who presented to the CEVI the initiative of the CIM on the guidelines of gender equality as a good of humanity as a starting point for a dialogue between experts on the situation region of the Region in Gender Equality.

From this point, the Vice-President opened the debate in which participated Lara Blanco, UN Women, Neus Bernabéu, (UNDP), Eugenia Piza Lopez, UNDP and Sheryl Abdool, (UNICEF), Gretzel Brozovich Sandoval, IPAS Bolivia; Elida Caballero of the Center for Reproductive Rights; who made their contributions to the debate and thanked having this space for reflecting together. The experts from El Salvador, Peru, Panama, Bolivia, Colombia, Jamaica, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Ecuador also participated in the debate, and agreed on the importance of creating strategic alliances for democracy with the various sectors, traditional and non-traditional, and the need to focus on a communication strategy.

In the following session, the Vice- President submitted to the consideration of the Authorities the adoption of the Draft Agenda and Calendar of Activities of the Fourteenth Meeting of Experts,

⁶ Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Venezuela.

which was approved unanimously. The meeting continued with the presentation of the Reports of Activities of the CEVI, which was followed by a general debate. In this debate, the experts' highlighted their concern about the lack of resources for the activities of the Committee and its Secretariat.

The work continued with the distribution in working subgroups for the review of the preliminary reports and the Adoption of the Countries Final Reports. This concluded on Tuesday, November 28 with the adoption of the National and Hemispheric Reports corresponding to the Third Multilateral Evaluation Round.

Then the Secretariat presented the Draft of the "Comprehensive Model Law to prevent, punish and eradicate the violent death of women for reasons of gender (Femicide / Feminicide)." The comments that arose in the debate were collected and it was agreed to continue working together with UN Women and other experts on the subject.

The Vice-President of CEVI then presented the final results of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women in Political Life. This was well received by the room and there was a discussion on the strategies for future dissemination.

The CEVI requested the Secretariat to prepare a Proposal for a Declaration of the CEVI on Gender Equality. The experts made their contributions and those were included in the document that was approved.

The Experts elected their new authorities unanimously resulting: Sylvia Mesa, Expert of Costa Rica as President and Tonya Haynes, Expert of Barbados and Tatiana Rein, Expert of Chile as Vice Presidents.

The meeting ended with the adoption of the agreements. All documents of the meeting will be published by the Secretariat and will be available on the web page <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/reunionedexpertas.asp>.

b. Seventh Conference of States Party

The Seventh Conference of States Party to the Follow-up Mechanism on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women was held on November 29 and 30, 2017, at the Sheraton Hotel in Panama City, Panama.

Twenty-two Competent National Authorities from the following countries participated in this meeting: Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala, Grenada, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Uruguay and Venezuela. The Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador Néstor Méndez, opened the event. In addition, the President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, Sylvia Mesa, took the floor; the General Director of the National Institute for Women of Panama - INAMU, Liriola Leoteau; the President of the VII CEP,

Ana María Choquehuanca de Villanueva; and the Vice President and Chancellor of the Republic of Panama, Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado.

The delegations of the countries elected the authorities of the Seventh Conference of States Party, integrated as follows: The Presidency was assumed by Panama; The First and Second Vice Presidencies were assumed by Mexico and Argentina. Peru assumed the Rapporteurship of the event. The election of the aforementioned authorities was by acclamation.

Afterwards, the President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI presented the Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará. The Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI then moderated the dialogue on general and special prevention of violence against women in the Third Multilateral Evaluation Round, in which the Competent National Authority of Panama, Liriola Leoteau, the Competent National Authority of the Bahamas, Lanisha Tamar Rolle, the Competent National Authority of Mexico, Marcela Eternod, the Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru, Ana María Choquehuanca, and the experts from Jamaica and Costa Rica, Barbara Bailey and Sylvia Mesa, respectively, participated as panelists.

The second day, a dialogue was held on the prevention of violence against women through stereotype-free education. The dialogue was moderated by Ana María Baiardi, Paraguay's Minister of Women. In this section, participated: Taydee Gordon, on behalf of the Minister of Education of Panama, Marcela Paredes de Vásquez; Alliance of Women of Panama, Rubiela Sánchez; National Council for Women (CONAMU), Aracelly de León; Central General Autonomous of Workers of Panama, Nelva Reyes.

After this, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI presented the Inter-American Model Law on Violence against Women in Politics, previously called the Model Law on Political Violence against Women; the draft comprehensive Model Law to prevent, punish and eradicate the violent death of women due to gender (Femicide/Femicide); and the Hemispheric Report on Sexual Violence and Child Pregnancy in the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará. Additionally, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI presented a report on its activities and on the implementation of the agreements of the last meeting of the Conference of the States Party.

A Ministerial Dialogue was held for the strengthening of the MESECVI and the improvement of the application of the Convention of Belém do Pará. In the dialogue on this matter, the Minister of the Status of Women, National Institute of Women (INAMU) of Costa Rica, Alejandra Mora Mora, participated as a panelist, as well as Martha Ordoñez, Presidential Adviser for the Equality of Women of Colombia, and Yanira Argueta of the Executive Directorate of the Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) of El Salvador. After this, El Salvador offered to host the Eighth Conference of States Party to be held in May 2019.

The agreements of the VII Conference of the States Party to the Convention of Belém do Pará were then considered and adopted. Those will be available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/conferenciasdeestadosparte.asp>

c. Second Extraordinary Conference of States Party

The Second Special Conference of States Party of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women “Belem do Pará” (MESECVI), was held on February 21, 2018, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), in Washington, DC.

Twenty-two delegations from the following countries participated in this meeting: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela. The event was opened by the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador Néstor Méndez, and the President of the Conference of States Party to the MESECVI/General Director of the National Institute for Women of Panama, Liriola Leoteau.

A dialogue was held on emerging issues within the framework of the Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2018-2023. The President of the Conference of States Party (CoSP), Ms. Liriola Leoteau, initiated the dialogue, giving the floor to the Judge of the Inter-American Court, Elizabeth Odio Benito, who spoke about *"Violence against women and access to justice."* Next, Julianne Malveaux, President and founder of Economic Education, began her presentation on *"Violence and Human Rights of Afro-Descendant Women"*. Otilia Lux de Cotí, an activist for the rights of indigenous communities, continued with the dialogue by making her presentation on *"Violence and the human rights of indigenous women"*. Next, Pamela Molina, Disability Specialist of the Organization of American States (OAS), presented on *"Violence and women with disabilities"*. Continuing with the dialogue, Claudia Paz y Paz, Secretary of Multidimensional Security of the OAS, spoke about *"Trafficking and Missing Women"*.

The Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejia Guerrero, then presented the Report on the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017, in which the different activities carried out by the Secretariat were highlighted. The Strategic Plan 2018-2023 was then presented and adopted, with participants agreeing to include a perspective of the intersectionality of women's human rights with an emphasis on prevention and reparation throughout the plan.

Sylvia Mesa, President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, presented the Declaration of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women as a Benefit to Humanity, adopted in Panama, November 28, 2017, document OEA/CEVI/DOC.244/17.rev1. After the dialogue between the delegations, the agreements of the Second Special Conference of the States Party of the Convention of Belem do Pará were adopted.

Within the framework of the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the CIM, the President presented a draft declaration on regional challenges for the human rights of women in the Americas and the eradication of violence against women for the consideration of the Conference of States Party. The delegations from Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela spoke on the presented draft and recommended that it be considered within the framework of the General Assembly of the OAS, allowing for more analysis time and greater impact, which is reflected in the agreements of the Second Conference of States Party of the MESECVI.

VI. FINANCING THE MESECVI

Sources of MESECVI funding

The OAS and CIM assemblies have consistently appealed to the states to contribute human or financial resources to the MESECVI. The agreements of the Seventh Conference of the States Party to the MESECVI (Panama City, Panama, November 29 and 30, 2017) establish that strengthening the MESECVI requires support from the States Party in the form of human and/or financial resources. They also establish that alternative funding must be found for the Mechanism to work correctly.

The Seventh Conference of States Party agreed, *inter alia*, to:

“15. Urge State Parties to make voluntary contributions, in accordance with their means, to ensure compliance of the tasks of the Mechanism’s Technical Secretariat and ensure Experts’ participation in the meetings of the Mechanism; and to incentivize private and state entities to contribute to the Mechanism;

“16. Encourage the General Assembly of the OAS to maintain and consolidate the increase in the budget allocation for the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) which also acts as the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, approved at the Forty-Seventh Regular Session;

“17. Reiterate to the General Secretariat of the OAS that it consider the allocation of required human, technical and financial resources for optimal functioning of the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism, including the identification of external sources of funding.”

In the same vein, the Authorities meeting at the Second Extraordinary Conference held in February 2018 agreed to:

“3. Encourage the General Assembly to maintain and consolidate the increase in the budget allocation approved at the Forty-Seventh Regular Session of the General Assembly for the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), which also acts as the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, in accordance with the provisions of its Statute for the execution of the Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2018-2023;

4. Urge States Party to make voluntary contributions, in accordance with their means, to ensure compliance of the foreseen tasks of the Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2018-2023 of the Mechanism’s Technical Secretariat, and ensure Experts’ participation in the meetings of the Mechanism; to incentivize organizations and other public and private entities, both nationally and internationally, to contribute to the Mechanism;”

Consequently, concentrated efforts are still needed to strengthen the MESECVI by mobilizing resources from the States Party to the Convention and other possible donors for the development and execution of specific projects, as shown in the table below.

MESECVI Contributions		
Year	Donor	Total
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
2015	Mexico	29,717.87
	Nicaragua	6,000.00
2015 Total		35,717.87
2016	Mexico	30,253.85
	Trinidad and Tobago	15,000.00
2016 Total		45,253.85
2017 Total		0.00
2018 Total		
Grand Total		205,046.31

ANNEX I



DRAFT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.- The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence Against Women (MESECVI) and the Committee of Experts (CEVI) present the Hemispheric Report of the Third Round of Multilateral Evaluation (2016), corresponding to the systematization and analysis of the responses of the National Competent Authorities of the States Parties⁷ to the System of Progress Indicators for the measurement of the implementation of the “Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence Against Women”, also known as the Belém do Pará Convention (the Convention).
- 2.- The Convention recognizes all forms of violence against women because they are women as well as the environments where they are disproportionately affected, establishing that the States must 1) adopt measures and policies by all means necessary and without delay directed at the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women; 2) act with due diligence to prevent any form of violence against women; 3) adopt criminal, civil, administrative and other types of regulations in their domestic legislation to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women.

⁷ The following States Parties participated in the Third Round of Evaluation: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

3.- The Third Hemispheric Report describes the efforts of the States Parties to prevent violence within the family unit and in the public sphere including the workplace, recreational spaces, politics, sports, healthcare services, educational institutions, social networks and digital spaces. It also considers violence against women committed by the government or its agents that takes place in hospitals, educational centers, and prisons, as well as sexual violence in armed conflicts. The report focuses special attention on evaluating the effort governments have made to promote the right of women to life free from violence and to be educated free from gender stereotypes, among other issues.

4.- The information provided during the Third Round of Multilateral Evaluation enables the analysis of the measures implemented to prevent and eradicate violence and discrimination against women in each of the States Party. The MESECVI chose 145 indicators related to the obligation to prevent from the five modules that conform to the System of Progress Indicators associated with the fulfillment of Article 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention. The modules address, in specific order, issues associated with the following: 1) Legislation 2) National Plans 3) Access to Justice 4) Information and Statistics and 5) Diversity. Each module in this report examines factors related to the obligation of the States with respect to General Prevention or Special Prevention.

5.- General Prevention assumes a collection of comprehensive measures directed at reducing risk factors and eliminating the structural causes of violence against women. It requires the adoption of laws that punish violence and ensure the delivery of an education free from gender stereotypes in educational institutions, thereby guaranteeing equality and a setting of non-discrimination. In addition, States must establish a political environment that respects human rights, the Rule of Law and the right of women to be treated as equals in the political, economic and social spheres, and in the face of violence, that takes effective action through its administrative and judicial bodies.

6.- In addition, the concept of General Protection also demands that states condemn violence against women and pursue the social and cultural changes necessary to guarantee their rights; establish effective and efficient monitoring mechanisms with detailed information from official sources and civil society; and to provide a solid financial base with sufficient budgetary commitment to guarantee the implementation of a comprehensive system for the protection of women.

7.- The Committee of Expert (CEVI) confirmed the existence in the region of legal and/or institutional mechanisms that contribute to the eradication of behaviors based on the

subjugation of women, such as organizations for the advancement of women, ministries or general secretaries with expertise in comprehensive protection or research centers dedicated to the study of the conditions of women in their respective countries.

8.- It also recognizes a broad regulatory framework in the region that includes laws, protocols and regulations related to the right of women to a life free from violence and discrimination. This legislative framework addresses such issues as the creation of an educational system free from gender stereotypes, the eradication of femicide/feminicide; the recognition of gender identity and sexual orientation; as well as specific laws for sexual education and the education of pregnant adolescents. However, there are differing degrees of progress in each one of the State Parties.

9.- The CEVI has reiterated the importance of promoting and incentivizing training and educational activities on the causes and effects of violence against women for educational personnel and students in institutions at all levels of instruction. In addition, courses of study and educational material must be updated to ensure that gender stereotypes are not reproduced. However, only 50% of the participating States reported the existence of a law that regulates the right to be educated free from discrimination, a concept that is fundamental in the prevention of violence against women.

10.- Within this context, the CEVI repeats that the lack of protocols that clearly establish the procedures to follow in the event of a violation of the right of women and girl children to live a life free from violence, only serves to deepen the violence by the various factors echoed in the replication of behavior based on stereotypes that encourage the inferiority and subordination of women in the educational sphere. Further, it contributes to the lack of knowledge of their rights with respect to care for women victims of sexual violence; the lack of knowledge of rights among indigenous women and women of African descent, the revictimization of women and girl children and to inefficacy during a criminal trial.

11.- The Committee notes with concern that only 15.62% of the States Parties provided information on protocols addressing the violation of the right of women and girl children to an education free from stereotyped behavior patterns. It therefore recommends the design, adoption, revision and implementation of these action instruments within institutions and the various spaces that provide care to women and girl children, especially those who are victims of violence.

12.- The CEVI is please to note that 60% of the States that participated in this Round have at least one protocol covering the actions of government officials when faced with a

violation of the right of women and girls to live free from violence. This demonstrates a progressive strengthening of the institutional capabilities of the States to respond to the different violations of their rights suffered by women and girls. However, this trend is evident only within the area of justice, particularly in the area of criminal justice, and the development of protocols is essentially nonexistent in non-criminal areas of the justice system as well as in the healthcare and educational sectors.

13.- The CEVI maintains that monitoring reports on the implementation of action protocols on women's rights are an important tool for decision makers and demonstrate the will of the State of regulate the actions of specialized personnel in the justice, education and healthcare sectors, in order to correct, adapt, promote and improve public management of the issue and propose or amend the corresponding public policies and measures as needed.

14.- It is the Public Defenders, the gender divisions of Judicial Agencies, the Ministries of Justice, the National Institutes for Women and the Executive Secretaries (**include bodies**) who are responsible for the development of monitoring reports on the protocols for the care of women who have suffered from violence. However, we believe it is important to promote the generation of reports with a gender perspective from across the entire State apparatus in order to determine the effect of government intervention in the improvement of the condition of women. The States is called upon to establish expedited mechanisms for the participation and collaboration of civil society in the development of these types of follow-up tools.

15.- The CEVI is pleased to note the adoption and establishment of National Plans directed at the prevention, care and eradication of violence against women, as well as the establishment of an institutional infrastructure designed to improve conditions in all areas related to women's relationships. 100% of the 24 participating States indicated that they had plans that address violence against women and promote their empowerment and participation in the public sphere, the full exercise of their rights, as well as the justiciability and sanction of acts of violence against them.

16.- However, in order to successfully achieve each one of the goals listed in the national plans, it is important to increase effort to adopt methodologies that allow the categorization of information produced by the State, from the adoption of public budgets sensitive to gender, to the identification of populations targeted by public policies (indigenous women, homeless women, women deprived of freedom, among others) to the

collection of practices of the main actors and the methods that come together to achieve the goal.

17.- The CEVI notes that only 28.4% of the States in the Region reported the execution of monitoring reports designed to follow-up on and measure the impact of national plans or programs for the protection and eradication of violence and discrimination against women. These tools are fundamental for the deepening of the government structure of public administration in alignment with the concepts included in the Belém do Pará Convention and the International Law of Human Rights.

18.- The CEVI is pleased to observe the incorporation of social inclusion mechanisms in the various expressions of women's diversity in the region, including: the adoption of special protection laws, incorporation of one or several specific goals related to diversity in national plans and programs; and the implementation of national plans that specifically address populations with special needs. In addition, we see that laws to combat any form of discrimination include elements directly related to the protection and inclusion of diversity.

19.- Across the Region, there are laws to protect and include indigenous peoples and communities and those of African descent, as well as legal mechanisms to punish the abandonment and inhumane and degrading treatment of physically or psychosocially disabled women. There are special measures established to care for rural and older women, those in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations, migrant and refugee women, and those belonging to diverse groups or those with alternate sexual preferences.

20.- The protection of diversity represents the official recognition and inclusion of the varied expressions of multiculturalism that exist in the Region. The CEVI, therefore, applauds the incorporation of transformative State measures that integrate ancestral indigenous languages, and recognize and respect the habits and customs of this population, fostering an inclusive and respectful society made up of a multicultural citizenry, from the very outset of the educational process as demonstrated by a substantial improvement in quality of life and the development of a truly multicultural environment.

21.- With respect to the financial context within which the States execute the action directed at combatting discrimination and violence against women, the MESECVI noted a general tendency to allocate funds to National Mechanisms for the protection of women, in addition to the corresponding allocations to the execution of national intersectoral plans and the protection components for women victims of violence under the care of the system of administration of justice.

22.- However, countries in the Region allocated less than 1% (**specify the data**) of their total budgets to the programs, plans and other institutions designed to combat gender-based violence. This information is based on information provided in the responses of the States themselves, and was developed thanks to a comprehensive review of additional sources by the CEVI in reaction to the vagueness of the responses and the resulting difficulty to make comparisons between the funds destined to the protection of women and the public budget or gross domestic product of each one of the States.

23.- None of the laws or procedures referenced a method for public participation in the development or evaluation of the budget or for the determination of the needs of the women as the primary beneficiaries of the funds, although the majority of the States did note the existence of structural and ongoing relationships with feminist and women's movements. Only two States (which ones?) provided specific information on the number and roles of the organizations of civil society that participated in the development of the budget.

24.- For its part, Special Protection addresses the obligation to protect women victims of violence as equals and free from all forms of discrimination. It considers the different phases of treatment of cases by the judicial entities in each State. These entities should combat, without delay and by all means necessary, the ineffectiveness and impunity that exist in cases of violence against women within the system of administration of justice, from the initial complaint, during the investigation, the gathering of evidence, the review of the actions of the government officials (police, defenders, and judges), the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators, and of particular importance, the restitution and reparation of the victims.

With respect to the responsibility of the States in terms of Special Protection, it is imperative that they adopt a comprehensive set of policies and judicial, legislative, administrative, cultural and other necessary measures to effectively safeguard the human rights of women and girl children. These measures should be directed at the prevention of violations of human rights in both the public and private spheres, and to the development of a culture that respects human rights.

25.- To ensure universal access to justice for women victims of violence, the State must adapt the governmental apparatus to meet the specific needs of the groups of women and girls who face a higher risk of violence because of poverty and exclusion, language barriers, geographical location in rural areas or far from urban centers, and disability, among others

factors. The States must protect the dignity and privacy of the victims during all stages of investigation and prosecution, and above all, avoid the revictimization of the women in any way.

26.- In the same way, the Criminal Justice System requires independent judicial entities, free from interference in their function and the management of their resources. Authorities must take effective and timely action from the very outset of the investigation and in the collection of evidence. The criminal investigation must be immediate, exhaustive, efficient, serious and impartial and respect the right of participation by the victims and family members in all stages of the investigation and must guarantee that the crime does not reoccur or allow any form of revictimization whatsoever.

27.- The CEVI notes that women were killed “after seeking the State’s preventive protection; in some cases, restraining orders were issued to protect women but were not properly enforced or monitored.⁸” Protective measures must be accompanied by oversight and follow-up mechanisms. The implementation of timely safety measures ensure that women do not remain unprotected and at the mercy of reprisals from their attackers, and as they are essential for prevention, must be immediate and effective.

28.- The CEVI urges the States to establish a system of reparations for harm suffered and other compensation measures based on the gender stereotypes that led to the violation of the right, whether than be the nature, origin and context of the prejudice, or the ways it is perpetuated and its elimination. On the other hand, they encourage the States to consider the adaptation of the criminal justice system to conform to the international principles and standards established in the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women.

29.- The CEVI identifies femicide as the most extreme and irreversible expression of violence and discrimination against women and has defined it as, “the violent gender-based death of women whether it occurs within the family, domestic partnership or any other interpersonal relationship; in the community, by any individual, or when it is perpetrated or tolerated by the State or its agents, by action or omission”⁹.

30.- The recognition and sustained fight against this phenomenon remains an outstanding issue in the Region. The submissions of the participating States demonstrate considerable disinterest and a lack of commitment to combat and reduce this crime to an

⁸ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Report on the Rights of Women, Access to justice for women victims of violence in the Americas, , OAS/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 68, January 20, 2007, paragraph 166.

⁹ OAS, Declaration on Femicide, OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10, August 15, 2008, p. 6

absolute minimum. It is noted that the number of cases tried are not proportional to the total investigations reported, which could indicate a certain degree of impunity on the part of the judicial authorities and the criminal justice system and represent a systematic violation of the rights of women that serves to entrench and consolidate the already existing discrimination.

31.- The Committee also noted the lack of sufficient personnel - psychological and psychiatric, social workers, and justice workers - for the treatment of women victims of violence. In addition the formal training and education mechanisms on protection are inadequate to attain the minimum level of skill necessary to provide effective care in cases of violations of women's rights.

32.- With the preceding considerations in mind, the CEVI invites all sectors of Society and Government to conduct a detailed and careful reading of the following report as they consider the adoption of expedited measures to respond to the situation of the women in the region, which in general terms, undermines human dignity and sustains the patterns and models of social exclusion and the systematic discrimination of women.

ANNEX II



Organization of
American States
More rights for more people



**FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)
SECOND SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF
STATES PARTY TO THE
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION**
February 21st, 2018
Washington D.C

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10
MESECVI/II-CE/doc.133/18.rev1
February 21st, 2018
Original: Spanish

MESECVI STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2023

I. INTRODUCTION

The Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women, or Belém do Pará Convention (1994), was the first treaty, at a global level, to establish women's right to live in a world free of violence, in both the private and public sphere, as a human right. The Convention

establishes positive obligations for States to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women, and has served as an inspiration and reference for the modernization of legislative frameworks in the region.

The Third Round of Evaluation for the implementation of the Belem do Para Convention, based on Article 7 of the Convention, conducted an examination of the fundamental causes of violence against women, in all its forms.

Particular attention was paid to the problem of gender stereotypes, with a special focus on the role of formal and informal education in the fight against practices based on the superiority/inferiority of the sexes.

Taking into account the persistence of sociocultural patterns and historically accepted discriminatory behaviors, the MESECVI (See Annex I) has reiterated in its various reports, and especially in the Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belem do Para Convention¹⁰, the importance of the promotion and implementation of laws that protect the rights of women. They also emphasize that these laws be accompanied by public policies to eradicate violence, taking into account the reality of the diversity of women in the region.

Additionally to the situation of violence described, there is the incapacity of justice systems in adequately responding to violence against women. The Convention of Belém do Pará also establishes the duty to act with due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish those forms of violence, as an international obligation for the States Party, regardless of where they take place.

The Third Evaluation Round highlighted the low budget that the countries of the region allocate to the prevention of violence against women, which hinders the existence and effective implementation of public policies on the subject.

The Belém do Pará Convention has generated an important change in the juridical conscience of the hemisphere, as well as notable progress in national legislations, but it should be said that such progress is not uniform and that the application of Inter-American standards of protection, through National Justice Systems, are still not only unequal, but without a doubt, insufficient.

The development of public policies for the protection of women's rights, and especially for the right of women to live in a world free of violence, has had a significant impact on national legislation, however, the need to create changes in socio-cultural patterns in order to guarantee the full validity of the rights of women in the region remains an issue.

¹⁰ The *Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belem do Para Convention, Prevention of Violence in the Americas* was presented to the VII Conference of States Party and adopted by the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on the 31st of January, 2018.

To an equal extent, while the development of public policy to protect women's rights –especially women's right to live in a world free of violence- has had a relevant impact in national legislations, it is also true that the need for socio-cultural change remains crucial in order to guarantee the full validity of women's rights in the region.

The effective and sustainable implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention requires a process of continuous evaluation, supported by the States Party to the Convention, as well as women's social movements, requiring interaction with the international community in order to advance in the conquest of their human rights. For this reason, the Strategic Plan has been proposed with the goal of advancing standards and deepening tools for the implementation, promotion and defense of women's human rights.

From this context are born the opportunity and need to promote more actively the visibility and validity of the Convention in the countries of the region, both in legal practice and in society as a whole, as well as the MESECVI as a useful tool in the defense of women's human rights.

II. GOALS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Article 1 of the Mechanism's Statute indicates that they must follow-up on the commitments made by the States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention and that the MESECVI has as an objective, the promotion of the implementation of the Convention and contribute to the accomplishment of the purposes established therein, as well as establishing a system of technical cooperation¹¹.

The Strategic Plan 2014-2017 has as its objective, the dissemination of the Belém do Pará Convention and its historical relevance, the rights it includes and the mechanisms and their promotion and protection. On the basis of the document on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 (MESECVI/II-CE/INF.26/18), the MESECVI has carried out an analysis regarding the completion of the goals established in the former Plan, destined to: 1) strengthening the institutionalism of the MESECVI; 2) strengthening the technical capacities of the national mechanisms on women's affairs; 3) providing an intersectional answer to problems regarding violence against women; and 4) raising societal awareness about these problems, as well as promoting the Belém do Pará Convention.

The present Strategic Plan seeks to continue fulfilling the permanent mandates of the MESECVI from an intersectional approach in regard to the human rights of women in every stage of life, with emphasis on prevention and reparation, and introduces the working issues for the Third Round of

¹¹ **Article 1** Purposes / objectives

1.1 The purposes of the Mechanism will be:

a. To follow up on the commitments assumed by the States Parties to the Convention and analyze the way in which they are being implemented;

b. Promote the implementation of the Convention and contribute to the achievement of the purposes established therein;

Evaluation in which we are at, agreed to by the Seventh Conference of States Party to the MESECVI held on November 29th and 30th, 2017, in Panama City, Panama. Thus, it seeks to deepen the following goals:

1. *Strengthening the institutionalism of the MESECVI*

In 2014, the MESECVI established as a goal 10 years of institutional development. In the Seventh Conference of States Party to the MESECVI, the States reaffirmed their commitment to the strengthening of the MESECVI and the importance of the exchange of good practices and challenges in the implementation of the “Belém do Pará Convention” among all States Party, in this Third Round of Multilateral Evaluation.

Therefore, the MESECVI has to facilitate the processes of creating tools and strengthening channels of dialogue, in order to support the development and implementation of public policies oriented in compliance with Inter-American standards of protection of the human rights of women. In this way, the MESECVI is expected to generate, promote and aid the processes required in the development of promotion and dissemination instruments, diagnosis indicators, evaluation mechanisms, follow-up and analysis of the diverse and intercultural nature of our region. This will result in the assurance of efficient diagnoses of our current situation, as well as in the design and impact of public policies in the region. Through these formative processes we hope to accomplish aid and technical support of the States Party and civil society, both nationally and internationally within the Americas. Said processes are useful for the defense and guarantee of women’s human rights and particularly, women’s right to live a life free of violence in the region.

The evaluation document regarding the implementation of the former Strategic Plan reveals the diverse progress accomplished by the Mechanism with respect to the pre-set objectives, and underscores the need to continue strengthening pending challenges that contribute to the promotion of greater participation of Experts in the Committee of Experts to the MESECVI (CEVI), institutionalize the interaction between National Competent Authorities and Experts, and promote greater social participation in the processes of implementation, follow-up and knowledge of the Convention.

A Strategic Plan aimed at the accomplishment of these goals additionally requires a progressive focus, including the planning of parallel processes that strengthen the Mechanism in relation to the strengthening of State action and empowerment of women in the region.

2. *Contribute to the strengthening of technical capacities of the States Party to the MESECVI in order to implement the Belem do Para Convention from an intersectional approach in regard to the human rights of women in every stage of life, with emphasis on prevention and reparation*

The MESECVI has been identifying, as an imperative necessity, the improvement of the guarantee of protection for women victims of violence, from an intersectional approach in regard to the human rights of women in every stage of life, with emphasis on prevention and reparation.

In this line, it agreed to promote, in the framework of the Mechanism's follow-up work, the application of the Belém do Pará Convention in the following issues:

- a) political violence and harassment against women;
- b) the guarantee of access to justice for women victims of violence;
- c) the combat of social and institutional tolerance to violence against women and girls;
- d) the prevention violence in order to guarantee women's right to be valued and educated free from stereotyped patterns of behavior, as well as social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority and subordination;
- e) the continual promotion and strengthening of public policies oriented to comprehensively serve women, specially girls and teenage girls victims of all forms of violence, with special emphasis in physical and sexual violence, guaranteeing that they receive specialized attention and;
- f) advancement in the elaboration of the Draft Model Law to prevent, punish and eradicate violent deaths of women based on their Gender (Femicide);
- g) and the recommendation for the expansion of state capacities in order to allocate budgets for programs and plans that combat institutions linked to different forms of violence against women, with a gender focus.

The Strategic Plan, will highlight the situation of women, girls and adolescents with disabilities, elderly women, those of African descent, indigenous women, women farmers, lesbians, transsexual and intersex persons,¹² migrants and refugees, in the attempt to include the other forms of violence that affect women, especially those who are victims of multiple discriminatory factors. Furthermore, the Mechanism can be particularly instrumental in highlighting work regarding the protection of trafficked or missing women, as well as in the context of armed conflicts and natural disasters, among others.

3. Intersectional response to issues related to violence against women

¹² The Republic of Paraguay reaffirms the precept established in Title II "On the Rights, Duties and Guarantees"; Chapter III "On Equality" and the Chapter IV "On the Rights of the Family" of their National Constitution and accords. In this vein, they express their reservations about the text "lesbians, transsexuals and intersex persons".

Since the issuing of the Second Hemispheric Report, the Committee recommended that States Party adopt national intersectoral plans to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women that include mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, dissemination and the participation of civil society, as well as the establishment of sanctions for public officials who don't comply with the implementation of said plans¹³.

In this context, during the Third Round of Multilateral Evaluation, the MESECVI highlighted the strategies implemented by States Party, which were focused on the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women, girls and teenage girls. In this Round, the States Party responded in relation to inter-agency and intersectional actions taken to prevent violence against women in the following areas:

- a) Execution and implementation of National Plans/Strategies to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women;
- b) The incorporation of gender perspective and eradication of violence against women in a transversal manner in other intersectional National Plans and Actions for development, human rights, inclusion and social justice;
- c) The execution of training programs in women's human rights, forms of violence and state and regional resources for its eradication, focused on the entirety of the public administration, with an emphasis on justice operators, officials that belong to the security bodies of the State and to health and education systems;
- d) The effective and high quality incorporation of civil society organizations that defend women's human rights, in all of the phases related to the design, execution and measurement of national plans, strategies and actions related to the promotion and protection of women's rights, contained in international human rights instruments and national legislation;
- e) Participation of the media and advertising agencies in the promotion of women's rights and the role of the media in the process of promoting equality and gender equity, the elimination of stereotypes associated to gender, promotion of non-sexist language and the struggle against violence and discrimination against women;

The MESECVI has observed progress in the intersectional and multidisciplinary design of national plans presented by States Party, highlighting the existing dedication to substantively improve women's situation and reduce all forms of discrimination against them, in any sphere, mainly in the exercise of public administration.

¹³ MESECVI (2012). Second Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. Recommendation No. 17: Adopt national and intersectoral plans to prevent, sanction and eradicate violence against women, which have monitoring, evaluation, dissemination and participation mechanisms of civil society, organized communities and social movements in their different stages. Establish sanctions for civil servants and officials who fail to comply with its implementation.

However, it is necessary to deepen the efforts surrounding the adoption of methodologies that allow the execution of national plans involving competent authorities, among them education agencies in particular, from an intersectional and multidisciplinary perspective focused on societies as a whole, especially the media, state agencies and civil society organizations, and the guarantee of necessary funding in order to accomplish all of the foreseen goals contained in national plans.

4. Raise awareness in society as a whole, with regard to violence against women, as well as promoting the Belém do Pará Convention

In facing the need to continue advancing in the prevention of violence against women, in 2014 the MESECVI celebrated the Hemispheric Forum Belém do Pará +20 “Prevention of violence against women: Good practices and proposals for the future”, where the Declaration of Pachuca was adopted in collaboration with principal and alternative delegates to the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). The Declaration urges the “Strengthening of efforts to prevent violence against women”, and reaffirms the State’s commitment to take concrete policy, education and communication actions, in order to promote gender equality and violence prevention, highlighting recommendations directed at building content that counters media violence against women and discrimination based on gender in the media, as well as promoting diversity and equal opportunities and rights as values that are fundamental to democracy.

In the framework of the Third Evaluation Round, which focuses its efforts on preventing violence in order to guarantee the right of women, girls and adolescents to be valued and educated free from stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority or subordination, the MESECVI proposes supporting States Party that request assistance in the elaboration of adequate dissemination guidelines that contribute to the eradication of all forms of violence against women and enhance respect for women’s dignity.

We understand that the design and planning of these Goals and their activities in the Strategic Plan should not function in an independent manner, but should take into account the level of progress and development of the Convention in each country in the region, also allowing for progressive, permanent and continuous implementation, as well as a process of feedback regarding best practices and the peer review system currently developed by the Mechanism.

Thus, the following is proposed:

Goals	Actions	Outcome indicators (annual frequency unless otherwise indicated)	Responsible/ Coordinators
1 Institutional strengthening of the	1.1 Institutionalize dialogues between the organs of the MESECVI according to the	1.1 Number of meetings developed	NCA and CEVI with TS support

<p>MESECVI</p>	<p>document Guidelines for the development of dialogues between the Competent National Authorities (CNA) and the Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the MESECVI (MESECVI/CE/doc.6/14)</p> <p>1.2 Strengthen the dialogue between the organs of the MESECVI regarding measurement indicators for the elaboration of hemispheric reports.</p> <p>1.3 Appointment and effective participation of experts in the activities and meetings of the CEVI.</p> <p>1.4 Promote the participation of civil society under the framework of the “Guidelines for the participation of Civil Society Organizations in the activities of the OAS”, as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate at the national level the guidelines for civil society participation in the OAS, in order to promote the registration of a large number of women’s organizations. 	<p>1.2 Number of meetings held and agreements reached.</p> <p>1.3 Experts appointed and number of experts that have participated in the CEVI meetings</p> <p>1.4 Number of civil society organizations that participate in the forums, workshops, and other MESECVI events</p>	<p>NCA and CEVI with TS support</p> <p>NCA</p> <p>NCA with TS support</p> <p>TS in consultation with NCA</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate the mandate of the MESECVI at the national level and through electronic media • Develop workshops and virtual forums <p>1.5 Set concrete goals for development and cooperation with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as well as other international organs or organisms.</p> <p>1.6 Identify effective fundraising plans to increment the raise of funds, including the request to the General Secretariat of the OAS to grant additional regular funds to the MESECVI.</p>	<p>1.5 Number of ongoing activities/cooperation projects</p> <p>1.6 Variation of raised funds</p>	<p>NCA and TS</p>
<p>2. Contribute to the strengthening of the States Party's technical capacities for the implementation of the Belem do Para Convention from an intersectional approach in regard to the human rights of women in every stage of life, with emphasis on</p>	<p>2.1 Formulate technical assistance programs to:</p> <p>2.1.1 Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate and use the indicators for the measurement of violence against woman in States Parties 	<p>2.1 Number of States that have received technical assistance from the MESECVI.</p> <p>2.1.1 Number of States that have submitted their indicators to the MESECVI on time and in the proper format.</p> <p>Number of countries for</p>	<p>TS in consultation with NCA and CEVI</p>

<p>prevention and reparation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen national capacities in the design of indicators and data collection. • Strengthen or develop mechanisms to advance in homogeneous and comparable indicators <p>2.1.2: Education</p> <p>2.1.3: Violence and women with disabilities</p>	<p>which data is statistically comparable and/or number of initiatives implemented to this end</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of activities to disseminate the recommendations for preventing violence with the aim to guarantee the right of women to be valued and educated free of stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority or subordination and results</p> <p>2.1.3 Number of meetings with the Follow-up Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities; the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, the Institute of Boys, Girls and Adolescents, and the Department of Social Inclusion, in order to make progress on issues related to disability, with special emphasis on women and girls, and results</p> <p>2.1.4 Number of meetings with the Secretariat for</p>	<p>TS in consultation with NCA and CEVI</p> <p>TS in consultation with NCA and CEVI</p>
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	<p>2.1.6: Violence against Women in Political Life</p>	<p>Eradicate the Gender-related Killing of Women (Femicide/Feminicide), and results</p> <p>Number of States that have incorporated the guidelines of the Comprehensive Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate the Violent Gender-Related Killing of Women (Femicide/Feminicide) within their legal frameworks, and consistent with national legislation.</p> <p>2.1.6 Number of activities to disseminate the recommendations for Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of States and Political Parties to Respond to Political Violence and/or Harassment against Women” and results</p> <p>Number of activities to disseminate the <i>Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women in Political Life</i>, scope and results</p> <p>Number of States that have incorporated the guidelines of the <i>Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women in Political Life</i>, (document</p>	
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	<p>2.1.9: Budget</p> <p>2.2 Develop a needs-based analysis to continue strengthening the technical capacities of national mechanisms of women's affairs.</p> <p>2.3 Compile, publish, and exchange of good practices and public policies between competent authorities of respective countries for the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women.</p>	<p>to guarantee budgets assigned to programs, plans and institutions related to different types of violence against women with a gender perspective</p> <p>Number of States Party that have dedicated at least 1% of their budgets to programs and plans that combat institutions linked to distinct forms of violence against women, with a gender perspective.</p> <p>2.2 Information available on the needs of existing technical cooperation in States Parties.</p> <p>2.3 Number of publications compiling good practices</p> <p>Exchange forums about good practices that have been developed.</p>	
3. Intersectoral answer to problems regarding violence against women	3.1. Strengthen communication channels between the national competent authorities of the MESECVI and other relevant national sectors, particularly in justice, education, health, public security, and authorities responsible for	3.1. Number of actions taken to institutionalize communication channels, like meetings, agreements or other actions.	NCA

	<p>migrant women and authorities responsible for combating poverty, among others, as appropriate.</p> <p>3.2 Promote intersectoral initiatives for the elaboration and application of public policies oriented to follow up on obligations under the Belém do Pará Convention</p> <p>3.3 Adequate progressively national norms on protection standards and Inter-American jurisprudence.</p> <p>3.4 Disseminate good practices and public policies for the prevention, punishment, reparation and eradication of violence against women in every stage of life in all relevant sectors, particularly in justice, education, health, public security, and authorities responsible for migrant women and authorities responsible for combating poverty, among others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and development of workshops and training materials for personnel from the relevant sectors 	<p>3.2. Public policies implemented and advances made on the adequacy of norms and standards of Inter-American protection and jurisprudence.</p> <p>3.3. Advancement in adequate national norms on protection standards and Inter-American jurisprudence.</p> <p>3.4. Number of actions taken, including disseminated publications, training materials that have been produced and distributed, designed and developed workshops, number of people that have been trained, disaggregated by sex and kind of personnel among which the training has been implemented and the training materials have been disseminated</p>	<p>NCA</p> <p>NCA</p> <p>NCA</p>
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	<p>mentioned before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen capacities in educational systems in the development of programmatic contents and curricula about the Belém do Pará Convention. 		
<p>4. Raise awareness about the situation of violence against women and promotion of the Belém do Pará Convention.</p>	<p>4.1 Disseminate information about the situation of violence against woman in the region, taking into consideration, among others, the situations of vulnerability mentioned in art.9 of the Convention¹⁴.</p>	<p>4.1 Circulated publications, including materials to sensitize and to raise awareness that have been produced, workshops that have been held, and type and number of participants</p>	<p>NCA and TS</p>
	<p>4.2 Promote communication strategies about the right of women to live without violence, aimed at the deconstruction of cultural stereotypes causing violence against women</p>	<p>4.2 Number of activities, elaborated and disseminated communication materials with media, journalists and television channels</p>	<p>NCA and TS</p>
	<p>4.3 Organize public information strategies and campaigns in order to increase the visibility of the importance of the Belém do Pará Convention and the work of the</p>	<p>4.3 Number of actions including, among others, elaborating training materials and number of annual workshops to sensitize journalists and</p>	<p>NCA and TS</p>

¹⁴ [Art. 9 Convention of Belém do Pará: "(...) the States Parties shall take special account of the vulnerability of women to violence by reason of among others, their race or ethnic background or their status as migrants, refugees or displaced persons. Similar consideration shall be given to women subjected to violence while pregnant or who are disabled, of minor age, elderly, socio-economically disadvantaged, affected by armed conflict or deprived of their freedom."

	<p>MESECVI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop of a media directory of national and hemispheric relevance.• Strengthen relations with the media and journalists sensitive to this issue.• Design of training and awareness workshops for journalist and media outlets• Promote partnerships with universities, film schools, and other arts schools, in order to include the issue of violence against women in their workshops, performances, contests, and other activities that could be taken as the centerpiece of the creative process, so that they constitute instances of awareness and dissemination, with multiplying effects.	<p>media outlets.</p>	
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ANNEX I

II. MESECVI AS A RESPONSE

This situation has highlighted the need to revise women's protection mechanisms developed and implemented in the region. Therefore, in October 2004, as a response to this reality and the necessity expressed by the States Party to have a more efficient Mechanism to follow-up on women's situation

and the fulfillment of the obligations derived from the Belém do Pará Convention, the MESECVI was created, a formal mechanism to monitor, follow-up and assist in the nation implementation of the Convention.

The creation of the MESECVI has assumed the institutional expression of political will to have a consensual and independent system to evaluate the progress made by the States in complying with the Convention, with the objective of implementing the recommendations issued by the Mechanism¹⁵. In addition to creating the Mechanism as a tool to follow-up and shape measures derived from the Convention, article 10's purpose is broadened, according to which the State shall account for their compliance and implementation of their obligations resulting from the Convention.

Article 1 of the Mechanisms Statute, indicates that in addition to following-up on the commitments made by States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention, the MESECVI has as one of its objectives, to promote the implementation of the Convention and contribute to the achievement of the purposes established therein, as well as establishing a system of technical cooperation between States Party, open to Member States and Permanent Observers¹⁶.

With these purposes, the Mechanism is designed with two fundamental components, the Conference of States Party and the Committee of Experts (CEVI):

- The **Conference of States Party**, comprised by the 32 Member States to the OAS that have signed, ratified or acceded the Belém do Pará Convention. Its main functions include: i) formulate guidelines for CEVI's work; ii) receive, analyze and evaluate the reports and recommendations issued by CEVI; y iii) publish and disseminate the MESECVI Hemispheric Report. The Conference meets every two years.
- The **Committee of Experts**, comprised by national experts, designated by their own States Party to serve with the MESECVI in an independent character. Their main functions include: i) formulate a methodology of evaluation and establish a work methodology; ii) receive and evaluate the States

0 ¹⁵ Report of the Technical Secretariat on the implementation of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém Do Pará" to the XXXIII Assembly of Delegates of the Cim. OEA / Ser.L / II.2.33 CIM / doc.10 / 06 23 October 2006. See:

<http://www.ramajudicial.gov.co/cs/download/UserFiles/File/ALTAS%20CORTES/CONSEJO%20SUPERIOR/ARCHIVOS%20CONTENIDO/INFORME%20DE%20LA%20SECRETARIA.pdf>

¹⁶ **Article 1 Purposes / objectives**

1.1 The purposes of the Mechanism will be:

- a. To follow up on the commitments assumed by the States Parties to the Convention and analyze the way in which they are being implemented;
- b. Promote the implementation of the Convention and contribute to the achievement of the purposes established therein;

Party' reports and prepare recommendations; iii) present their reports to the Conference of States Party.

The MESECVI works with Multi-lateral Evaluation Round (MER) that includes two different phases:

- **Evaluation**– during which the CEVI analyzes the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention, based on questionnaires completed by the States Party, and prepares recommendations;
- **Follow-up** – during which the CEVI circulates an additional questionnaire to the States Party to inquire about the implementation of their specific recommendations, and prepares a Hemispheric Report.

Because the States have recognized that violence against women constitutes a human rights and fundamental freedoms violation, and limits partially or totally women's recognition, enjoyment and exercise of such rights and freedoms¹⁷, and that the MESECVI is the product of Inter-American consensus to deal with this issue, the MESECVI has to:

- Analyze the multiple forms of violence that impede the full enjoyment and exercise of women's human rights, their right to live a free and dignified life, to be valued and educated free of stereotypes of behavior and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority and subordination.
- Follow-up on the actions implemented by States Party in the fulfillment of non-delegable obligations of States to guarantee, by all appropriate means and without delays, policies oriented to prevent, punish and eradicate such violence¹⁸.

On the other hand, given the importance of articulation and participation of women's organizations, through academia, NGOs and groups and social movements to accomplish the full enjoyment of human rights, the MESECVI should also activate the necessary mechanisms so that this instrument is an institutional reference point for the defense of women's human rights in the region.

In exercise of its functions, in 2014 the MESECVI prepared the Guide for the Application of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), where it recognized that violence within the family is a generalized phenomenon that affects women from all social strata, yet continues to be perceived as acceptable and legitimate. It is a crime that is rarely reported, mainly due to fear of reprisals, pressure from the family or the community to avoid revealing domestic problems, women having limited knowledge about their rights, lack of support services, economic dependence and the perception that the police do not respond with appropriate solutions. These are obvious obstacles that perpetuate patterns of violence against women.

¹⁷ Preamble to the Belém Do Pará Convention

¹⁸ Art. 7 Convention of Belém do Pará

In the same guide, the MESECVI also points out the seriousness of violence against women when it is perpetrated or tolerated by the State or its agents, particularly in cases of sexual violence, including rape, committed in hospitals, educational centers and incarceration facilities, among others. Likewise, the proliferation of sexual violence in armed conflicts or massive violations of human rights in the region demonstrates its massive use as a weapon for the subjection of the bodies and lives of women.¹⁹

¹⁹ MESECVI, 2014, Guide for the Application ..., op. cit., page 24.