



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM
CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ (MESECVI)
Fourteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts
November 27-28, 2017
Panama City, Panama

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**AGREEMENTS FROM THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
OF THE MECHANISM TO FOLLOW UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT,
AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
“CONVENTION OF *BELÉM DO PARÁ*” (CEVI)**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the “Convention of Belém do Pará,” gathered during the Fourteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on November 27 and 28 in Panama City, Panama.

AGREES TO:

1. Approve the “Report of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts,” document MESECVI/CEVI/doc.241/17;
2. Approve the “Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention,” document MESECVI/CEVI/doc.242/17 according to the comments outlined for its publication and distribution to the States Parties and other interested institutions;
3. Approve the translation of the Convention of Belem do Para to Spanish, Portuguese and French, in accordance with the original version in English, and solicit that the text be sent to all States Party
4. Express the concern of the CEVI in relation to national processes, legislative projects and reforms that do not acknowledge progressive principles of human rights.
5. Approve sending the following communications:
 - a) To the President of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, Óscar Estuardo Chinchilla, and the Chiefs of the Representatives of the different parties, expressing the CEVI's concern about the possible approval of the legislative initiatives of the "Law of Acceptance of Charges" and the "Family Protection Law" that could lead to setbacks in the rights of women to live a life free of violence;

- b) To the Congress of the Dominican Republic expressing concern about the total criminalization of abortion in the draft Law for the new Penal Code, and urging them to approve the interruption of pregnancy as a consequence of sexual violence, when the life of the woman is endangered and for unfeasibility of the fetus;
- c) To the Brazilian authorities expressing the concern of the Committee regarding possible setbacks in the country's legislation and public policies for the advancement of women's human rights.
6. Approve the National Reports on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention according to the comments outlined for its publication and distribution to the States Parties and other interested institutions;
 7. Approve the Declaration on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women as a Human Right, document MESECVI/CEVI/doc.244/17.rev1, for distribution to the States Parties and other interested institutions;
 8. Support efforts to encourage the States Parties to include the provisions of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence Against Women in Political Life within their legislative frameworks, document MESECVI/CEVI/doc.235/16;
 9. Request that the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI continue to work on the draft for a "Comprehensive Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Gender-related Killings of Women (Femicide/Feminicide)", and reiterate to the States Parties the need to approve comprehensive laws that guarantee women's rights in accordance with the standards established in the Belém do Pará Convention;
 10. Take note of the dialogue held between the Committee and civil society.
 11. Promote in connection with the Third Multilateral Evaluation Round, 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;
 12. Request that the Technical Secretariat hold a meeting of the Committee the first trimester of 2018 to address the following topics:
 - a) Consideration and approval of the National Reports following comments from the States Parties;
 - b) Consideration and approval of a proposal for the methodology to follow up on the Third Round of Evaluation;
 - c) Consideration and input for the new MESECVI Strategic Plan;
 - d) Consideration and approval of a General Recommendation on Unequal Power Relationships
 13. Applaud the States Party that have appointed Experts in 2017 and remind the States Parties that have not yet done so, to appoint their Principal and Alternate Experts;

14. Urge the States Party to establish the conditions and economic resources for the activities of the MESECVI, and to guarantee the effective participation of the Experts for the exercise of their functions, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Statute of the MESECVI and Article 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the CEVI;
15. Express gratitude to the Experts who left the Committee in 2017 for their enormous contribution to the efforts of recent years: Sandra Dean Patterson and Gaynel Curry, Expert and Alternate from the Bahamas; Sylvanie Burton, Expert from Dominica; Maria del Carmen Alanís Figueroa, Expert from Mexico; Rusella Antonieta Zapata Zapata, Expert from Peru; Marcia Symphorien and Rumelia Dalphinis-King Expert and Alternate from Saint Lucia; María Hernández Royett, Expert from Venezuela;
16. Express gratitude to the exiting president Diana Gonzalez Perret, for her labor during the years 2015-2017;
17. Express appreciation to the Governments of Mexico and Panama, for their financial contributions in 2017 to MESECVI operations;
18. Express appreciation to the people and Government of Panama for their generous hospitality and valuable contributions to the success of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI.