



Organization of  
American States



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM  
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON VIOLENCE (CEVI)  
**Ninth Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI)**  
November 12-14, 2012  
Mexico City, Mexico

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**NINTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (CEVI)  
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 (MESECVI)**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**1. Opening Session**

The opening session of the Ninth Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) 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 (MESECVI), took place on Monday, November 12, at 9:00 a.m., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico City, Mexico.

The Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), Carmen Moreno Toscano, welcomed the participating experts. Ambassador Alejandro Negrín, representative of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, offered words of welcome in turn on behalf of the Foreign Minister, Patricia Espinosa Cantellano. The representative of the OAS in Mexico, Ambassador Antonio José Aranibar delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Secretary General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza. Ana Gúezmes, UN Women Regional Director for Mexico, Central America, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, opened the meeting by noting that it was a privilege for the United Nations to be a part of the work being done by the MESECVI. Patricia Olamendi, Coordinator of the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) noted that CEDAW [United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women] processes and those of the Belém do Pará Convention to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women were complementary. Rosario Robles, Vice-Coordinator for Social Policy for the Transition Team mentioned pending challenges with regard to gender equality.

## **2. Forum: Indigenous Women in the Inter-American Justice System**

The ninth meeting of experts opened with the public forum about “Indigenous Women in the Inter-American Justice System”. Patricia Olamendi, Coordinator of the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women (MESECVI) served as the moderator for this Forum.

The forum was attended as panelists of Valentina Rosendo Cantú, activist for women’s human rights; Nina Pacari, Minister of the Constitutional Court of Ecuador; Mirna Cunningham Kain, member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Otilia Lux de Cotí, Director of the International Forum of Indigenous Women; Martha Sánchez Néstor of Mexico, Coordinator of the Alliance of Indigenous Women of Central America and Mexico; and Alejandro Negrín, Director of Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. The panelists discussed experiences, challenges, and pending tasks related to access to justice from an indigenous women’s perspective. Summaries of these presentations are to be made available on the MESECVI/CEVI website.

The moderator, Patricia Olamendi, concluded the Forum by committing to have any recommendation arising from the Ninth Meeting of the CEVI sent to the experts who had been invited to this Forum for their suggestions. It was likewise agreed, at the behest of Valentina Rosendo Cantú, that a CEVI resolution would be prepared asking the Government of Mexico to comply with the judgment of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Chair presented a plaque to Valentina Rosendo Cantú and Inés Fernández Ortega in recognition of the work they had done to champion women’s human rights in the indigenous community.

Detailed information on this panel may be found in **ANNEX 1** to this document

## **3. The CEVI Meeting**

### **3.1. Adoption of the Order of Business**

The coordinator, Patricia Olamendi, read out the Organization of Work and as there were no comments thereon, it was considered adopted without changes and was recorded as document MESECVI/CEVI/doc.179/12 rev.4

### **3.2. Discussion on the importance of indicators in addressing violence against women**

During the first plenary session held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November, CEVI Coordinator Patricia Olamendi introduced the new coordinator of the MESECVI Technical Secretariat, Luz Patricia Mejía Guerrero, who had started her job on September 1, 2012. Following that introduction, discussion began on the importance of indicators in addressing violence against women for purposes of enhancing the indicators that had been used during the First Round of Follow-up on the Hemispheric Report, as had been agreed during the Eighth Meeting of Experts held in Panama on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Final Minute document MESECVI/CEVI/doc.175/12.rev.1.

During this first session, new draft of indicators were presented by Laura Pautassi, MESECVI consultant, and Luz Patricia Mejía, Technical Secretary of MESECVI, subsequently submitted for comments by the experts and enhanced by the dissertations made by the rest of the panelists invited to this first session.

The panelists for this first session were: Line Barreiro, expert from the [UN] Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); Shelah S. Bloom of the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina; and Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies of the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago. Paz López, the United Nations Regional Advisor for Mexico and Central America, provided comments on the panel's presentations.

Information was provided on the purpose of the indicators and their importance in measuring violence against women; they also indicated the areas that needed to be considered in the measurement, as well as good practices to bear in mind. Emphasis was likewise placed on the recommendation that indicators be used to address cultural norms that perpetuated and reproduced multiple forms of violence against women, as well as on the importance of strengthening information gathering processes and especially, the strengthening of data collection mechanisms in the Caribbean, bearing in mind double counting, confidentiality, and anonymity. Lastly, it was affirmed that special attention needed to be paid in qualitative indicators to the rights of indigenous peoples as collective subjects and the multicultural nature of indigenous women.

Detailed information on this panel may be found in **ANNEX 2** to this document.

### **3.3. Discussion on indicators for implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention**

The moderator for this panel was Diane Haylock, Alternate Coordinator of the MESECVI Committee of Experts, who also chaired the meeting. The panelists were: Alessandra Guedes, PAHO/WHO Regional Advisor on Domestic Violence; Rose Marie Madden of the Special Program on Women's Human Rights at the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH); Doris Montenegro, Coordinator of the Central American Feminist Network Against Violence Towards Women; and Liz Meléndez López, coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights in Peru (CLADEM-Peru).

This panel provided data on indicators to measure various manifestations of violence against women and highlighted its importance as a tool to social organizations in order to measure and compares the performance of the Convention of Belém do Pará. It was also noted that the construction of indicators is progressive, which fit and are built according to the needs and the new realities in the region. Finally it was noted that the production of indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean is a significant achievement in the work to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women.

Detailed information on this panel can be found in **ANNEX 3** to this document.

#### **4. Validation of the Draft Indicators to Measure Exercise of the Right of Women to Live a Life Free of Violence**

Once these panels concluded, the floor was given to the experts who, over the course of two rounds of comments, held a debate on the draft indicators put forward by the MESECVI Technical Secretariat. The experts made their comments and observations on the proposed indicators. Several of the observations suggested having the indicators follow the order of the articles of the Belém do Pará Convention, just as they had during the First Round.

It was likewise proposed, and agreed, that detailed notes were to be made of the experts' observations and that the MESECVI Technical Secretariat would send the indicators document, once such observations had been incorporated, to experts Hilda Morales y Barbara Bailey so they could conduct a final review of the document. Thereafter, the document would be redistributed to the rest of the experts.

The MESECVI Secretariat took note of all of the proposals made by the experts and undertook to distribute the new draft indicators in English and Spanish to the aforementioned experts.

##### **4.1. Review of the two multilateral evaluation rounds**

In the afternoon session, the experts expressed their concerns regarding the work of the CEVI, the budget and the political will of the States to support the mechanism, the need to organize *in loco* visits, the development of a "collective identity" in the CEVI, strengthening ties with the Caribbean, and the need to publicize the CEVI's work more in order to have a greater impact in the member states. In addition, the experts underscored the need for the mechanism to be more proactive and dynamic.

The MESECVI Secretariat emphasized effectiveness in conducting the follow-up and the path to be taken as far as work on the indicators was concerned. It noted that any decisions made in this session would impact MESECVI's biennial work plan and its five-year strategic plan.

#### **5. Presentation of MESECVI's 2013-2017 Strategic Plan**

The MESECVI Secretariat presented the MESECVI 2013-2017 Strategic Plan to the Committee of Experts in order to obtain their comments.

The experts made their comments, expressing the importance of strengthening the CEVI and the need to conduct *in loco* visits, as well as hold meetings more frequently. It was likewise noted that the CEVI was an important part of the MESECVI, therefore recommended to include a chapter on the strengthening of the strategic plan CEVI.

The MESECVI Secretariat took note of all the proposals made by the experts and agreed to include a chapter on strengthening the CEVI in the strategic plan.

## **6. Presentation of the CEVI Draft Biennial Work Plan (2013-2015)**

It was agreed that the current schedule would be maintained, with the suggestion by the experts to adapt it to the needs that could arise in the process of following up the recommendations of the II Hemispheric Report. Likewise it was agreed that the meeting to be held in 2013 would be the Tenth Meeting.

The MESECVI Secretariat took note of the observations made.

## **7. Other Business**

### **a. Legislative changes in the region**

The experts highlighted the legislative change regressive processes about women's human rights, in some States of the region. Thus, the experts asked that a letter be sent from the CEVI to the States that are in the process of reforming their criminal codes such as Dominican Republic, Brazil, Ecuador and Panama; in the case of Argentina the experts agreed to send a letter to greet the establishment of a gender policy program at the Attorney of that country.

Because of changes that many countries are facing in their criminal codes, the Chair indicated the need to develop a manual or guide on the practical implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. This guide would serve as a type of reference for addressing such changes.

Considering that, the experts agreed that the Technical Secretariat sent letters to the governments of Dominican Republic, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama and Argentina about the legislative change processes under way in some States. The experts also agreed on prepare the manual, as a guiding document about the practical application of the contents of the Convention of Belém do Pará, a working group was formed which is led by the experts from **Argentina and Belize** as responsible for the design of this manual and was likewise summoned all experts to contribute in the area of their expertise.

### **b. Caribbean**

The experts expressed the need to prepare a report on the status of violence against women in the Caribbean and emphasized the fact that this document should consider the progress made and the need to strengthen efforts in this respect. In this regard, and to support efforts being made in this region, the experts underscored the importance of holding the next meeting in the Caribbean and having contact with civil society organizations in this region.

The CIM Secretariat reminded the experts of the importance of having the States extend invitations since the OAS could not go to a member state without prior invitation, for which reason several representatives asked the CIM Secretariat and the MESECVI Technical Secretariat to prepare a list of costs and needs that should be covered by the States for holding meetings.

**c. Topic of the next meeting**

The experts indicated the need to have, at the next meeting, alongside the consideration of the indicators document, an assessment of the progress and difficulties experienced during the CEVI's work.

A proposal was made to have this done by working groups based on geography, by regions, in order to have an idea of what progress had been achieved where and a determination of which questions that should continue to be asked or what new types of follow-up should be considered. This document would serve as the matrix for follow-up on implementation by the States.

The experts recommended that emphasis be placed on ample time for discussion during the following meeting. To that end, they asked the Executive Secretary to help put together a synthesis of all the relevant documents. The experts asked the MESECVI Secretariat to organize the next meeting in this way. Also recalled the need to update the legal documents of MESECVI, it was required to the Technical Secretariat to prepare the articles related to the reform of the Rules of Procedure of the CEVI.

**8. Decisions and Agreements of the Ninth Meeting of the CEVI**

These were:

- a. The recommendations coming out of the Ninth Meeting of the CEVI would be sent to the community of Indigenous Women for their review.
- b. A resolution would be prepared asking the Government of Mexico to fully and immediately comply with the judgments handed down by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in cases 12.579 (Valentina Rosendo Cantú et. al. v. the United Mexican States) and 12.580 (Inés Fernández Ortega v. the United Mexican States).
- c. The indicators document was to reflect the content of the Convention of Belém do Pará, using the same article structure as the Convention, without losing sight of the indicators for indigenous women and the experts' input. The MESECVI Technical Secretariat would prepare an initial draft, taking into account the observations made by the experts, which would be reviewed by the working group consisting of experts from **Jamaica and Guatemala**. A deadline of no more than one month was agreed for preparation of a first draft reflecting these criteria.
- d. Rosa Manzo, an expert from Ecuador, would consult with the Trans Feminist movement in her country in order to obtain specifics about the Trans concepts, this requirement has arisen during the debate on indicators.
- e. A manual or guidelines for practical implementation of the content of the Convention of Belém do Pará were to be prepared, bearing in mind the need to support States' efforts to implement the Convention of Belém do Pará in their laws and through their public policies and the attempts in some countries to amend their criminal codes. An agreement was reached

to create a working group spearheaded by the experts from **Argentina and Belize**, who will coordinate this work with the MESECVI Secretariat.

- f. To incorporate into the MESECVI Strategic Plan a chapter about the strengthening of the CEVI.
- g. The MESECVI Technical Secretariat will prepare a document congratulating countries on their efforts and also reminding them about the serious and pending issues which need to be worked on. That document was to be called the Declaration of Mexico and disseminated.
- h. The MESECVI Technical Secretariat was to prepare a report on the status of violence against women in the Caribbean. That document would assess progress made and the need to boost efforts in that regard in order to support what was being done in many places.
- i. The MESECVI Technical Secretariat was to prepare a paper about the reform of the legal documents of the MESECVI.
- j. Efforts would be made to hold the CEVI meeting in one of the Caribbean States in order to support efforts underway in that region. At the request of the experts, the Secretariat would distribute a document with information on the resources a country should have in order to host the meeting.
- k. The MESECVI Secretariat was to organize the next meeting to assess progress and the difficulties encountered during the CEVI's work. For that reason, a synthesis of all relevant documents would be needed.
- l. The MESECVI Technical Secretariat was to incorporate the comments made by the experts into the MESECVI 2013-2017 Strategic Plan.
- m. The CEVI Biennial Work Plan (2013-2015) was upheld, [and] pursuant to the discussion, the MESECVI Secretariat would change the dates for follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations and would indicate that the meeting to be held in 2013 would be the Tenth Meeting.
- n. To make headway with the CEVI agenda, all States needed to be represented on the Committee. To that end, the MESECVI Technical Secretariat was asked to send a letter to the Conference of States Party and to the missions in Washington, D.C., thanking those whose experts had participated in the Ninth Meeting and at the same time reiterating the commitment they had undertaken to appoint their experts and ensure their participation.
- o. A letter, previously approved by the experts, regarding the amendment of the criminal code was to be sent to the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic; such letter would comment on the amendment as it related to legislation on violence against women.
- p. A letter, previously approved by the experts, was to be sent to the Federal Senate of Brazil, commenting on the criminal code reform, the legislative changes and requesting that the articles of the Convention of Belém do Pará be taken into account.

- q. A letter, previously approved by the experts, regarding the presentation of the Draft Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code and advances under way in Ecuador, was to be sent to the National Assembly of Ecuador, asking that those changes reflect the provisions ratified in the Convention.
- r. A letter, previously approved by the experts, was to be sent to the National Assembly of Deputies of Panama regarding the criminal code reform, asking that those changes reflect the provisions ratified in the Convention.
- s. A letter, previously approved by the experts, was to be sent to the Office of the Attorney General of the Argentine Republic, welcoming the establishment of a gender policies program and noting that it would have a positive impact within the justice system.

## ANNEX 1

### Minute IX Meeting of the CEVI - November 12th to 14th 2012, Mexico City.

#### Public Forum: Indigenous Women in the Inter-American Justice System

The Moderator for this panel was Patricia Olamendi, Coordinator of Committee of Experts of the Mechanism to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women – (MESECVI).

The first panelist, Valentina Rosendo Cantu, who along with Inez Fernandez Ortega successfully presented their case to the Inter-American System of Human Rights against the government of Mexico with allegations of separate cases of physical and sexual abuse from the military in incidents which occurred on February 16, 2002 and March 22, 2002. She presented on: *The Experience of Indigenous Women in the Defense of Human Rights before the Inter-American Human Rights System*. Using the medium of a video to recount her experience she outlined the difficulties that indigenous women faced in their community first and then outside them in bringing complaints against the government. The activist indigenous women reported on their 11 year struggle to attain justice and the threats they and their families faced after going public to seek redress in the face of denial of the allegations from the government, like travel distance, language constraints, etc. She related that their activism has continued through the advice to indigenous women about how to make their complaints.

The next panelist was Nina Pacari, Minister of the Constitutional Court of Ecuador. She presented on *Indigenous Women and Access to Justice: Positive Experiences and Good Practices* and noted the gains that have been made in constitutional reform in the hemisphere since the 1990's - particularly in recognition of cultural diversity/pluri-culturality and pluri-linguism, as a result of the ILO agreement on the inclusion of original/indigenous peoples. Therefore, access to justice for indigenous women should take place within a context of legal plurality, based also on recognizing the competency of indigenous justice authorities within the realm of ordinary justice.

This presentation was followed by that of Mirna Cunningham Kain of Nicaragua, Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues who presented on *Indigenous Women's Rights: Obstacles and Challenges of the Inter-American Human Rights System in the Defense of Women's Human Rights*. She began by observing that violence against women is a constant topic as part of addressing of the rights of indigenous women. Indigenous women also had an issue of territorial rights as part of their access to justice, where there were cases of indigenous women in hiding due to land rights. Yet, one of the challenges cited was the paucity of indicators in the region for indigenous women; Ms Cunningham Kain called for specific indicators for indigenous women, as well as the need for disaggregated data to improve public policies. The presenter closed with an invitation to the MESECVI to accompany indigenous women to the First International Conference of Indigenous Peoples to be held at the UN in 2014 and assist in promoting the view that VAW needs to be an indicator of development.

Guatemalan Otilia Lux de Coti, Director of the International Forum of Indigenous Women, took the floor next to present on: *Protection of Indigenous Women's Rights: Access to National and International Justice*. She outlined some examples of environmental and ecological violence (e.g. water contamination and damage to houses from open mining) that deeply affect women and girls who are left behind in indigenous communities. She called for the incorporation of indigenous

women's rights cases into the work of the MESECVI since governments were not paying attention to the sexual violence of women and girls in the indigenous communities as a result of inter-cultural violence in the communities. Many sexual abuse cases remained unsolved. Otilia Lux de Coti went on to cite how it was activism that led to the recent law on Femicide in Guatemala and the establishing of mechanisms at the level of the Supreme Court. Another development was an Observatory to record violence against indigenous women to promote visibility on this issue among stakeholders. While in Guatemala almost 6000 cases of femicide have been brought to the attention of the authorities, there is still need for disaggregated data and better data collection for better policy-making. She also recommended that academies be established for officials in the Justice Systems and the Supreme Court in particular, especially on knowledge of indigenous culture. She also informed that a resolution against VAW was also presented at the 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting for Social and Legal Equality of Women held in NY.

The document "Proceso de construcción de indicadores para monitoreo de violencia contra mujeres indígenas, 2009 al 2010" was launched by the International Forum of Indigenous Women – FIMI, it is attached as PDF document corresponding to the IX meeting of the CEVI.

Martha Sanchez Nestor of Mexico, Coordinator of the Alliance of Indigenous Women of Central American and Mexico was the next presenter and she spoke on: *Positive Experiences Monitoring and Following up on Indigenous Women's Rights*. She noted that while 20 years have passed since Mexico's recognition of Indigenous People in its Constitution, there were still challenges in its implementation. In terms of indigenous women, a diverse spectrum of them did not have access to land, health services, justice and equal opportunities. Therefore, in the Hemisphere, inter-culturality needed to be cross-cutting in all fields – public policy, justice programs, etc. to realize deep reforms of Constitutions and institutions. While noting that there were also harmful practices in indigenous communities and problems within the council of indigenous communities, she called for better harmonizing of the indigenous justice system with the state justice system for compatibility.

The Ambassador Alejandro Negrin, Director of Human Rights and Democracy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico was the next presenter and he spoke on: *An Example of Good Practices in Access to Justice*. The best practice was an agreement across federal lines among the 32 States of Mexico which held a series of stakeholder dialogues on topics such as: Women's access to Justice in the Formal and Indigenous Systems; the Impact of Multiple Cultures on Indigenous Women and the Electoral Justice System.

The Chair, Patricia Olamendi allowed for a few remarks from Justice Carmen Alanis Magistrate of the Tribunal System in Mexico. She noted how the political parties in Mexico had been forced to meet the quotas as a result of a political suit in the electoral court filed by ten important political women. However, there is still a way to go for women's political representation at the local and also need for greater political representation of indigenous women. The Magistrate concluded with a recommendation on the importance of training judges and members of the judiciary for adjudicating with a gender perspective.

## ANNEX 2

### Minute IX Meeting of the CEVI - November 12th to 14th 2012, Mexico City.

#### Discussion on the Importance of Indicators in addressing Violence against Women

The Consultant Laura Pautassi present: *Evaluation of the Construction of Indicators to Measure the Exercise of Women's Right to live a Life free of Violence*. She provided some background information on the purpose of indicators that, in this case, were being used to measure state obligations. However, she added that it was important in addressing VAW to monitor compliance across cross-cutting principles for human rights. The IACHR has developed human right progress indicators that were approved by the OAS this year; and states will be using these to draft their reports to the monitoring mechanisms.

The Consultant viewed these indicators proposed by the CEVI as a tool to monitor (not control) states and then went on to discuss the various indicators that had been utilized in the MESECVI proposal. She concluded with noting that states need to make better use of multiple systems that are compatible, which in effect calls for a more homogenous system in order to make progress on our goals as per the Convention of Belem do Para.

Coordinator of the MESECVI Technical Secretariat, Luz Patricia Mejia was then given the floor for the *Presentation of the Draft Indicators of the Second Multilateral Evaluation Round to Follow Up on the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts*. She began by underscoring the importance of strengthening the relationship between MESECVI and the IACHR system. The new MESECVI Proposal for Measuring VAW being presented for consideration at the Ninth Meeting of the CEVI is supposed to improve on existing indicators in terms of the methodology. The proposal provides an expansion on the range of indicators (Structural, Process and Outcome). She concluded that the work of this meeting would be to receive input from Experts to improve on the working document.

Line Barreiro, Expert on the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) presented on *Human Rights' Indicators according to the Experience in the CEDAW*. Expert Barreiro began with stressing the importance of building bridges with the Human Rights Systems. She noted that the same indicator can point to positive or negative results. She observed that isolated indicators were not ideal and represented only a part of the equation. Therefore, it is important to work with integrated indicators. She added that while CEDAW monitors compliance with its Convention, it does not use research-based indicators since its concern is more with jurisprudence. She recognized the presence of CEDAW Expert from Jamaica, Dr. Barbara Bailey, who is a follow-up Rapporteur for the Committee after country evaluations have been carried out. The CEDAW Expert informed that such a rapporteurship is a tool that she would recommend to the MESECVI to assist states with implementation of the Belem do Para Convention. This mechanism was devised to assist states to follow through with their recommendations in between reporting periods. With this method, the state is kept in closer contact in trying to implement the recommendations.

The next presentation was made by Shelah S. Bloom of the Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina on *Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators on Violence against Women and Girls*. She presented a current project on Gender Monitoring and Evaluation in Women's Health

and HIV. She emphasized that indicators dictate data collection and noted that the VAWG compendium was a set of quantitative monitoring and evaluation indicators for project managers and policy makers. Some emerging areas have not been measured and these are: Stalking, Sexual Harassment, Emotional Abuse and controlling behavior. She pointed that there were any policy-based indicators in this model.

The last presenter of this panel was Dr. Godfrey St. Barnard from the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, University of the West Indies, in Trinidad and Tobago. In his introduction to: *The Importance of Indicators in the Analysis of Women's Rights*. He cautioned states to work with what was available to them. He pointed that multiple sources produce data on VAW; however, its reliability was a key factor as well as the validity of the collection methods. Therefore, the existence of a central registry would cull the data to produce a consistent set of data and harmonization of inputs coming from various sources. He then went on to identify various sources from which VAW data can be collected. Dr. Godfrey saw much room in the area of typology of violence for the use of qualitative indicators to address VAW. He also recommended that one needed to be aware of cultural nuances which impact data collection as well as what was happening at the individual, domestic and local levels before moving on to the state level. He concluded by recommending that governments make serious financial commitments to addressing VAW and become allied to the process.

Paz Lopez, UN Regional Advisor for Mexico and Central America was invited by the Chair to comment on the topic. Like Dr. St. Bernard, she argued that countries needed to make use of what data is available and improve the instruments that are already at their disposal, until better conditions prevail. On the matter of indicators presented in the proposal, she observed that it was important to know what CEVI was trying to reflect with each of these indicators. To try to measure the quality and magnitude of state interventions would require great work which is extremely complex for indexing. Therefore, better measurement can be obtained with separate processes that can later be brought together. She pointed that the baseline is the Convention of Belem do Para which can be used to cull qualitative and quantitative indicators. She concluded by recommending that a minimum set of indicators - associated with selected areas of concern - was needed and which would reflect the region's priorities.

### ANNEX 3

#### Minute IX Meeting of the CEVI - November 12th to 14th 2012, Mexico City.

##### Discussions on the Indicators for the Fulfillment of the Belem do Para Convention

The Moderator for this session was Diane Haylock, Alternate Coordinator of the Committee of Experts of MESECVI who was also chairing the meeting.

The first presentation on: *The Importance of Health Indicators in Addressing Violence against Women* came from Alessandra Guedes, Regional Advisor on Intra-family Violence, PAHO/WHO. She presented the results of a joint project of her agency to produce a comparative analysis of violence against women in 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. With this publication, comparisons can be made across prevalence, risk factors, causes, knowledge etc. in 12 countries. Ms Guedes provided a wealth of data on indicators used to measure a variety of manifestations of VAW, including physical and sexual abuse in countries, and also addressed impacts. The indicators used were largely quantitative in the study, including an indicator in ethnicity which provided information on indigenous women.

The document is published on the PAHO web page, on the following link: [http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=8175%3Aviolence-against-women-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean&catid=1505%3Ade-about-us&Itemid=1519&lang=en](http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8175%3Aviolence-against-women-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean&catid=1505%3Ade-about-us&Itemid=1519&lang=en)

She was followed by Rose Marie Madden, of the Special Program on Women's Human Rights, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH), who presented on: *System of Indicators to Evaluate from the Perspective of Civil Society - the State Compliance of the Convention of Belem do Para*. She noted that CIDH and IACHR have been fighting for women's rights and a society free of violence. She then provided a history of the indicators of the Convention of Belem do Para and made mention of the 16 indicators which have been produced for the Convention of Belem do Para from the Central American tool. She noted that the system of indicators needed to be progressive and not closed so that indicators can be added as needed to better reflect new realities (e.g. cultural diversity and sexual diversity may be included later) and that the production of indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean to address VAW would be a significant achievement. Dr Madden concluded with recommending that the indicators measure impact in states in getting women to live a life free of violence.

The document is published on the IIDH web page, on the following link: <http://www.iidh.ed.cr/BibliotecaWeb/Varios/Documentos/BD/indicadores.pdf>

Doris Montenegro spoke about the *Positive experiences in implementing indicators to follow up the Convention of Belém do Pará* on the work of the Central American Feminist Network against Violence against Women, a local network of human right defenders and civil society with regional impact that was launched in 2004 in six countries to address the issue of VAW. Regarding on the indicator system created by the Inter-American System of Human Rights, she pointed that this is a tool for social organizations to measure and compare compliance, as well as to identify accurate measurable interventions based on the Convention of Belem do Para. Ms. Montenegro then presented information on application of the indicators to six Central American countries in the area of teenage pregnancies and femicides and was able to measure their growth. The quality of the indicators depended on the quality/reliability of the data received and some official sources of data were more

available than others. Through measuring state compliance in these six countries, the group was able to rate the countries against this compliance and able to mark progress.

Liz Melendez Lopez made a presentation about: The importance of building rights-based indicators in the assessment of women's right to live in a world free of violence. She began by saying that VAW was a complex situation although states tended to privilege family violence over other forms. Therefore, quantitative and qualitative indicators were needed to see true transformation in the implementation of the Convention of Belem do Para, access to justice and how VAW has been punished by law. Ms. Melendez also spoke on how strategies which provide attention to victims tend to neglect prevention strategies. She recommended the possibility of creating indicators to sub-divide discrimination in the legislation and reflect substantial changes. Also, indicators needed to take an intersectional approach that links VAW with other problems – socio-economic, global warming, militarization etc. Lastly, it was important to have indicators to measure risk. She also cautioned that political will did not automatically translate into budgets rather it was women's activism that brought about changes in budgets.