



**OAS | MESECVI**

**FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE  
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)  
THIRD SPECIAL CONFERENCE  
OF STATES PARTY**  
September 20, 2023

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10  
MESECVI-III-CEE/inf.28/23  
Original: Spanish

September 19th, 2023

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES  
PARTY TO THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The President of the Conference of States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention and President of the National Institute of Women of Mexico (INMUJERES), Nadine Gasman, presents this report to the Third Extraordinary Conference of States Parties on the work carried out during her presidency. During the course of the 2021-2023 period, the MESECVI has continued to work, in accordance with its mandate, to ensure that the States Parties fully and effectively implement the Belém do Pará Convention. In this context, the MESECVI Strategic Plan 2018-2023 (document MESECVI-II-CE/doc.133/18.rev.1), approved during the Second Extraordinary Conference (CEP), held on February 21, 2018 in Washington DC, is being implemented.

In general terms, the Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2018-2023 has as its central axes: (i) Strengthen the institutional framework of the MESECVI; (ii) Contribute to strengthening the technical capacities of the States Parties of the MESECVI to implement the Belém do Pará Convention from an intersectionality and women's human rights approach, throughout their life cycle with an emphasis on prevention and reparation; (iii) Cooperate with the States Parties to find intersectoral responses to the problems of violence against women; and (iv) Raise awareness as a whole regarding violence against women.

In addition, during this period the MESECVI is in the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round, during which the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI implemented a new automated System of Progress Indicators of the Convention, in order to facilitate the response of the States Parties and to strengthen their capacity to respond. This round of evaluation is dedicated to the rights of women victims and survivors of violence and their effective access to truth, justice and reparation.

To this end, since last year, training workshops on indicators and the use of the automated system were held for Spanish-speaking countries, in which more than 280 public officials from different areas of government participated, thus providing training for 14 States Parties. To date, 11 countries have completed the process of sending information through the automated system of indicators. Meetings were also held with civil society organizations to invite them to participate in the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round.

In order to include and promote the link between civil society organizations and the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, hearings were held in September between civil society organizations in the region and the experts who are members of the Working Subgroups for the preparation of the country reports.

In addition, in order to strengthen the impact of MESECVI's work in the English-speaking Caribbean a project was carried out with the support of UNDP, which consisted of developing indicators for the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean countries, to facilitate the collection and reporting of data within and from the Caribbean countries, which are also available on the platform. To date, three workshops have been held with authorities from the following English-speaking Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Guyana and Suriname.

Additionally, on November 11 and 12, 2022, the Nineteenth meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) was held. During this meeting, it was decided to strengthen the Mechanism and broaden its

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impact. First, the importance of implementing the recommendations resulting from the evaluation process to strengthen the Mechanism was highlighted and the Secretariat was urged to open the necessary channels to carry out this fundamental task.

In addition, the commitment to maintain a constructive and collaborative dialogue with civil society organizations was reaffirmed, recognizing their valuable contribution. Among the most significant decisions was the approval for the publication *ad referendum* of essential studies on shelters for victims of gender-based violence in Latin America and the updating of key thematic reports on violence against girls, adolescents and women with disabilities. Modifications were also made to the Committee's rules of procedure to optimize its operation, and work strategies were established with English-speaking Caribbean countries and civil society organizations for the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round.

In regard of international cooperation, the MESECVI, through the CEVI, continues to participate actively in the Platform of International and Regional Mechanisms on Violence against Women and their Rights (EDVAW), an initiative created by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

The MESECVI has been collaborating with different strategic actors to generate initiatives aimed at complying with its mandates and the current Strategic Plan. Thus, during this period, several reports were published within the framework of the CIM/MESECVI and UN Women partnership, which was supported by the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Program for Latin America.

The reports published are as follows: Cyber-violence and cyber-bullying against women and girls in the framework of the Belém do Pará Convention; Guide for the Application of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Violent Gender-related Killing of Women Femicide/Feminicide; Analysis of civil and family legislation in relation to the obligation to prevent, address, punish and redress gender-based violence against women; Regulatory responses for the compliance of Femicide/Feminicide standards. Challenges and good practices in criminal procedural legislation in the region; Legal advisory services for the support of gender-based violence in Mexico and Central America; Comprehensive reparation in cases of femicide and feminicide in Latin America: progress, challenges and recommendations; and Follow-up to measures and budgets aimed at reducing violence against women in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout 2022 and part of 2023, we have worked on the development of activities for the launching, communication and dissemination of the aforementioned reports, through various events and interviews in the media.

On the other hand, an advocacy strategy has been developed to promote the reports and through them deepen the knowledge of the "Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the gender-based murder of Women for Gender Reasons, femicide/feminicide". As part of these activities, the reports were presented in face-to-face events in Panama, Honduras, Argentina, Chile and Mexico.

Similarly, with the support of Eurosocial, regional studies were conducted on shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence in Latin America and on gender-based violence against girls, adolescents and women with disabilities. Both were the subject of discussion at the XIX Meeting of

the CEVI.

Likewise, in collaboration with the Belisario Domínguez Institute of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico, we are preparing a publication entitled "Symbolic violence, in the voice and lives of women leaders". For the development of this publication, interviews have been conducted with ten women from the region who work in different areas to learn how symbolic violence is experienced in the different spaces where they develop. The interviews are currently being systematized in order to present the final version of the publication.

On the other hand, together with the UNDP and the Regional Program of the Spotlight Initiative for Latin America, the Guide of Experiences and Good Practices of Strategic Litigation in Cases Related to the Defense of Women's Human Rights in Latin America, was carried out. We also conducted a regional diagnosis of the "availability and quality of data on disappearances and trafficking of women" and a regional analysis of "legislation and policies on organized crime and violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide. Adapting regulatory frameworks according to the Palermo Protocol", in which several CEVI experts participated.

Additionally, on January 28, 2022, the 11th Meeting of the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform) was held, where, among other topics, parental alienation, identified as a topic of concern in previous meetings, was discussed. Additionally, on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, a new meeting was held, which consisted of a briefing for civil society on international and regional mechanisms on violence and discrimination against women.

Likewise, in 2023, our awareness-raising and exchange strategy, continued. From March 1 to 3, 2023, the MESECVI Committee of Experts made an official visit to the State of Argentina to address violence against women in the political sphere and provide technical assistance to the authorities in this area.

The Committee delegation held meetings with authorities and representatives of the State, women victims of violence in the exercise of their political rights, civil society organizations, academia and the media. At the end of the visit, the Committee published a report with recommendations to the State.

On March 10 of this year, the Technical Secretariat of MESECVI, with the support of OAS/CICTE and Equality Now, organized the event: "The route to address online gender-based violence against women and girls in LAC". The face-to-face conference aimed to promote the recognition of online gender-based violence against women and girls and provide tools for women and girls to access the digital space more safely.

As a follow-up to the work on technology-facilitated gender-based violence, on June 20, a meeting was held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. on the "Roadmap for the development of a comprehensive model law to prevent, punish and eradicate technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women". Representatives of States, civil society, international organizations and personalities from various fields reached agreements to begin the process of developing an Inter-American Model Law.

Within the framework of the 53rd session of the OAS General Assembly, the MESECVI, the

Permanent Observer Mission of Spain to the OAS and the ONCE Social Group, co-organized the event: "Towards Societies Free of Violence in the Americas: The Situation of Women, Adolescents and Girls with Disabilities in Efforts to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence". The event was the occasion to present the Thematic Report and General Recommendation No.4 of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities.

Finally, on August 31, 2023, the Regional Dialogue "Strategic litigation in cases of violence against women in public and political life. Experiences from Latin America" was held. UN Women, the Inter-American Commission of Women and its Follow-up Mechanism for the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) organized this regional dialogue to raise awareness and disseminate the right of women to live a life free of violence in the political sphere.

## **I. CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTY AND MESECVI COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS MEETINGS**

### **1.1. Third Extraordinary Conference of States Parties**

On September 20, 2023, the Third Extraordinary Conference of States Parties to the MESECVI will be held, with the purpose of electing the new authorities of the Conference of States Parties to the MESECVI, defining the headquarters of the Ninth Conference of States Parties and approving the Regional Declaration on the Eradication of Gender Stereotypes in Public Spaces that Translate into Symbolic Violence and Political Violence against Women for Gender Based Reasons.

### **1.2. Eighth Conference of States Parties to the MESECVI**

The Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women "Belém do Pará Convention", was held on December 11, 2020, through the electronic platform, Kudo.

The purpose of the meeting was the presentation of the Third Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI by the Technical Secretariat; the election of new authorities of the CEP, with Mexico assuming the presidency and Argentina and Ecuador the First and Second Vice-Presidencies, respectively; likewise, a dialogue was held on general and special prevention of violence against women in the framework of the completion of the Third Multilateral Evaluation Round, and the progress and challenges of the Mechanism in the region were analyzed.

Twenty National Competent Authorities from the following countries participated in this meeting: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay and Venezuela; the President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico, Mrs. Nadine Gasman; the President of the VIII CEP and Minister of Social Development of Panama, María Inés Castillo; the President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, Tatiana Rein Venegas; the Executive Secretary of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora; and the Technical Secretary of the MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía Guerrero.

The main agreements of the meeting were that the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI would continue to work on: i) violence against women, girls and adolescents in accordance with national legislation in the different spheres of the public and private sphere; ii) the analysis of the impact of the pandemic on women and the subsequent development of post-pandemic policies; and iii) the preparation of a draft Joint Declaration of States Parties for the eradication of gender stereotypes in public spaces that translate into symbolic violence and gender-based political violence.

### **1.3. Seventeenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention met on December 14 and 15, 2020, in order to evaluate the work carried out during the year and design its work plan for 2021. During the meeting, it was decided to initiate the Follow-up of the Fourth Round on the Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations, in which the results of the implementation in the States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention on the System of Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention will be studied.

This Fourth Round emphasizes the right to access to justice, truth and reparation for women victims and survivors of violence in the region, from a gender and diversity perspective.

The Committee also expressed its concern, among other issues, about the situation of regression in women's human rights, especially the right of women to live free from violence. This has been seen in a significant number of countries in the region and has had a negative impact on the implementation of public policies and budgetary allocations to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women in all spheres of government, especially in the legislative and judicial spheres.

In the same line, it was proposed to continue monitoring the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to mitigate the pandemic on the lives of women and girls in the region and to continue analyzing the increase in gender-based violence and the responses of the States to effectively respond to complaints and to ensure that services for women and girls are provided.

The CEVI also noted the need to remind the States Parties of their obligation to contribute regularly to the support of the MESECVI, as established by the States themselves in Article 11 of the Statute of the MESECVI and Article 12 of the CEVI's Rules of Procedure, among other things, to facilitate the holding of meetings of both the Committee and the States Parties and to finance the participation of its experts and authorities, so as to ensure the conditions and economic resources for the regular activities of the MESECVI.

#### **1.4. Eighteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention (CEVI) met virtually on December 7 and 8, 2021, in order to evaluate the work carried out during the year and design its work plan for 2022. The meeting included interventions by Nadine Gasman, President of the Conference of States Parties of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the Executive Secretary of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora.

The CEVI experts from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Venezuela met during both sessions to address different issues and priorities of the 2022 agenda and the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI.

During the meeting, the Committee agreed to urgently call on the States Parties to the Convention to strengthen the budgets allocated to the response to combat violence against women and girls in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic; especially to respond to the violence being suffered by groups of women and girls in situations of greater vulnerability -such as indigenous women and girls, women and girls of African descent, women and girls with disabilities, and Caribbean women and girls- affected by the pandemic and, in particular, by climate change and its impact on the economy of the English-speaking Caribbean States.

The Committee also expressed its concern about migration flows in the region and the impact of violence on the lives of girls and women who are migrating, and strongly called attention to the feminization of migration and especially to the violence suffered by Venezuelan women and girls throughout the region, including the migration of Venezuelan girls in the Caribbean States.

The Committee also agreed to further study the cases of forced disappearances faced by women and girls in the region, particularly women and girls living in vulnerable communities and migrant women and girls, identifying the intersectionalities that exist with the migration situation in the region.

The Committee also called attention to the prevention of violence and agreed to deepen its work and cooperation with the States Parties in this area, reinforcing measures to dismantle prejudices and values, traditions and beliefs that reinforce power asymmetries, misogyny and a patriarchal system that is reproduced in educational processes and socialization, especially of boys and men.

The Committee agreed to request support from the OAS States Parties to continue collaborating with the MESECVI, and in particular with its Committee of Experts; it requested special collaboration from the OAS States Parties that are not party to the Convention, especially the United States and Canada and the Observer States, to strengthen the tools for cooperation and their participation in the Mechanism.

The Committee recognized the work being carried out in the region in cooperation with the United Nations agencies, within the framework of Spotlight; the European Union with Eurosocial and the Belisario Domínguez Institute of the Mexican Senate.

#### **1.5. Nineteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention met on November 11 and 12, 2022, to review the work carried out during the year and draw up its strategic plan for the coming year.



During this meeting, decisions were made to strengthen the Mechanism and broaden its impact. Firstly, the importance of implementing the recommendations resulting from the evaluation process to strengthen the Mechanism was highlighted and the Secretariat was urged to open the necessary channels to carry out this fundamental task.

In addition, the commitment to maintain a constructive and collaborative dialogue with civil society organizations was reaffirmed, recognizing their valuable contribution.

Among the most significant decisions were the approval for the publication and referendum of essential studies on shelters for victims of gender-based violence in Latin America and the updating of key thematic reports on violence against girls, adolescents and women with disabilities.

Modifications were also made to the Committee's rules of procedure to optimize its operation, and work strategies were established with English-speaking Caribbean countries and civil society organizations for the upcoming Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round.

Finally, emphasis was placed on the importance of widely disseminating the CEVI's recommendations through an accessible and effective communication strategy.

## **II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS OF THE VIII CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO MESECVI**

### **2.1 Continued work on violence against women, girls and adolescents in all its diversity, in accordance with national legislation in the different areas of the public and private spheres.**

#### **Studies conducted in conjunction with UN Women:**

**1) Cyber-violence and cyber-stalking against women and girls in the framework of the Belém Do Pará Convention.** Available at: [https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/MESECVI-Ciberviolencia-ES\\_compressed.pdf](https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/MESECVI-Ciberviolencia-ES_compressed.pdf)

This report analyzes the conceptual framework of online gender-based violence against women and girls, as well as the different manifestations that this violence can adopt. It also presents data on the prevalence of this form of violence at the international, regional and national levels, in order to identify its main trends and characteristics, and reviews some of the laws, public policies and judgments adopted to date by the States of the region in this area.

**2) Guide for the the application of the Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of the Gender-Based Killing of Women, Femicide/Femicide** Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Guia-para-la-aplicacio%CC%81n-de-la-Ley-Modelo-Interamericana-Version-WEB.pdf>

Femicide/femicide is the most serious manifestation of discrimination and violence against women. In Latin America and the Caribbean it is an urgent problem, still normalized and invisibilized, despite advances in its recognition in legislation and criminal codes.

This guide seeks to promote and strengthen knowledge of the Model Law in order to promote its effective application throughout the region. The objective is to offer a toolkit to address femicide/feminicide and the violent killing of women from a public policy perspective that goes beyond the punitivist tradition.

**3) Discriminatory Civil and Family Law in Latin America. Analysis of civil and family legislation in relation to the obligation to prevent, address, punish and redress gender-based violence against women.** Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Informe-Derecho-Civil-y-Familiar-discriminatorio-en-AL.pdf>

Although there have been numerous advances towards the elimination of historical gender-based discrimination against women in civil matters, civil norms that perpetuate gender-based violence and discrimination continue to exist throughout Latin America.

This report analyzes the Civil Codes and Civil Procedure Codes of 17 countries in the region with the objective of identifying civil provisions that discriminate against women on the basis of gender and good practices that allow for closing gaps and advancing towards substantive equality between women and men.

**4) Normative responses for compliance with standards on femicide/feminicide. Challenges and good practices in criminal procedure legislation in the region .** Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Informe-Respuestas-Normativas.pdf>

Despite the growing normative recognition of gender-based violence against women and its most extreme manifestation, femicides, gender-blind institutional norms and practices continue to prevent the justice system from integrating a gender perspective in the different stages of intervention. This study seeks to provide a tool for the adaptation of discriminatory criminal procedural legislation to the standards of the Convention of Belém do Pará.

**5) Legal advisory services for attention to gender violence in Mexico and Central America.** Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Servicio-de-asesoria-legal-Version-WEB.pdf>

Free legal aid services for survivors of violence and their families are an essential element in guaranteeing effective access to justice.

This brief overview of the services available in Mexico and Central America serves to highlight the limitations, as well as the paths that remain to be traveled to guarantee full access to justice for all women.

**6) Comprehensive reparation in cases of femicide and feminicide in Latin America: progress,**

**challenges, and recommendations.** Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Informe-Reparacion-Integral.pdf>

The area of reparations related to cases of femicide/feminicide has been little explored and developed, even though it is a central element in access to justice for women victims of violence and their families.

The main objective of this study is to identify the extent to which the legislation of the countries of the region complies with the right of victims, survivors, and family members of victims of femicides and feminicides to access adequate reparations, in accordance with international law.

**7) Follow-up on measures and budgets aimed at reducing violence against women within the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic. As an annex: Public budgets aimed at implementing measures to reduce violence against women in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic.** Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Seguimiento-medidas-Covid-Presupuestos-publicos.pdf>

The vulnerabilities and conditions of inequality already faced by women in the region were amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures adopted to contain it.

This report presents a balance of good practices, limitations and challenges to combat violence against women during and after the pandemic. It also proposes to monitor and evaluate the commitment of States through budgets aimed at implementing measures to reduce violence against women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**8) Standards for the protection of women's human rights: Necessary tools for the defense of women's political participation. Updated version in 2022.** Available at: [https://belemdopara.org/estandares\\_violencia\\_politica\\_2023.pdf](https://belemdopara.org/estandares_violencia_politica_2023.pdf)

CIM, MESECVI and UN Women present an updated version of this practical legal guide, first published in 2020. This new edition compiles 194 judgments, decisions and resolutions of paradigmatic cases that have been resolved in the international arena. In this way, civil society, women's movements and government institutions can make strategic use of it for the prevention, attention and punishment of political violence against women.

**9) Guide for the strategic litigation of cases of violence against women in public and political life.** Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Guia-Litigio-Estrategico-Violencia-Politica.pdf>

Gender-based violence in political and public life is a reality that affects women politicians, their networks and their environment, preventing the full exercise of their political rights. This guide provides tools to facilitate access to justice for women who suffer such violence, as well as to promote

litigation processes that generate transformative impacts towards societies and a new political culture free of all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

**Studies conducted with the support of Eurosocial:**

- 1) **Thematic Report: violence against girls and women with disabilities.** Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/report-violence-disabilities/>

This thematic report seeks to make visible the situations of violence that affect girls and women who live with some type of disability due to their double condition of gender and disability and to facilitate access to justice for victims or survivors of this violence.

- 2) **General Recommendation on gender-based violence against girls, adolescents and women with disabilities.** Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/general-recommendation-violence-disabilities/>

**Studies conducted in conjunction with UNDP:**

1) In collaboration with the UNDP and the Regional Program of the Spotlight Initiative for Latin America, we carried out the **Guide of Experiences and Good Practices of Strategic Litigation in Cases Related to the Defense of Women's Human Rights in Latin America**, which systematizes litigation experiences at the national or international level with the objective of socializing good practices and recommendations in the attention, prevention, investigation, sanction and reparation of cases of gender-based violence against women, adolescents and girls. Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Guia-litigio-estrategico-ddhh-mujeres.pdf>

The guide also seeks to contribute to strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to share tools for the defense of cases of violence against women. The guide was prepared by analyzing twelve litigation experiences in 10 countries in the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela). Interviews were conducted with civil society organizations accompanying these cases and the information was systematized in order to encourage exchanges on the support tools used for strategic litigation of cases of violence against women in the region. This guide was presented on October 26, 2022, in Panama City, Panama, in the framework of the event "The Role of Justice in the face of gender based violence against women and femicide. A multidimensional analysis in the Latin American region", with the participation of high-level authorities and civil society organizations from Latin America.

- 2) **Regional report on the availability and quality of data on disappearances and trafficking in women.** Available at: [https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/undp-rblac-E5\\_Informe\\_FINAL.pdf](https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/undp-rblac-E5_Informe_FINAL.pdf)

Femicide/feminicide, along with trafficking and disappearances of women and girls, constitute extreme expressions of gender-based violence. This report presents a diagnosis of the availability and

quality of data on disappearances and trafficking of women. It also studies the links between the information and registration systems on femicide/feminicide and these extreme expressions of violence against women and girls.

The report makes recommendations for improved use in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs to prevent and eradicate femicide/feminicide, trafficking and disappearance of women and girls.

**3) Regional analysis of legislation and policies on organized crime and violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide. Alignment of regulatory frameworks according to the Palermo Protocol.** Available at: <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Informe-analisis-regional-crimen-organizado-violencia-mujeres.pdf>

This report is part of a series that seeks to generate knowledge on aspects of violence against women and girls that have been little explored to date, as well as their relationship with emerging phenomena such as organized crime. The research focuses on the review of legal frameworks on organized crime and violence against women and girls in the countries of Central America, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

Based on an evidence-based analysis, its main objective is to provide recommendations to help states adjust their legal approach to the prosecution of organized crime and its link to gender-based violence, especially sexual violence, disappearances, trafficking and femicide/feminicide.

## **2.2 Support from the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to the States Parties in the analysis of the impact of the pandemic on women and the subsequent development of post-pandemic policies.**

As a follow-up to this agreement, the report "Follow-up to the measures and budgets aimed at reducing violence against women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic" was published, available at the following link: <https://belemdopara.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Seguimiento-medidas-Covid-Presupuestos-publicos.pdf>

This report presents a balance of good practices, limitations and challenges to combat violence against women in times of pandemic and in its aftermath. It also proposes to monitor and evaluate the commitment of States through budgets aimed at implementing measures to reduce violence against women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the document entitled "Women's cybersecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic: Experiences, risks and self-care strategies in the new digital normality" was published jointly with the OAS Office of Cybersecurity, available at the following link: <https://www.oas.org/en/sms/cicte/docs/Cybersecurity-of-women-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic.pdf> with the aim of contributing to the dialogue on the links between cybersecurity and gender norms and roles during the pandemic and post-pandemic, presenting a framework of analysis to identify vulnerabilities and risks faced by women in the new digital ecosystem.

### **2.3 Preparation of a draft Joint Declaration of States Parties for the eradication of gender stereotypes in public spaces that translate into symbolic violence and gender-based political violence.**

The Presidency of the CEP, in conjunction with the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, has been carrying out various actions to strengthen the process that will provide a regional vision to comply with the mandate of the Conference of States Parties of the MESECVI to develop a Regional Declaration on the Eradication of Gender Stereotypes in Public Spaces that Result in Symbolic Violence and Gender-Based Political Violence.

#### **1) "Practical journalism workshop for the coverage of femicides".**

On December 2 and 3, 2021, the "Workshop on Practical Journalism for Femicide Coverage" was held, convened by INMUJERES and MESECVI, in preparation for the "Joint Declaration of States Parties for the eradication of gender stereotypes in public spaces that translate into symbolic violence and gender-based political violence".

The objectives of the workshop were the following:

- To provide journalists with the basics of the gender perspective for journalistic coverage of cases of violence against girls and women, especially in relation to cases of femicide/feminicide.
- To inform and provide tools to apply good journalistic practices in the creation, investigation and writing of content on violence against women.
- To use specialized language on gender violence issues, as well as inclusive language, so that they can adapt it to the different criteria of the media where they work.
- To provide knowledge so that they can cover and interview family members of victims of gender violence without victimizing survivors or indirect victims.

Representatives of the States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention participated in the workshop, which contributed substantive elements to the drafting of the Declaration. More than 20 journalists from various Mexican states, as well as from Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic participated in the workshop.

#### **2) Regional forums on symbolic violence and its impact on the exercise of women's rights**

Three roundtable discussions were held to define and prepare a diagnosis of symbolic violence and its impact on women's rights and to be able to contribute elements for the drafting of the joint declaration indicated by the States Parties.

This exercise was carried out in collaboration with experts from different spheres throughout the region, with the aim of delving deeper into the different dynamics that give rise to symbolic violence against women for gender-based reasons and to address the repercussions it has on the exercise of their rights.

The objectives of the roundtable discussions were:

- Conceptualize symbolic violence and identify the elements that differentiate it from other types of violence and allow its conceptualization;

- To make a diagnosis of the manifestations of symbolic violence;
- Identify the state and non-state actors that construct and perpetuate symbolic violence and their obligations with respect to guaranteeing women's right to a life free of violence;
- Determine the obligations of States to prevent, address, punish and provide reparations in of symbolic violence cases;
- Identify experiences and good practices among the States Parties to the Convention to prevent, address, punish and make reparations of symbolic violence cases.
- Contribute to the adoption of legislative and public policy measures to help prevent, address, investigate, punish and make reparations on political violence exercised through acts of symbolic violence.
- Contribute to the adoption of measures by non-state actors to prevent and make reparations of symbolic violence cases.

Format: the roundtables were held in a virtual format through the Zoom platform, with simultaneous translation into English and closed to the public.

### **3) Questionnaire for the States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention on symbolic violence**

A questionnaire was sent to the States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará to obtain specific information on symbolic violence based on the following areas: a) approach to the manifestations of symbolic gender-based violence against women; b) statistics on symbolic gender-based violence against women; c) legislative framework; d) procurement and administration of justice; e) public policies and government actions; f) non-state actors; and g) challenges and good practices.

### **4) Study of national legislation and jurisprudence of the States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará and doctrine related to symbolic violence**

A study was made of all national legislation and case law issued by the High Courts of the Region on developments in the area of symbolic violence in the States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará, as well as various doctrines on the subject to support the draft Declaration.

#### **2.4 States Parties that have designated Experts from 2020 to September 19, 2023:**

- Bahamas, Elaine Sands, October 2022.
- Bolivia, Lourdes Montero Justiniano, November 2021.
- Chile, Mónica Maureira, August 2022.
- Colombia, Ángela Margarita Rey, May 2020.
- Costa Rica, Beatriz Schulthess Fischer, May 2023.
- Mexico, Teresa Incháustegui, July 2021.
- Panama, Aracelly de León de Bernal, July 2022.
- Saint Lucia, Marcia Symphorien, April 2022.
- Trinidad and Tobago, Sherna Alexander, October 2022.
- Uruguay, Teresa Herrera Sormano, July 2022.

## **III. FOURTH ROUND OF MULTILATERAL EVALUATION OF THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION**

For this round of evaluation, the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI implemented a new automated System of Progress Indicators of the Convention, with the objective of facilitating the response of the States Parties and strengthening their capacity to respond, which is dedicated to the rights of women

victims and survivors of violence and their effective access to truth, justice and reparation.

To this end, since last year, training workshops on indicators and the use of the automated system were held for Spanish-speaking countries, in which more than 280 public officials from different areas of government participated, thus providing training for 14 States Parties.

In order to include and promote the link between civil society organizations and the experts, three hearings were held in September between civil society organizations in the region and the experts who are members of the Working Subgroups for the preparation of the country reports.

In addition, a project to strengthen the impact of MESECVI's work in the English-speaking Caribbean was carried out with the support of UNDP, which consisted of developing indicators for the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean to facilitate the collection and reporting of data within and from the Caribbean countries, which are also available on the platform. To date, three workshops have been held with authorities from the following English-speaking Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Guyana and Suriname, at which an overview of the work of the MESECVI was provided and the automated system of progress indicators was presented. A meeting was also held with various civil society organizations in the English-speaking Caribbean to present the work of the MESECVI.

Arrangements are currently underway to hold a face-to-face workshop in the Caribbean on the system of progress indicators of the Belém do Pará Convention.

#### **IV. DISSEMINATION AND AWARENESS OF THE CONVENTION AND MESECVI'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **4.1 Awareness-raising and exchange activities**

During the years 2020 to 2023, sustained communication actions have been carried out to disseminate the Convention, the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts and the documents approved by the Conference of States Parties. These actions have been focused on our social networks, communiqués and relations with journalists and the media to disseminate our news and/or participate as a relevant voice on issues related to the right to a life free of violence for women.

In this sense, one of the dissemination campaigns was called "Your Voice Matters" and was carried out between December 2021 and January 2022 through social networks. This campaign focused on promoting the registration of Civil Society Organizations before the OAS and was centered on disseminating the findings of the Third Follow-up Report, with special emphasis on the recommendations for each country, using short videos with excerpts from the report.

In addition, from November 2021 to March 2022, the Technical Secretariat of MESECVI, in partnership with Violeta Radio of Mexico, produced the podcast "Latiendo Libres," which included 10 episodes in which some of the Committee's experts were interviewed. The podcast episodes served to deepen not only the knowledge of the Convention, but also of the documents prepared by the Committee of Experts.

In the same vein, on the occasion of the Convention's anniversary on June 9, 2022, a campaign was launched under the slogan: "My rights, my Convention", encouraging the public to take ownership of the text of the Convention and the rights it contains and protects. This campaign, published on our social networks, also included mass mailings through mailchimp and two interviews in the media. These interviews were conducted by the President of CEVI, Marcela Huaita, for the newspaper La



República of Peru and by the Expert Sylvia Mesa, with the television channel France 24 in Spanish.

Similarly, in collaboration with the Belisario Domínguez Institute of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico, we are preparing a publication entitled "Symbolic violence, in the voice and lives of women leaders". For the development of this publication, interviews have been conducted with ten women from the region who work in different areas to learn how symbolic violence is experienced in the different spaces where they develop.

Also, in collaboration with the Institute and Inmujeres (Mexico), on July 6, 2022, an event was held in Mexico City to present the Hemispheric Report on Child, Early and Forced Marriages and Unions in the States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention. The event was attended by Marcela Huaita Alegre, President of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention, Olga Sánchez Cordero, President of the Senate of the Republic (Mexico), Rocío Muñoz Flores, Regional Gender Advisor, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Jorge Carlos Ramírez Marín, Senator of the Republic (Mexico), Ana Güzmes García, Director of the Gender Affairs Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Patricia Uribe, Executive Secretary of the National Women's Institute (Mexico), Alma Burciaga, Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of Girls Not Brides and Mónica Adame, representative of Parliamentarians for Global Action.

In addition, the Committee of Experts accompanied the Chair of the Conference of States Parties in the three forums held on Symbolic Violence and its Impact on the Exercise of Women's Rights. The purpose of these forums was to: (i) identify the various manifestations of symbolic violence and the spheres in which it manifests itself; (ii) carry out a diagnosis of the manifestations of symbolic violence; (iii) determine the state and non-state actors that create and perpetuate symbolic violence and their obligations with respect to guaranteeing women's right to a life free of violence; (iv) determine the obligations of states to address, prevent, punish and provide reparations of symbolic violence cases; v) identify experiences and good practices among the States Parties to the Convention to address, prevent, punish and provide reparation of symbolic violence cases; vi) contribute to the adoption of legislative and public policy measures to help prevent, address, investigate, punish and provide reparation of political violence exercised through acts of symbolic violence cases; and vii) contribute to the adoption of measures by non-State actors to prevent and address symbolic violence. The 3 seminars were held on May 24, 2022, May 31, 2022 and June 7, 2022.

Along the same lines, the Guide of Experiences and Good Practices of Strategic Litigation in Cases Related to the Defense of Women's Human Rights in Latin America was presented on October 26, 2022, in Panama City, Panama, in the framework of the event "The Role of Justice in the Face of Violence against Women and Femicide. A multidimensional analysis in the Latin American region", with the participation of high-level authorities and civil society organizations from Latin America.

Within the framework of the Regional Program for Latin America of the Spotlight Initiative, five events were held to contribute to strategies for the eradication of feminicide/feminicide in the region. Three face-to-face events were organized in Honduras, Argentina, Chile, Mexico and a virtual event.

On October 25, 2022, took place the event "Strategies to prevent feminicidal violence against women and girls: gaps, challenges and necessary transformations. A dialogue in the framework of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Violent Death of Women for Gender Reasons (femicide/feminicide)". The conference was attended by Minister Doris García Paredes, from the Secretariat of Women's Affairs SEMUJER, the Vice Minister of Security, Julissa Villanueva and the Technical Secretary of MESECVI, Luz Patricia Mejía.

On November 14, the event "From the punitive approach to a comprehensive approach: Strategies

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and challenges in the prevention, attention, investigation, punishment and reparation of femicide/feminicide in Latin America" was held at the Palace of Justice of the Supreme Court of Argentina. The conference was attended by high-level authorities from the region's judicial branches, experts from MESECVI, representatives of international organizations, civil society and academia.

On November 17, an event was held in Chile: "Strategies to prevent femicide violence against women and girls: gaps, challenges and necessary transformations. A dialogue within the framework of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Violent Death of Women for Gender Reasons (femicide/feminicide)", with the participation of the Minister of Women and Gender Equity, Antonia Orellana Guarello.

On November 23 and 24, face-to-face events were held in Mexico, in alliance with the Supreme Court of Justice and the Belisario Domínguez Institute of the Senate, to present reports carried out within the framework of the Spotlight Initiative.

In 2023, the MESECVI continued its awareness-raising and exchange strategy. From March 1 to 3, 2023, the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI made an official visit to Argentina to address violence against women in the political sphere and provide technical assistance to the authorities in this area.

The Committee delegation held meetings with authorities and representatives of the State, women victims of violence in the exercise of their political rights, civil society organizations, academia and the media. At the end of the visit, the Committee published a report with recommendations to the State.

On March 10 of this year, the Technical Secretariat of MESECVI, with the support of OAS/CICTE and Equality Now, organized the event: "The route to address online gender-based violence against women and girls in LAC". The face-to-face conference aimed to promote the recognition of online gender-based violence against women and girls and provide tools for women and girls to access the digital space more safely.

As a follow-up to the work on technology-facilitated gender-based violence, on June 20, a meeting was held at the OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. on the "Roadmap for the development of a comprehensive model law to prevent, punish and eradicate technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women. Representatives of States, civil society, international organizations and personalities from various fields reached agreements to begin the process of developing an Inter-American Model Law.

Within the framework of the 53rd session of the OAS General Assembly, the event "Towards Societies Free of Violence in the Americas: The Situation of Women, Adolescents and Girls with Disabilities in Efforts to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence" was held, co-organized by the MESECVI, the Permanent Observer Mission of Spain to the OAS and the ONCE Social Group. The event was the occasion to present the Thematic Report and General Recommendation No. 4 of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities.

Finally, on August 31, 2023, the Regional Dialogue "Strategic litigation in cases of violence against women in public and political life. Experiences from Latin America". UN Women, the Inter-American Commission of Women and its Follow-up Mechanism for the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) organized this regional dialogue to raise awareness and disseminate the right of women to live a life free of violence in the political sphere.

#### 4.2 Academic Training

- 1) From November 8th 2021, to January 2022, it was held the **Course on Gender Violence in the Workplace**, aimed at personnel of the Ministries of Labor of the Americas, with the objective of providing skills and tools to officials to identify and prevent gender violence in the workplace. The course was conducted through the Educational Portal of the Americas, in collaboration with OAS/RIAL, CIM and MESECVI (it began on November 8, 2021 and ended in January 2022).
- 2) In collaboration with the Pan American Development Foundation and the Behavioral Insights Team, an international course was held on "**Combating gender-based violence using behavioral sciences**" to provide public officials and representatives of civil society organizations in Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay with tools to help their social communication campaigns incorporate changes in attitudes and behavior in the face of gender-based violence.
- 3) The Legal Research Institute of the UNAM and the National Women's Institute of Mexico, held two editions (2021 and 2022) of the course "**International Standards on the Human Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence**", in order to provide participants with conceptual, theoretical and methodological tools for the application of international standards on gender-based violence against women, adolescents and girls.

## V. MESECVI FINANCING

### 5.1. MESECVI Sources of Financing

All meetings of this Conference of States Parties, Assemblies of the OAS and the CIM have reiterated the call to governments to contribute human or financial resources to the MESECVI. During the Fifty-Third Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, on June 22, 2023, Resolution AG/RES. 3003 (LIII-O/23) “Promotion and protection of Human Rights”. In said Resolution, the General Assembly encouraged Member States, permanent observers and other entities to strengthen the MESECVI in its operative paragraph 3. V., which establishes the following:

“V. STRENGTHENING THE MECHANISM FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)

Urge the States Parties, the OAS Member States that have not yet ratified the Convention, the Permanent Observer States, as well as other donors, to make voluntary contributions to the specific fund dedicated to financing the activities of the Mechanism, including offers to organize and host the meetings of its bodies.”

In this context, the MESECVI once again expresses its concern about the absence of contributions from the majority of States Parties to the Convention and requests their cooperation to strengthen the work of the Mechanism through the granting of economic quotas or the creation of projects or the creation of specific cooperation projects to accompany the efforts of the member states, as established in article 11 of its Statute, which states that:

“[t]he activities of the follow-up mechanism shall be financed by a specific fund established for this purpose, consisting of contributions from states parties to the Convention, states that are not parties to the Convention, permanent observer states, and international financial agencies, other external resources, and any other contribution it may receive in accordance with the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. These contributions may include offers from states parties to organize and host meetings of the Mechanism’s organs”.

The fund created for the MESECVI received contributions from Italy, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago in 2023. These funds were intended to finance part of the operation of the MESECVI. Therefore, there remains a need to concentrate efforts to strengthen the MESECVI through the mobilization of resources, both from the States Parties and other potential donors, through the formulation and execution of specific projects.

## ANNEX I

### HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO MESECVI 2013-2023

MESECVI Contributions		
Year	Donor	Total (USD \$)
2013	Argentina	15.000,00
	Francia	2.091,89
	Mexico	29.453,11
	Nicaragua	5.000,00
	Suriname	2.000,00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
<b>2013 Total</b>		<b>68.545,00</b>
2014	Argentina	15.000,00
	Mexico	34.529,59
	Nicaragua	6.000,00
<b>2014 Total</b>		<b>55.529,59</b>
2015	Mexico	29.717,87
	Nicaragua	6.000,00
<b>2015 Total</b>		<b>35.717,87</b>
2016	Mexico	30.253,85
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
<b>2016 Total</b>		<b>45.253,85</b>
2017	Panama	78.159,80
	Mexico	25.013,89
<b>2017 Total</b>		<b>103.173,69</b>
2018	Trinidad y Tobago	30.000,00
	Mexico	20.973,26
	Argentina	10.000,00
	Nicaragua	5.000,00
	Panama	6.100,00
<b>2018 Total</b>		<b>72.073,26</b>
2019	Panama	38.000,00
	Panama	7.000,00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
	Mexico	19.589,32
	Nicaragua	3.000,00
	Mexico	77.103,77
<b>2019 Total</b>		<b>159.693,09</b>
2020	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
<b>2020 Total</b>		<b>15.000,00</b>
2021	Mexico	25.164,19
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
<b>2021 Total</b>		<b>40.164,19</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>40.164,19</b>

2022	Mexico	84.419,00
	Trinidad and Tobago	15.000,00
2023	Mexico	57.763,40
	Chile	5.147,01
	Italia                      Trinidad	54.717,00
	and Tobago	15.000,00
	Dominican Republic	9.975,00
<b>2023 Total</b>		<b>142.602,41</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>837.171,43</b>

## ANNEX II

### States Pending Appointment or Official Notification of Expert as of September 2023

Country		Name
1	Antigua and Barbuda	Pending appointment of Experts (T and A)
2	Belize	Pending appointment of Experts (T and A)
3	El Salvador	Pending appointment of Experts (T and A)
4	Grenada	Pending appointment of Experts (T and A)
5	Guyana	Pending appointment of Experts (T and A)
6	Haiti	Pending appointment of Experts (T and A)
7	Honduras	Pending appointment of Experts (T and A)
8	Nicaragua	Pending appointment of Experts (T and A)
9	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Pending appointment of Experts (T and A)
10	Venezuela	Pending appointment of Experts (T and A)