



A life free of violence: The right of all women



Organization of
American States

The Belém do Pará Convention and its Follow-up Mechanism



The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women was adopted in Belém do Pará, Brazil, in 1994 and establishes violence against women as a violation of their human rights.

For the first time, the Belém do Pará Convention establishes the development of mechanisms for the protection and defense of women's rights in the struggle to eliminate violence against their physical, sexual and psychological integrity – in both the public and private spheres.

The effective implementation of the Convention requires a continuous and independent process of evaluation and support.

MESECVI

Political will to monitor progress in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention

Second Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention

Mechanism to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI)



In 2004, the **Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention** was established.

MESECVI is a systematic and ongoing multi-lateral evaluation methodology, based on a forum for permanent dialogue and technical cooperation between the States Party to the Convention and a Committee of Experts.

The goal of the MESECVI is to analyze progress in the implementation of the Convention by its States Party, as well as persistent challenges to an effective response to violence against women.

How does MESECVI work ?

MESECVI works through evaluation and follow-up rounds that include:

- **Evaluation** of reports submitted by the States Party to the Convention on the measures they have adopted to address violence against women; and
- **Follow-up** of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts

The **Committee of Experts** is a technical body, composed of Experts designated by each of the States Party.

The **Conference of States Party** is a political body that brings together each of the States that has signed and ratified the Convention.

Civil society organizations exchange information and experiences with the States Party and Experts in order to strengthen implementation of the Convention.

MESECVI Secretariat

- Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) at the OAS
- Link between States and Experts
- Link between MESECVI and other Organizations

Committee of Experts

- Evaluates the State reports and issues recommendations
- Prepares the consolidated Hemispheric Report
- Follows-up on its recommendations with the States

Conference of States Party

- In accordance with their agreed commitments, the States implement the Convention
- Prepare their reports on policies and programs implemented to punish, prevent and eradicate violence against women
- Implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

Civil Society

- Participates in the processes implemented by the States Party
- Presents shadow reports to the Committee of Experts for their consideration in the MESECVI's evaluation process

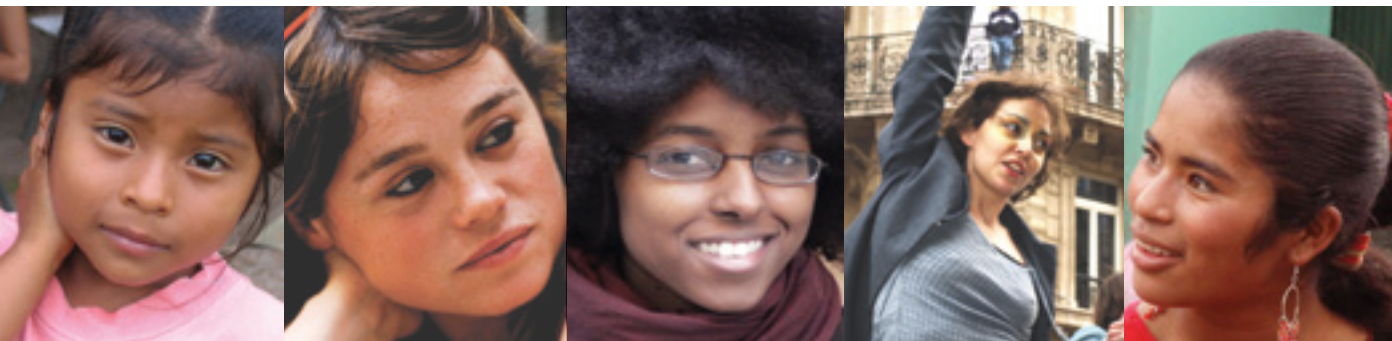
Multi-lateral Evaluation

In this first phase, the States Party commit to providing information on the measures they have implemented in the six action areas of the Convention:

- Legislation
- National plans
- Access to justice
- Specialized services
- Budgets
- Information and statistics

This phase ends with the publication of the **Hemispheric Report** (2008 and 2012), which:

- Synthesizes information on compliance with the Convention in each of the States Party
- Summarizes the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee of Experts on strengthening implementation of the Convention



Follow-up of the recommendations

The second phase analyzes the progress made and the specific measures adopted in compliance with the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts.

At this time, the States Party also provide information on the technical assistance they may need in specific areas.

This phase concludes with the publication of a **Report on the Implementation of Recommendations** (2010 and 2013).

With the results of these two phases, MESECVI promotes the ongoing exchange of good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of the Convention.

32

**States of the Americas have ratified
the Belém do Pará Convention**

28

States have participated actively in the MESECVI

First

**System of indicators to monitor
women's right to a life free of violence**

56

National reports

2

**Hemispheric Reports on the implementation
of the Belém do Pará Convention**

Website: <http://www.oas.org/en/mese cvi>



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