



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM
CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ (MESECVI)
Fifteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI)
December 3-5, 2018
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GUIDELINES TO REGULATE THE PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE MESECVI

The Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women "Convention of Belém do Pará" (MESECVI) proposes the preparation of guidelines to regulate the pronouncements and communications of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (CEVI), in accordance with the statutory and regulatory rules of the Mechanism, which were submitted for consideration during the XV Meeting of Experts, held on December 3, 4 and 5, 2018 in Washington DC.

Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts establishes that one of its functions is to make recommendations, when it deems appropriate, to the States Parties to adopt the necessary measures in favor of women's human rights, when specific situations merit a special pronouncement. For this purpose, the Technical Secretariat will send the pertinent information in each case.

Based on the foregoing, when the Experts wish to express their opinion in a case of public connotation that occurred in any of the States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention, the following guidelines will be followed in order to keep the States Party informed and guarantee the veracity of the information and the independence of the Committee of Experts.

A decision on the part of the Committee will be considered when one or several members of the Committee, by virtue of a situation established in the Regulations, request the Technical Secretariat to send a decision to a competent authority or interest groups which will be communicated by the MESECVI.

Any letter, email, communication, legal opinion or other type of written communication will be considered to be written means. The content must be related to the guidelines of the Belém do Pará Convention and must be duly registered by the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI. In this sense, public pronouncements will be considered as will be all information that is disseminated by the media and social networks of the CIM and the MESECVI. Likewise, private means will be understood to be any letters or emails sent by the Technical Secretariat through institutional mail directly to the recipients. For this purpose, the Technical Secretariat will follow the following guidelines and considerations:

1. Each request must be accompanied by sources of information. Otherwise, the Technical Secretariat may refrain from proceeding with the statement.
2. The Technical Secretariat will proceed to review the information received and the President of the CEVI, together with the communication and technical support of the Secretariat, will decide which written means will be used in each case. Only if the President requires it will additional information be requested from the relevant Experts.
3. **Both for public and private pronouncements**, the following steps will be followed:
 - a) The Secretariat will make a draft proposal that will be sent for review and approval by the CEVI Directive and the Expert of the country in question.
 - b) Once the document has been approved by the Board of Directors and the country's expert, it will be sent in Spanish and English to all the Committee's Experts for their observations. The Technical Secretariat will wait 24 hours to receive the comments of the Experts. Observations that are not sent within this time range cannot be incorporated in the final pronouncement. If there is no objection from the Experts, it will be understood as approval of the content.
4. Having the final document approved by the Experts, if it is a **public statement**:
 - a) The Secretariat will send an advance notice to the Competent National Authority (ANC) in question with a copy to the corresponding Permanent Mission to the OAS. Subsequently, the Secretariat will wait another 24 hours in case the authorities have comments.
 - b) Once the 24 hours have passed, the Secretariat will disseminate the communication through the media and social networks of the CIM and the MESECVI.
 - c) The Experts may disseminate the information through their personal or institutional accounts, once the 24 hours have passed before it is sent to the ANC or as soon as the Secretariat publishes the pronouncement through its media.
5. If it is a **private statement**:
 - a) The Secretariat will send the letter to the ANC with a copy to the corresponding Permanent Mission to the OAS. If the communication is addressed to an authority other than the ANC, such as ministers, parliamentarians, judges, foreign ministers, etc., the Mission will be asked to send the document to the addressee directly.
 - b) The Board of Directors of the Committee, through its President, will decide if a public pronouncement will be made about the private letter, in which case an advance will be sent to the corresponding Mission and then publicly disseminated through the media accounts of the MESECVI.