

## **Committee of Experts express concern over the ruling on gender quota in the Dominican Republic**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) expresses its concern over [the ruling](#) (available in Spanish only) of the Superior Electoral Tribunal (TSE) of the Dominican Republic to invalidate the gender quota for pre-candidacies in the internal primary of the political parties, despite the fact that article 53 of [Law 33-18 on Political Parties, Groups and Movements](#) (available in Spanish only) establishes that the election of the candidates for positions of popular election will respect at all times the percentages for men and women and that they will not admit lists of candidacies that contain less than 40% and more 60% of men and women.

This concern was also expressed by the women themselves who participated in the recent Course for Electoral Candidates in Santo Domingo offered by the [CIM](#) and the [School of Governance](#) of the [OAS](#), who through their experiences testified to the risks and obstacles they face in the execution of their right to political participation, which hinders efforts to guarantee a democratic strengthening process.

Articles 4 and 5 of Belém do Pará Convention establish that every woman has the right to have equal access to the public functions of her country and to participate in public affairs, including decision-making, as well as to exercise free and fully her civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Likewise, through the [Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women in Political Life](#), this Committee refers to the right of women to be free from all forms of violence and discrimination in the exercise of their political rights.

Article 4 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ([CEDAW](#)) states that the adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women will not be considered as discrimination as defined in this Convention, and in no way shall it entail, as a consequence, the maintenance of unequal or separate standards; these measures will cease when the objectives of equal opportunity and treatment have been achieved.

The Committee of Experts considers that this decision deepens the country's existing challenges in relation to the fundamental right to be elected. For this and all of the above, the Dominican authorities are urged to take all necessary measures to guarantee and protect the full exercise of women's political rights on equal terms and at all stages of the electoral process, as established by Law 33-18, as well as guarantee equal access to all spaces and functions of public life free of violence and discrimination, as

established by the Belém do Pará Convention, a legal instrument that was ratified by the Dominican Republic.

The [\*Committee of Experts\*](#) is the technical body of the MESECVI responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Belém do Pará Convention. It is composed of independent experts, appointed by each of the States Party among its nationals, who exercise their functions in a personal capacity.