



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)
SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTY
November 29 – 30, 2017
Panama City, Panama

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November 30th, 2017
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**AGREEMENTS OF THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE
MECHANISM TO FOLLOW UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN, “CONVENTION OF *BELÉM DO PARÁ*” (MESECVI)**

The State Party to the *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, Belém do Pará Convention*, gathered at the Seventh Conference of State Party to the MESECVI the 29th and 30th of November of 2017, in Panama City, Panama;

RECALLING that in order to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention, the First Conference of State Party was held on October 26, 2004 at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), where the “Statute of the Mechanism to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Belém do Pará Convention” was adopted (MESECVI);

REITERATING the importance of the MESECVI as a tool that contributes to the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention, respecting the diversity of the countries of the region;

CONVINCED that strengthening the MESECVI requires the support of the State Party in terms of human and/or financial resources, and in this sense the need to find funding alternatives that would allow the Mechanism to function adequately;

REAFFIRMING the need to foster mechanisms for cooperation and the exchange of information and best practices among the State Party to the Convention, especially between Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as with States that are not party to the Convention, with Permanent Observers to the OAS and other entities to address the issue of violence against women at the sub-regional, regional and international levels;

REITERATING the importance of dialogue between the Competent National Authorities and the CEVI to exchange experiences on progress and obstacles in matters relating to the strengthening, implementation, and dissemination of the Belém do Pará Convention and the institutional framework of

both bodies, with the aim of strengthening the MESECVI and positioning it as a regional and universal benchmark¹;

CONSIDERING the importance of including in this third phase of evaluation and within the framework of the implementation and follow-up to the Belém do Pará Convention, the following issues: violence and political harassment of women; the guarantee of access to justice for women victims of violence; the combat of social and institutional tolerance towards violence against women and girls; and the prevention of violence in order to guarantee the right of women to be valued and educated free of stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority or subordination;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the joint efforts of the Technical Secretariat of MESECVI and the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security particularly in the area of Human Trafficking in all modalities, especially of women and girls, with a gender perspective within the framework of respect for Human Rights;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the joint efforts of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI and the Follow-up Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities of the OAS in pursuit of an inclusive focus that takes into account progress in the area;

CONSIDERING the Lima Declaration on Violence and Political Harassment against Women (document MESECVI-VI/doc.117/15.rev2);

TAKING NOTE of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI's recent approval of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women in Political Life, previously called the Inter-American Model Law on Political Violence against Women (document MESECVI/CEVI/doc.235/16);

TAKING NOTE of the *Declaration on Femicide* by the Committee of Experts on August 15, 2008 (document MESECVI/CEVI/DEC.1/08), and recognizing the efforts of the States Party that have included this concept in their national legislation;

REITERATING the importance of dialogue between the MESECVI and women's organizations and movements and the organizations defending women's human rights;

THANKING the governments of Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago for their financial support provided to the MESECVI during 2016 and the governments of Mexico and Panama for their support in 2017.

AGREE TO:

1. Reaffirm the commitment of the States to strengthen the MESECVI and the importance of the exchange of best practices and challenges in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention among all States Party in the Third Round of Multilateral Evaluation;

¹ Guidelines for the establishment of dialogues between the National Competent Authorities (NCA) and the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, document MESECVI/I-CE/doc.6/14

2. Request that the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI continue to work with the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the OAS on the issue of Human Trafficking in all of its modalities, particularly of women and girls, from a gender perspective and within the framework of respect for Human Rights, and in accordance with the Belém do Pará Convention;
3. Request that the Technical Secretariat of MESECVI work with the Follow-up Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities; the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, and the Department of Social Inclusion, in order to make progress on issues related to disability, with special emphasis on women and girls;
4. Promote within the framework of the Mechanism's follow-up work, the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention on the following issues; violence and political harassment against women; the guarantee of access to justice for women victims of violence; the combat of social and institutional tolerance towards gender-based violence; the prevention of violence with the aim to guarantee the right of women to be valued and educated free of stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority or subordination;
5. Continue to promote and strengthen public policies aimed at providing comprehensive care to women, in particular girls and adolescents who have been victims of all types of violence, with special emphasis on physical and sexual violence, and guaranteeing their specialized treatment;
6. Encourage the States who have not yet done so to incorporate the guidelines of the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women in Political Life, previously called the Inter-American Model Law on Political Violence Against Women, within their legal frameworks when appropriate (documento MESECVI/CEVI/doc.235/16);
7. Request that the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI continue to make headway on the execution of the project "Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of States and Political Parties to Respond to Political Violence and/or Harassment against Women";
8. Take note of the progress made in preparation of the Draft Comprehensive Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate the Gender-related Killing of Women (Femicide/Feminicide), and request that the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI continue its consultation on the aforementioned Draft Law, and report on its progress in the next Conference of States Parties;
9. Urge the States Party that have not yet done so to appoint principal and alternate Experts in keeping with the rules established in the Statute of the Mechanism;
10. Continue holding regular dialogues between the Competent National Authorities and the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI on the progress and challenges regarding the strengthening, implementation and dissemination of the Belém do Pará Convention;
11. Continue promoting, with the support of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, the cooperation and exchange of best practices and information between the Mechanism and other entities that address the issue of violence against women at the sub-regional, regional and international levels, as well as all multilateral organisms that include authorities addressing gender and women-related issues;

12. Continue supporting the cooperation and exchange between the judicial institutions of the States Party regarding the processes of administration, procurement and delivery of justice, with the support of the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, when requested, in order to continue introducing the women's rights, gender equality, and non-discrimination approaches and considering the inter-cultural dimension, in accordance with the stipulations of the CEDAW and the Belém do Pará Convention;
13. Take note of the draft of the *Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention*, document MESECVI/CEVI/doc.242/17;
14. Extend the period of validity of the Strategic Plan of the MESECVI 2014-2017 until the process of elaboration and approval of a new one is completed. For this purpose, request that the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI prepare a report on the status of implementation of the current Strategic Plan, collaborating jointly with the States Party in the development of a proposal for a new Strategic Plan to be submitted for consideration in the first half of February 2018;
15. Urge State Parties to make voluntary contributions, in accordance with their means, to ensure compliance of the tasks of the Mechanism's Technical Secretariat and ensure Experts' participation in the meetings of the Mechanism; and to incentivize private and state entities to contribute to the Mechanism,
16. Encourage the General Assembly of the OAS to maintain and consolidate the increase in the budget allocation for the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) which also acts as the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, approved at the Forty-Seventh Regular Session;
17. Reiterate to the General Secretariat of the OAS that it consider the allocation of required human, technical and financial resources for optimal functioning of the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism, including the identification of external sources of funding;
18. Continue motivating and encouraging the participation of civil society and other social actors in the activities of the MESECVI, within the framework of Article 10.2 of its Statute, taking into consideration the "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities", document CP/RES. 759 (1217/99);
19. Request that the Chair of this Conference present a report to the Eighth Conference of States Party on the periodic follow-up and information from the CEVI and Technical Secretariat, as appropriate, on the measures adopted and progress made on the implementation of these agreements;
20. Thank the Government and people of Panama for hosting the Seventh Conference of States Party and welcome the invitation of the Government of El Salvador to host the Eighth Regular Conference of States Party to be held in San Salvador in May of 2019.