



## **Regional and International Mechanisms for a comprehensive approach to addressing Violence against Women and Girls**

Tuesday November 7, 2017

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Hall of The Americas, OAS Main Building, 17th Street & Constitution Avenue

Violence against women and girls is one of the world's most extensive violations of human rights. As half of the global population is female, international organizations have committed themselves to addressing this issue by establishing comprehensive measures in order to eliminate violence against women and girls. For this reason, representatives of regional and international women's rights organizations will hold a special meeting to reinforce the strategies to achieve this objective. The debate will be headed by Dubravka Simonovic, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, UN; Sylvia Mesa, Vice-President of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belem do Para Convention (MESECVI), OAS; and Feride Acar, President of Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO). In studying States' actions on violence against women and girls, the experts will host a special event promoting the strengthening of the democratic system worldwide by securing a life free of violence for every woman and girl.

The OAS' Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belem do Para Convention), the first international treaty that made violence against women part of the regional public agenda, and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), have established positive obligations for States in order for governments to comply with international laws to stop violence against women and girls at the regional and international levels. However, violence continues to be widespread, and often increases.

As a region, Latin America and the Caribbean has formally recognized a tremendous amount of women's rights. Despite this, the gap between this recognition and reality is one of the widest in the world. Therefore, experts will debate necessary strategies to reinforce the integral tools needed to confront challenges using existing and potential mechanisms, in order to fully develop democracy with ensured human rights.

## Agenda

9:00 Registration

**9:30-9:45 Welcome Speech**

- Luis Almagro, Organization of American States (OAS) General Secretary

**9:45-12:15 Violence against women, regional analysis and further proposals for the human rights follow-up mechanisms**

- Dubravka Simonovic, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, United Nations (UN)
- Sylvia Mesa, Vice-President of the Committee of Experts of the Belem do Para Convention (MESECVI), Organization of American States (OAS)
- Feride Acar, President of Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)
- Paulo Abrão Executive Secretary at Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

**Moderator:** Jennifer May Loten, Chair of the Permanent Council and the General Committee Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada at OAS

Q&A Session

**12:15-12:30 Closing**

- Carmen Moreno Executive Secretary of the CIM/MESECVI

Register here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/international-and-regional-mechanisms-to-address-violence-against-women-tickets-39023623709> to participate.

The event will be live-streamed on [http://www.oas.org/en/media\\_center/webcast\\_schedule.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/webcast_schedule.asp)