



Organization of
American States



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas



France
Diplomatique

Violence against women and sexual and reproductive rights in the Americas: Progress and persistent challenges

Tuesday December 2nd 2014
2:30pm-5:30pm

Organization of American States
Hall of the Americas

The legal and policy framework on women's rights in the Americas is the most advanced after Western Europe.¹ Legally, women enjoy a wide variety of rights under conditions of equality with men.

In the Americas however, the gap in the coverage of these rights continues to be women's sexual and reproductive rights. Beyond general protection of physical integrity (Belém do Pará, 1994), health (San Salvador Protocol, 1999), or maternity (CEDAW, 1979, et al.), women are still not guaranteed the right to decide, exercise, and control their sexuality and their reproductive function in conditions of equality with men and free from discrimination, prejudice and violence. In addition to a violation in itself, this reality hinders women's ability to fully exercise their other rights. The lack of access to sexual and reproductive information and health services and the inability to decide when and under what conditions to exercise their sexuality and their reproductive function are an obstacle to women's right to physical integrity, the highest attainable level of health, access to education and employment and participation in political, economic, social and cultural life.

The guarantee and protection of sexual and reproductive rights acquires particular importance in cases of violence against women, as recognized most recently by the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) in their "Declaration on Violence against Women, Girls and Adolescents and their Sexual and Reproductive Rights" (MESECVI/CEVI/DEC.4/14, September 2014).² The Declaration seeks to support the protection of women's human rights in situations of violence, on the basis of commitments adopted by the countries of the Americas at the international and inter-American levels.

With the participation of recognized experts from the international sphere, this round-table organized by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Permanent Observer Mission of France to the OAS and the Pan American Health Organization seeks to explore the current status of sexual and reproductive rights in the American and identify priorities and strategies for strengthening legislation, norms and public policies on this issue in the context of violence against women.

¹ OECD. *Atlas of gender and development: How social norms affect gender equality in non-OECD countries*. Paris: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2010, p. 92, http://www.oecd.org/document/50/0,3746,en_2649_33935_44810034_1_1_1_1,00.html

² Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecevi/docs/CEVI11-Declaration-EN.pdf>

DRAFT AGENDA

2:30-2:50 Welcome remarks

- Carmen Moreno, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women
- Ambassador Jean-Claude Nolla, Permanent Observer of France to the Organization of the American States

2:50-3:20 Sexual and reproductive rights in the Americas: A hemispheric overview

- Rosa Celorio, legal adviser and specialist in human rights, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR/OAS)

3:20- 4:30 Round-table “Sexual and reproductive rights in cases of violence against women: Policy and program priorities”

Moderator: Marissa Billowitz, Associate Director of Programs, International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR)

- Diana González Perrett, Expert to the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI)
- Alessandra Guedes, Regional Advisor, Family Violence, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
- Paula Ávila, Advocacy Advisor for Latin America & the Caribbean, Centre for Reproductive Rights
- Vlado Mirosevic Verdugo, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile
- Diny Luciano, Director, Development Connections
- Tazeen Hasan, Women Business and the Law, The World Bank Group

4:30-5:30 Plenary debate

Following the round-table, a reception will be offered by the Permanent Observer Mission of France to the OAS

To register for the event, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/round-table-discussion-violence-against-women-and-sexual-and-reproductive-rights-in-the-americas-tickets-14181347793>

The event will be streamed live at: http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/webcast_schedule.asp