

Basic Documents of the MESECVI



OAS | More rights
for more people



Basic Documents of the MESECVI

The **Organization of American States** (OAS) brings together the nations of the Western hemisphere to promote democracy, strengthen human rights, foster peace, security and cooperation and advance common interests. The origins of the Organization date back to 1890 when nations of the region formed the Pan American Union to forge closer hemispheric relations. This union later evolved into the OAS and in 1948, 21 nations signed its governing charter. Since then, the OAS has expanded to include the nations of the English-speaking Caribbean and Canada, and today all of the independent nations of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean make up its 35 member states.

The **Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention** (MESECVI) is an independent, consensus-based peer evaluation system that looks at the progress made by States Party to the Convention in fulfilling its objectives. MESECVI is financed by voluntary contributions from the States Party to the Convention and other donors, and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the OAS acts as its Secretariat.

Basic Documents of the MESECVI (2nd edition*)

*The current edition is a revised version of the original document, published in 2008.

Copyright ©2018
All rights reserved

OAS Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Inter-American Commission of Women. Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI). Basic documents of the MESECVI.
p. ; cm. (OAS. Official records ; OEA/Ser.L/II.6.18)

ISBN 978-0-8270-6749-3

1. Women--Violence against--America. 2. Women's rights--America. 3. Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará" (1994). I. Title. II. Series.
OEA/Ser.L/II.6.18

Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI)

1889 F Street NW
Washington, DC, 20006
United States
Tel: 1-202-370-4579
Fax: 1-202-458-6094
E-mail: mese cvi@oas.org
Webpage: <http://www.oas.org/en/mese cvi>
Twitter: @MESECVI

Design and layout: Elena Domínguez

INDEX

Basic Documents MESECVI

Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women “Convention of Belém do Pará”	7
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, “Convention of Belém do Pará”	19
Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States 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)	29
Rules of Procedure of the 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, “Convention of Belém do Pará”	39

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION,
PUNISHMENT AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
“CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ”



(Adopted at the Twenty-Fourth regular session of the General
Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS),
held in Belém do Pará, Brazil, from June 6 to 10, 1994)

THE STATES PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION,

RECOGNIZING that full respect for human rights has been enshrined in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirmed in other international and regional instruments;

AFFIRMING that violence against women constitutes a violation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and impairs or nullifies the observance, enjoyment and exercise of such rights and freedoms;

CONCERNED that violence against women is an offense against human dignity and a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between women and men;

RECALLING the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the Twenty-fifth Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and affirming that violence against women pervades every sector of society regardless of class, race or ethnic group, income, culture, level of education, age or religion and strikes at its very foundations;

CONVINCED that the elimination of violence against women is essential for their individual and social development and their full and equal participation in all walks of life; and

CONVINCED that the adoption of a convention on the prevention, punishment and eradication of all forms of violence against women within the framework of the Organization of American States is a positive contribution to protecting the rights of women and eliminating violence against them,

HAVE AGREED to the following:

CHAPTER I

DEFINITION AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

Article 1

For the purposes of this Convention, violence against women shall be understood as any act or conduct, based on gender, which causes death or physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, whether in the public or the private sphere.

Article 2

Violence against women shall be understood to include physical, sexual and psychological violence:

- a. That occurs within the family or domestic unit or within any other interpersonal relationship, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the woman, including, among others, rape, battery and sexual abuse;
- b. that occurs in the community and is perpetrated by any person, including, among others, rape, sexual abuse, torture, trafficking in persons, forced prostitution, kidnapping and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as in educational institutions, health facilities or any other place; and
- c. that is perpetrated or condoned by the state or its agents regardless of where it occurs.

CHAPTER II

RIGHTS PROTECTED

Article 3

Every woman has the right to be free from violence in both the public and private spheres.

Article 4

Every woman has the right to the recognition, enjoyment, exercise and protection of all human rights and freedoms embodied in regional and international human rights instruments. These rights include, among others:

- a. The right to have her life respected;
- b. The right to have her physical, mental and moral integrity respected;
- c. The right to personal liberty and security;
- d. The right not to be subjected to torture;
- e. The rights to have the inherent dignity of her person respected and her family protected;
- f. The right to equal protection before the law and of the law;
- g. The right to simple and prompt recourse to a competent court for protection against acts that violate her rights;
- h. The right to associate freely;
- i. The right of freedom to profess her religion and beliefs within the law; and
- j. The right to have equal access to the public service of her country and to take part in the conduct of public affairs, including decision making.

Article 5

Every woman is entitled to the free and full exercise of her civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and may rely on the full protection of those rights as embodied in regional and international instruments on human rights. The States Parties recognize that violence against women prevents and nullifies the exercise of these rights.

Article 6

The right of every woman to be free from violence includes, among others:

- a. The right of women to be free from all forms of discrimination; and
- b. 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.

CHAPTER III

DUTIES OF THE STATES

Article 7

The States Parties condemn all forms of violence against women and agree to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies to prevent, punish and eradicate such violence and undertake to:

- a. refrain from engaging in any act or practice of violence against women and to ensure that their authorities, officials, personnel, agents, and institutions act in conformity with this obligation;
- b. apply due diligence to prevent, investigate and impose penalties for violence against women;
- c. include in their domestic legislation penal, civil, administrative and any other type of provisions that may be needed to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women and to adopt appropriate administrative measures where necessary;
- d. adopt legal measures to require the perpetrator to refrain from harassing, intimidating or threatening the woman or using any method that harms or endangers her life or integrity, or damages her property;
- e. take all appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to amend or repeal existing laws and regulations or to modify legal

or customary practices which sustain the persistence and tolerance of violence against women;

- f.** establish fair and effective legal procedures for women who have been subjected to violence which include, among others, protective measures, a timely hearing and effective access to such procedures;
- g.** establish the necessary legal and administrative mechanisms to ensure that women subjected to violence have effective access to restitution, reparations or other just and effective remedies; and
- h.** adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to this Convention.

Article 8

The States Parties agree to undertake progressively specific measures, including programs:

- a.** to promote awareness and observance of the right of women to be free from violence, and the right of women to have their human rights respected and protected;
- b.** to modify social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, including the development of formal and informal educational programs appropriate to every level of the educational process, to counteract prejudices, customs and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes or on the stereotyped roles for men and women which legitimize or exacerbate violence against women;
- c.** to promote the education and training of all those involved in the administration of justice, police and other law enforcement officers as well as other personnel responsible for implementing policies for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women;
- d.** to provide appropriate specialized services for women who have been subjected to violence, through public and private sector agencies, including shelters, counseling services for all family members where appropriate, and care and custody of the affected children

- e. to promote and support governmental and private sector education designed to raise the awareness of the public with respect to the problems of and remedies for violence against women;
- f. to provide women who are subjected to violence access to effective readjustment and training programs to enable them to fully participate in public, private and social life;
- g. to encourage the communications media to develop appropriate media guidelines in order to contribute to the eradication of violence against women in all its forms, and to enhance respect for the dignity of women;
- h. to ensure research and the gathering of statistics and other relevant information relating to the causes, consequences and frequency of violence against women, in order to assess the effectiveness of measures to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women and to formulate and implement the necessary changes; and
- i. to foster international cooperation for the exchange of ideas and experiences and the execution of programs aimed at protecting women who are subjected to violence.

Article 9

With respect to the adoption of the measures in this Chapter, the States Parties shall take special account of the vulnerability of women to violence by reason of among others, their race or ethnic background or their status as migrants, refugees or displaced persons. Similar consideration shall be given to women subjected to violence while pregnant or who are disabled, of minor age, elderly, socio-economically disadvantaged, affected by armed conflict or deprived of their freedom.

CHAPTER IV

INTER-AMERICAN MECHANISMS OF PROTECTION

Article 10

In order to protect the rights of every woman to be free from violence, the States Parties shall include in their national reports to the Inter-American Commission of Women information on measures adopted to prevent and prohibit violence against women, and to assist women affected by violence, as well as on any difficulties they observe in applying those measures, and the factors that contribute to violence against women.

Article 11

The States Parties to this Convention and the Inter-American Commission of Women may request of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights advisory opinions on the interpretation of this Convention.

Article 12

Any person or group of persons, or any nongovernmental entity legally recognized in one or more member states of the Organization, may lodge petitions with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights containing denunciations or complaints of violations of Article 7 of this Convention by a State Party, and the Commission shall consider such claims in accordance with the norms and procedures established by the American Convention on Human Rights and the Statutes and Regulations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for lodging and considering petitions.

CHAPTER V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 13

No part of this Convention shall be understood to restrict or limit the domestic law of any State Party that affords equal or greater protection and guarantees of the rights of women and appropriate safeguards to prevent and eradicate violence against women.

Article 14

No part of this Convention shall be understood to restrict or limit the American Convention on Human Rights or any other international convention on the subject that provides for equal or greater protection in this area.

Article 15

This Convention is open to signature by all the member states of the Organization of American States.

Article 16

This Convention is subject to ratification. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Article 17

This Convention is open to accession by any other state. Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Article 18

Any State may, at the time of approval, signature, ratification, or accession, make reservations to this Convention provided that such reservations are:

- a.** not incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, and
- b.** not of a general nature and relate to one or more specific provisions.

Article 19

Any State Party may submit to the General Assembly, through the Inter-American Commission of Women, proposals for the amendment of this Convention.

Amendments shall enter into force for the states ratifying them on the date when two-thirds of the States Parties to this Convention have deposited their respective instruments of ratification. With respect to the other States Parties, the amendments shall enter into force on the dates on which they deposit their respective instruments of ratification.

Article 20

If a State Party has two or more territorial units in which the matters dealt with in this Convention are governed by different systems of law, it may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, declare that this Convention shall extend to all its territorial units or to only one or more of them.

Such a declaration may be amended at any time by subsequent declarations, which shall expressly specify the territorial unit or units to which this Convention applies. Such subsequent declarations shall be transmitted to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, and shall enter into force thirty days after the date of their receipt.

Article 21

This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit of the second instrument of ratification. For each State that ratifies or accedes to the Convention after the second instrument of ratification is deposited, it shall enter into force thirty days after the date on which that State deposited its instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 22

The Secretary General shall inform all member states of the Organization of American States of the entry into force of this Convention.

Article 23

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States shall present an annual report to the member states of the Organization on the status of this Convention, including the signatures, deposits of instruments of ratification and accession, and declarations, and any reservations that may have been presented by the States Parties, accompanied by a report thereon if needed.

Article 24

This Convention shall remain in force indefinitely, but any of the States Parties may denounce it by depositing an instrument to that effect with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. One year after the date of deposit of the instrument of denunciation, this Convention shall cease to be in effect for the denouncing State but shall remain in force for the remaining States Parties.

Article 25

The original instrument of this Convention, the English, French, Portuguese and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, which shall send a certified copy to the Secretariat of the United Nations for registration and publication in accordance with the provisions of Article 102 of the United Nations Charter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective governments, have signed this Convention, which shall be called the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women “Convention of *Belém do Pará*”.

DONE IN THE CITY OF BELÉM DO PARÁ,, BRAZIL, the ninth of June in the year one thousand nine hundred ninety-four.

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, “CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ”



(Approved at the First Conference of States Parties
held in Washington D.C. on October 26, 2004)

PREAMBLE

Taking into account that the purpose of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of *Belém do Pará*" is to protect women's human rights and eliminate violent situations that may affect them, because every woman has the right to a life free from violence in both public and private spheres, and that it is necessary to strengthen cooperation among the states parties to develop the necessary mechanisms, policies, programs, and plans to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women;

Recognizing that there has already been significant progress in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention of *Belém do Pará*, at both the international and national levels, through progress in the internal legal systems of the states parties and the development of policies, programs, and plans implemented by the national agencies for women and other state institutions and agencies;

Stressing that the existence of a mechanism to permit follow-up and analysis of the ways in which the Convention is being applied, and to facilitate cooperation among the states parties and among all OAS member states, would contribute to fulfillment of its objectives; and

Carrying out the mandates adopted by the Thirty-first Assembly of Delegates of the CIM (CIM/RES. 224 (XXXI-O/02)) to begin a process to establish the most appropriate way to follow up on the Convention of *Belém do Pará*, and by the General Assembly of the OAS in its "Third Biennial Report on Fulfillment of Resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97)", "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of *Belém do Pará*";

The Conference of States Parties agrees upon the following mechanism to follow up on implementation of the Convention of *Belém do Pará*:

Article 1. Purposes/objectives

1.1 The purposes of the mechanism shall be:

- a.** To follow up on the commitments undertaken by the states parties to the Convention and review how they are being implemented;
- b.** To promote the implementation of the Convention and contribute to achievement of the objectives established therein;
- c.** To establish a system of technical cooperation among the states parties, which shall be open to other member states and permanent observer states, for the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices as a means to update and harmonize their domestic legislation, as appropriate, and attain other common objectives associated with the Convention.

Article 2. Basic principles

2.1 The mechanism to follow up on the commitments assumed by the states parties to the Convention will be developed within the framework of the purposes and principles established in the Charter of the Organization of American States. In this regard, the functions of this mechanism and the procedures used must take into account the principles of sovereignty, nonintervention, the juridical equality of states, and the need to respect the constitution and basic principles of the legal system of each state party.

Article 3. Nature

3.1 The Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention is intergovernmental, and has the following characteristics:

- a.** It shall be impartial and objective in its functioning and in the conclusions and recommendations it issues;
- b.** It shall guarantee fair application and equal treatment for the states parties;

- c. It may issue recommendations to the states parties and follow up on their implementation;
- d. It shall operate on the basis of consensus and the principle of cooperation among the states parties; and
- e. It shall establish an appropriate balance between the confidentiality of the evaluation and the transparency of the process.

Article 4. Members

4.1 All the states parties to the Convention shall be members and shall be represented and participate in the follow-up mechanism. Member states of the OAS that are not parties to the Convention may take part as observers, if they so request.

Article 5. Structure

5.1 The follow-up mechanism shall consist of two organs: the Conference of States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) and the Committee of Experts (hereinafter “the Committee”).

5.2 The Conference is the political organ of the Mechanism, shall be comprised of representatives of all states parties to the Convention, and shall hold a regular meeting every two years and special meetings as often as it deems necessary.

5.3 The Committee is the technical organ of the Mechanism and shall be comprised of experts in the area covered by the Convention, who shall perform their functions in their personal capacity. They shall be appointed by each state party to the Convention from among its nationals. The Committee shall meet in accordance with its own work plan and procedures.

5.4 The Secretariat of the Conference and of the Committee shall be the OAS General Secretariat, through the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, and with advisory services, when appropriate, from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

Article 6. Responsibilities

6.1 The responsibilities of the Conference are:

- a.** Establish overall guidelines for the work of the Committee and serve as its advisory body;
- b.** Receive, analyze, and evaluate the reports of the Committee;
- c.** Publish and disseminate the final report of the Mechanism, in coordination with the OAS General Secretariat; and
- d.** Settle any matter relating to the operations of the Mechanism.

6.2 The responsibilities of the Committee are:

- a.** Draft its own rules of procedure;
- b.** Define its working methods and work calendar;
- c.** Receive and evaluate the reports of the states parties and issue its recommendations; and
- d.** Present its reports to the Conference.

Article 7. Headquarters

7.1 The follow-up mechanism shall have its headquarters at the Organization of American States, in the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM.

Article 8. Operations

8.1 Selección de disposiciones y metodología:

- a.** The Secretariat shall submit to the Committee, for its consideration, a document in which it will select the Convention provisions whose application by the states parties could be the subject of the review and, in keeping with available financial resources, shall determine the duration of a session it will devote to this task--to be called a round--and the number of reports to be considered at each meeting;

- b.** During each round, the Secretariat shall prepare a questionnaire on the provisions it has selected. The questionnaire, once approved by the Committee, shall be transmitted to the states parties, who undertake to reply to it by the deadline set by the Committee. Replies to the questionnaire shall be circulated to all members of the Committee;
- c.** At the start of each round, the Committee shall examine the information on each state party and establish a calendar for the review, in a predetermined, impartial manner, such as alphabetical order, the drawing of lots, or chronological order of ratification of the Convention. The Secretariat shall make this information public; and
- d.** In order to fulfill its functions, the Committee shall determine the appropriate method for carrying out its work plan.

8.2 Final report:

- a.** After reviewing the reports of all the states parties in each round, the Committee shall issue a final report with the corresponding recommendations; this report shall include the observations of each state party that has been reviewed and shall be submitted to the Conference and, once published, to the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM.

8.3 Follow-up of recommendations:

- a.** The Committee shall determine the necessary means to follow up on fulfillment of the recommendations made in the final report on each state party.

Article 9. Equal treatment

9.1 To ensure that the Mechanism is efficient and consists of an evaluation between equals, the objective of which is to strengthen communication and exchange of experiences among the states parties, the Committee shall take into account that:

- a.** All states parties shall be reviewed in the framework of the round, in accordance with identical criteria and procedures;
- b.** The same questionnaire shall be used for all states parties; and

c. All the reports presented by states parties shall have the same format.

Article 10. Intergovernmental cooperation and participation of civil society

10.1 The Conference of States Parties and the Committee of Experts of the Convention follow-up mechanism are intergovernmental in nature. The Conference and the Committee may invite to their plenary meetings states that are not parties to the Convention.

10.2 In order to secure more input for its reviews, the Committee shall include, in its rules of procedure, provisions that ensure participation by civil society organizations, in particular those that deal with the subject of the Convention of Belém do Pará, in keeping with the principles set forth in the Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities (CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)) and the definition of civil society contained in resolution AG/RES. 1661 (XXIX-O/99).

10.3 Bearing in mind the objectives of the follow-up mechanism and in the framework of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, the Committee shall cooperate with all OAS member states that so request, taking into account OAS activities in progress, and shall report to the Conference on this matter.

10.4 The states parties shall establish mechanisms that facilitate cooperation and technical assistance for the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices to bring about the implementation of the Convention.

Article 11. Resources

11.1 The activities of the follow-up mechanism shall be financed by a specific fund established for this purpose, consisting of contributions from states parties to the Convention, states that are not parties to the Convention, permanent observer states, and international financial agencies, other external resources, and any other contribution it may receive in accordance with the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. These contributions may include offers from states parties to organize and host meetings of the Mechanism's organs.

11.2 The Conference of States Parties may establish criteria for determining regular contributions.

Article 12. Periodic review of the Mechanism

12.1 The Conference shall periodically review the Mechanism's operation, taking into account the observations of the Committee, and may introduce any changes it deems appropriate.

Article 13. Report to the OAS General Assembly

13.1 The Conference, in collaboration with the Secretariat, shall report every two years to the OAS General Assembly on work done during that period concerning progress, challenges, and best practices that emerge from the final reports and, if appropriate, shall issue general recommendations, if it sees fit.

Article 14. Transitory provision

14.1 This Statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by those states that have deposited their instruments of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of *Belém do Pará*."

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES 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)



(Adopted at the First Plenary Session of the Second Conference of
States Parties held in Caracas, Venezuela, on July 9, 2008)

I. SCOPE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article 1. Scope of the Rules of Procedure.

These Rules of Procedure shall govern the organization and operations of the Conference of States Party to the Follow-up Mechanism on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the “Convention of Belém do Pará” (MESECVI), hereinafter the Conference, and the Mechanism, respectively.

The Conference shall carry out its functions within the framework of the purposes, basic principles, characteristics and other provisions established in the Statute of the Mechanism, hereinafter the Statute, as well as in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Situations not provided for in these Rules of Procedure, in the Statute or the OAS Charter may be resolved by the Conference, or when the Conference is not in session, by the President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents and the States Parties.

II. NATURE, ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

Article 2. Nature.

The Conference, as the political body of the Mechanism, has the authority and the general responsibility for implementing the Mechanism and adopting decisions or procedures it deems necessary to the attainment of its objectives.

Article 3. Composition.

The Conference is made up of representatives from all the States Parties of the Mechanism. The States Parties shall appoint a head of delegation and any delegates they deem necessary.

Article 4. Functions.

The functions of the Conference are:

- a.** To establish overall guidelines for the work of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the Mechanism and to serve as its advisory body;
- b.** To receive, analyze and evaluate the reports of the CEVI;
- c.** To publish and disseminate the final report of the Mechanism, in coordination with the OAS General Secretariat;
- d.** To settle any matter relating to the operations of the *Mechanism*;
- e.** To report every two years to the OAS General Assembly on work done during that period concerning progress, challenges, and best practices emanating from the final reports and, if appropriate, shall issue any general recommendations it deems appropriate;
- f.** To periodically review the operations of the Mechanism, taking into account the observations of the CEVI, and introducing any changes it deems appropriate; and
- g.** Establecer criterios para determinar contribuciones regulares.

III. PRESIDENT AND VICEPRESIDENTS

Article 5. President and Vice-Presidents.

The Conference shall have a President and two Vice-Presidents, which shall be elected at the beginning of each regular meeting. Said officials shall carry out their functions until the next meeting of the Conference, including any special meetings that need to be held. In the absence of the President, the first Vice President shall take his/her place, and in his/her absence, the second Vice President will do so.

Article 6. Functions.

The functions of the President are:

- a. To propose, in collaboration with the host country, if any, the draft agenda and calendar for the Meeting of the *Conference*;
- b. To open and close the sessions as well as to direct and moderate the discussions;
- c. To submit for consideration and approval of the Conference, the draft agenda and calendar of the Meeting of the Conference, as well as any issues in the debate that require decision-making, and to announce the results;
- d. To follow up on decisions made by the Conference and inform the States Parties, as applicable;
- e. To coordinate the work of the bodies of the Mechanism and present any proposals he/she deems appropriate to ensure optimal operation thereof
- f. To decide on points of order that raised during the deliberations;
- g. To represent the Conference before the CEVI;
- h. To represent the Mechanism before the Organs of the OAS and participate in acts, conferences or activities to which he/she is invited;
- i. To install commissions at the Meetings of the Conference, as required; and
- j. To perform other responsibilities as may arise from the *Rules of Procedure* and as entrusted by the *Conference*.

IV. SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE

Article 7. Secretariat.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is the Technical Secretariat of the Conference and shall have the following functions:

- a. To prepare the documents for each Meeting of the Conference and present them to the Presidency for approval;
- b. To ensure the safe-keeping of all Conference documents and files;
- c. To disseminate by any adequate means of communication, including the CIM website, information and public documents relating to the Mechanism, as well as the final report of the CEVI issued at the end of each multilateral evaluation round, once they have been made public in accordance with the provisions of the Statute, and the Final Report of the Conference;
- d. To act as the nexus for coordination and contacts for sending and exchanging documents and communication for the Conference, the CEVI, the OAS organs, and other organizations or institutions;
- e. To present the Final Report of the Meeting of the Conference and the Hemispheric Report to the Assembly of CIM Delegates and the OAS General Assembly;
- f. To prepare summary minutes of the Meetings of the *Conference*;
- g. To submit financial reports to donors as required;
- h. To perform functions for the effective fulfillment of its functions; and
- i. To perform other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Conference.

V. MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

Article 8. Venue.

The Conference may hold meetings in any State Party that offers to host them, or otherwise, at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat.

Said offer, if not made at the preceding meeting of the Conference, should be communicated in writing to the Secretary General of the OAS, who will then inform all States Parties on the matter through their Permanent Missions to the OAS.

Article 9. Convocation.

As set forth in Article 5 of the Statute, the Conference will hold a regular meeting every two years and special meetings as often as it deems necessary.

The OAS Secretary General will convene the regular and special meetings of the Conference by way of written communication directed to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the States Parties, through their Permanent Missions to the OAS, with copy to their respective Competent National Authorities (CNA).

Article 10. Preparatory Meetings.

The State which presides over the Conference will convene the preparatory meetings of States Parties of the Mechanism to for the Meeting of the Conference. The purposes for the preparatory meetings will be, among others:

- a.** To determine the venue and date of the next Meeting in case these were not established in the preceding meeting of the Conference;
- b.** To consider the draft agenda and calendar of the Meeting of the Conference;
- c.** To agree on the documents which will be presented for the consideration of the Conference;
- d.** To establish the work methodology and the working commissions;
- e.** To establish the order of precedence, in accordance with Article 17 of this Rules of Procedure; and
- f.** To decide upon the approximate duration of the meeting of the Conference.

Article 11. Delegations.

Accreditation of the delegations appointed by the States Parties shall be effected through written communication sent to the OAS Secretary General through the Technical Secretariat of the Conference.

VI. GUESTS

Article 12. Non-party States.

Member States of the OAS which are not party to the Convention may be invited as Observers to the Meeting of the Conference and its preparatory meetings if they so request.

Article 13. Permanent Observers

A la Reunión de la Conferencia podrán ser invitados a asistir los Observadores Permanentes de la OEA, si así lo solicitaren.

Article 14. Organs and Organizations.

Inter-American, sub-regional and hemispheric organs and entities as well as international organizations may be invited to the Meeting of the Conference. They may intervene in accordance with the manner that the President of the Conference deems appropriate.

Article 15. Civil Society.

If it is deemed convenient, the Presidency may, in joint consultation with States Party in the preparatory meetings, invite representatives of civil society organizations related to the matters of the Convention to attend the meetings of the Conference, in accordance with the principles contained in the Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities (CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)).

Article 16. Special Guests.

Special guests deemed appropriate by the President may be invited to attend the Meeting of the Conference.

Article 17. Precedence.

The order of precedence of the delegations shall be established by drawing lots in a preparatory meeting. To this end, the alphabetical order of the States in Spanish will be followed

Article 18. Languages.

The official languages of the Meeting of the Conference are Spanish, French, English and Portuguese.

VII. SESSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE

Article 19. Sessions.

The Meeting of the Conference shall comprise an opening session, plenary sessions, and a closing session. These sessions shall be public. However, they may be private if so ruled by the President or requested by any of the representatives.

Article 20. Rapporteur.

The *Conference* will elect *Rapporteurs* as needed. These *Rapporteurs* will provide written reports which will be presented verbally prior to the conclusion of the Meeting of the Conference and will be included in its Final Report.

Article 21. Adoption of Decisions.

In the deliberations of the *Conference*, each State Party will have the right to one vote. Decisions will require the affirmative vote of the majority of the States Parties that are participating in the meeting of the *Conference*, except as set forth in Article 26 of the Rules of Procedure.

Article 22. Quorum.

A simple majority of the States Parties to the Conference shall constitute a quorum for holding sessions.

VIII. MINUTES AND FINAL REPORT

Article 23. Minutes.

Summary minutes shall be recorded of the plenary and working sessions and must contain a summary of the discussions and the full text of agreements reached.

The Secretariat shall distribute to the delegations as soon as possible, the provisional draft of the minutes from each session in all the official languages of the Conference. Delegations may submit to the Conference Secretariat any corrections they consider necessary within a period of 15 days following the distribution of that text.

Article 24. Final report of the Meeting of the Conference.

A final Report of the Meeting of the Conference will be produced which will include, in addition to the conclusions and agreements reached, background information on the organization of the Conference, the list of participants, and basic information on the development of the Conference as well as reports from the respective *Rapporteurs*.

IX. ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article 25. Adoption and Entering into Effect of the Rules of Procedure.

These Rules of Procedure shall be adopted by the Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties and shall enter into force upon their adoption .

Article 26. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure.

The Rules of Procedure can be amended only by a motion supported by an absolute majority of the States Parties.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE 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, “CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ”



(Approved at the Twelfth Meeting of the
Committee of Experts (CEVI),
held in Lima, Peru, from October 13th to 15th, 2015)

I. SCOPE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article 1. Scope of the Rules of Procedure

The *Rules of Procedure* shall prescribe the structure and workings of the Committee of Experts (hereafter, the Committee) of the Mechanism for 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*" (hereafter, MESECVI) (hereafter, the *Convention*).

As the technical organ of the Mechanism, the *Committee* shall have undertake its activities within the framework of the purposes, basic principles, characteristics and other provisions established in the "Statute of the Mechanism for 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*" (hereafter, the *Statute*), of the decisions adopted by the Conference of States Parties (hereafter, the *Conference*) and, as appropriate, of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The *Committee* may resolve those matters not addressed by these Rules, the Statute or the OAS Charter in consultation with the *Conference*.

II. STRUCTURE AND WORKINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

Article 2. Composition of the Committee

The Committee shall be composed of experts in the matters encompassed by the Convention, and they shall exercise their functions in a manner that is independent, autonomous and in an individual capacity. The experts will not participate in the evaluation of their own countries.

The principal and alternate Experts of the Committee will have to have solid technical knowledge and experience in the various subjects covered by the Convention.

The Experts shall serve for a term of at least three years through their effective participation during meetings and from their country when required.

For effective participation, it shall be understood the presence of the expert in the ordinary and extraordinary meetings, in an onsite manner or through virtual means.

In order to facilitate the progress of activities, *States Parties* shall ensure the stability and continuity of the Experts throughout the evaluation process. Each *State Party* shall be responsible for the participation of its expert.

The *States Parties* shall notify the Secretariat of MESECVI of the name or names and personal information (address, e-mail address, and telephone and fax numbers) of one expert and at least one alternate. Each *State Party* shall notify the Secretariat immediately of any changes in the designation of its experts on the Committee.

Article 3. Responsibilities of the Committee

In accordance with the Statute, the Committee shall be responsible for the technical analysis of the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties. In performing this function, the Committee shall undertake the following:

- a. Adopt its annual work plan and methodology for each multilateral evaluation round, for which the Secretariat will develop a draft in conformity with the provisions contained in Article 7.a of these Rules.
- b. Select, from among the provisions of the Convention, those whose implementation by all of the States Parties shall be reviewed, in particular in Articles 7 and 8.
- c. Determine the length of time it shall devote to this task, which shall be known as a "round".¹
- d. Adopt a questionnaire on the provisions selected for review in each round and in accordance with Article 18 of these Rules.
- e. Determine the composition of subgroups to analyze the information received from the States Parties they have been assigned to review, pursuant to Article 20 of these Rules. Coordinators and Alternate Coordinators of subgroups shall be elected as necessary.

¹ In line with practice in other inter-American evaluation mechanisms, the rounds last two years, the third year being devoted to follow-up of implementation of the recommendations arising out of each round.

- f.** Adopt evaluation reports in regard to each of the States Parties (country reports) and a hemispheric report at the end of each round, in accordance with the procedures established in Articles 19 to 24 of these Rules, and submit them to the Conference, pursuant to Article 6.2 of the Statute.
- g.** Promote and facilitate cooperation among the States Parties and civil society organizations and with international organizations and cooperation agencies, within the framework of the Convention and in accordance with Article 10 of the Statute and Article 7.n of these Rules.
- h.** Adopt a yearly activity report, which shall be forwarded to the Conference.
- i.** Review periodically the operation of the MESECVI and propose such recommendations as it deems pertinent to the Conference.
- j.** Request assistance and guidance from the Conference when it considers it necessary in order to fulfill its responsibilities.
- k.** Approve the form to be used for follow-up of implementation of the recommendations to countries.
- l.** Formulate recommendations, as deemed relevant, to the States Party, so that they may adopt the measures necessary to support the human rights of women when specific situations warrant a special pronouncement. To this effect, the Technical Secretariat will submit the relevant information.
- m.** Elaborate thematic reports when agreed by the Committee of Experts.

Article 4. President of the Committee

The Committee shall elect by consensus from among its members a President and two Vice-Presidents, with regard for the principle of geographical representation. If it is not possible, election shall be by simple majority of the Committee members. The Vice-Presidents shall assist the President in the performance of his or her activities. The President and Vice-Presidents shall serve for a two-year term and may be reelected for one additional term. In the temporary absence, or impediment, of the

President, the senior Vice-President shall assume the responsibilities of the President and the Committee shall elect a new Vice-President.

Article 5. Responsibilities of the President

- a.** Open and adjourn plenary meetings and direct the discussions.
- b.** Submit the items on the agenda for consideration by the Committee, including a topic that he or she considers to be of collective interest, together with a methodology for addressing it.
- c.** Coordinate with the Secretariat the activities related to the workings of the Committee.
- d.** Represent the Committee before the Conference and OAS organs.
- e.** Submit to the Committee for its consideration proposals on the composition and tasking of the subgroups that will analyze the information received from the States Parties.
- f.** f. All other responsibilities conferred by these Rules.

Article 6. Secretariat of the Committee

Pursuant to Article 5.4 of the Statute, the OAS General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), shall serve as the Secretariat of the Committee, with advisory services provided, as appropriate, by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) or other relevant areas of the General Secretariat.

Article 7. Responsibilities of the Secretariat of the Committee

The Secretariat shall have the following responsibilities:

- a.** Prepare an annual draft work plan of the Committee and submit it to the Committee for consideration.
- b.** Prepare the methodology and questionnaire proposals for the evaluation of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention to be considered in each round, and submit them to the Committee for consideration, in accordance with Article 17 and following articles, especially Article 27, of these Rules.

- c.** Send simultaneous convocation notices for Committee meetings to the experts and, through the permanent missions, to the competent national authorities and/or principal delegates to the CIM.
- d.** Prepare the draft agenda for each Committee meeting and submit it to the President for approval.
- e.** Serve as Secretariat to the Committee and the subgroups of experts throughout the evaluation process, including preparation of the hemispheric report at the end of each round.
- f.** Prepare, together with the President of the Committee and the Coordinators of the subgroups, the draft final report to be submitted to the Committee, pursuant to Article 24.
- g.** Prepare the draft Annual Report on the activities of the Committee and, once said Report is adopted by the Committee, forward it to the Conference
- h.** Serve as a custodian for all the documents and files of the Committee.
- i.** Disseminate, by electronic mail, the Internet, or any other means of communication, information and public documents related to the MESECVI, as well as the country and hemispheric reports at the end of each round, once they are made public in accordance with these Rules and the Statute.
- j.** Serve as the central coordinating and contact point for the delivery and exchange of documents and communications among the experts, as individuals or as a Committee, with the Conference, OAS organs, and other organizations or institutions.
- k.** Notify the Committee members of communications received for their consideration.
- l.** Prepare the minutes of Committee meetings and maintain its files.
- m.** Provide advice to the Committee members on the performance of their responsibilities, when requested.
- n.** Promote and organize technical cooperation programs in conjunction with other international organizations and cooperation agencies to

support the States Parties in their efforts to implement recommendations of the Committee.

- o.** Prepare the draft form to be used for follow-up on implementation of the recommendations to countries and present it to the Committee for approval.
- p.** Any other responsibilities that the Committee may assign to it or that pertain to the Secretariat for the effective fulfillment of its responsibilities.
- q.** Report to the Committee, any situation, at the regional or country level, that merits its particular attention and prepare, as appropriate and at the request of the President, the required communications, in accordance with the guidelines approved for that end.

Article 8. Headquarters

Pursuant to provision 7.1 of the Statute, the Committee shall have its headquarters at the Executive Secretariat of the CIM.

The Committee may hold meetings in a State Party other than the country where the headquarters is located, in accordance with Article 11.1 of the Statute.

Article 9. Competent National Authority

Each State Party shall appoint a competent national authority to liaise with the Secretariat of the MESECVI.

Article 10. Observers

Pursuant to provisions 4.1 and 10.1 of the Statute, OAS Member States not party to the Convention may be invited to observe plenary meetings of the Committee if they so request.

Article 11. Special Guests

Experts may propose to the Committee, through the President, that special guests participate in the meetings for the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices.

Article 12. Financing. Voluntary Contributions and Solidarity Sub-fund

Committee activities shall be financed in accordance with Article 11.1 of the Statute, which establishes a specific fund.

In the framework of Article 11.1 of the Statute, a solidarity sub-fund shall be established to ensure the participation of Experts from countries that, owing to special circumstances, are unable to finance their participation. Said solidarity sub-fund will be managed by the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI.

States and/or organizations making voluntary financial and technical contributions, and contributions in kind, should clearly indicate the intended use of said contribution. Similarly, additional resources will be identified with the support of international cooperation agencies and/or multilateral organizations.

At each meeting of the Committee of Experts, the date of the next meeting shall be set. Three months prior to this date, the President of the Committee shall request that the Technical Secretariat begin the relevant procedures with the States Party, such that, in accordance with Article 14 of these Rules, the participation of the Expert and the established quorum may be guaranteed.

Article 13. Languages

The working languages of the Committee are the languages of the States Parties, which are also the official languages of the OAS.

Article 14. Quorum

Quorum for meeting shall be constituted with the presence of one half plus one of the Experts effectively designated before the Committee, as long as they are not less than twelve (12)

The States Parties shall designate their alternate experts for each round or before the celebration of a meeting.

Article 15. Decisions

As a general rule, the Committee shall adopt its decisions by consensus. In those cases where there is a controversy with regard to a decision, the President shall use his or her good offices and all means at his or her disposal to try to reach a consensus.

If this path has been exhausted and a decision by consensus is not possible, the matter shall be put to a vote. Decisions that concern the adoption of a country's final report or amendment of these Rules shall be taken with a vote in favor of at least twelve (12) experts.

Votes may be in favor, against or abstentions. No expert will participate in the voting regarding the draft report of his/her own country.

Article 16. Communications and distribution of documents

In order to ensure their prompt distribution and reduce the respective costs, all communications between the Secretariat and the experts and vice-versa, as well as documents to be considered by the latter, as individuals, in review subgroups, or in plenary meetings of the Committee, shall be transmitted via electronic mail, with a copy to the Permanent Mission to the OAS of the respective State Party.

Replies of States Parties to questionnaires as well as any other document or information arising out of the evaluation process should be sent to the Secretariat of the Committee, via the permanent missions, using e-mail, fax, or the post office.

III. MULTILATERAL EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Article 17. General Considerations

Reports of all States Parties shall be analyzed simultaneously in an initial multilateral evaluation round, which may be followed by further evaluation rounds, the methodology and content for which shall be determined subsequently by the Committee.

The duration of the rounds shall be two years, with the third year being devoted to follow-up of the recommendations arising out of each round.

Article 18. Questionnaire, Work Plan, and Evaluation Methodology

The Committee Secretariat shall prepare the draft questionnaire, draft work plan, and draft methodology for evaluating implementation of the provisions of the Convention and shall forward them to the experts of all the States Party.

The Committee shall adopt the final versions of the questionnaire, work plan, and the method for evaluating.

The Secretariat of the Committee shall remit the questionnaires to the competent national authority responsible for coordinating the reply of each State Party and to the permanent missions.

Article 19. Replies of States Party to the Questionnaire

The States Party shall forward the responses to the questionnaire to the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, via the Permanent Missions to the OAS, within three months of the receipt of this questionnaire, together with an executive summary report on the status of violence against women in the respective country, and the achievements, difficulties, and areas in which they consider that cooperation could be strengthened.

States Parties can request one renewal for three months.

Article 20. Subgroups to Review Information and Prepare Preliminary Reports

The Committee, based on the proposal prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the President, shall determine the composition of review subgroups and assign tasks randomly, bearing in mind the legal tradition of the country reviewed, regional representation, language considerations, and the equitable distribution of work among all the experts.

Subgroups shall prepare preliminary country reports to be submitted subsequently to the Committee plenary for consideration.

No expert may take part in the preparation of the preliminary report of his or her own country.

Article 21. Review of Information and Preparation of the Preliminary Report

Once the responses to the questionnaire are received, the procedure shall be as follows:

- a.** With the support of the Technical Secretariat, each Expert in each of the review sub-groups shall, prior to the meeting of the Committee, receive and analyze the information provided by the States Party assigned to his or her sub-group and prepare a draft preliminary report for a country that will be assigned to him/her, for subsequent review by the sub-group.
- b.** Once the meetings of the review sub-groups have concluded, the draft preliminary reports will be discussed by the plenary in accordance with Article 23 of these Rules. The Technical Secretariat shall circulate the preliminary report to the Competent National Authority and to the corresponding Permanent Mission in order for the latter to submit such comments and clarifications as it deems pertinent within the timeframe established by the Committee. This information will be circulated to the Experts of the sub-group for consideration during its next meeting.
- c.** Based on the responses of the State Party to the preliminary report, the Expert assigned to study it will prepare a revised version of the report and forward it to the Experts who comprise the review sub group, at least thirty (30) days prior to the next meeting of the Committee, which will consider it in plenary session.
- d.** At each meeting of the Committee, the President will notify it of any case in which reports and/or additional information requested have not been received. In such cases, the Committee may communicate to the State Party in question, via the President, a reminder of the presentation of the report and/or additional information.
- e.** If, two months after the reminder mentioned in paragraph d) has been circulated, the State Party still has not presented its report or the additional information requested, the Committee may include a reference to this respect in the annual report of the MESECVI to the General Assembly of the OAS.

Article 22. Length and Format of Country Reports

The Committee shall consider and approve the structure of country reports in accordance with the modalities approved for each round. All country reports shall have the same structure. They must be concise and no more than 20 pages in length.

Article 23. Consideration and Adoption of Country Reports

For the consideration and adoption of country reports, the following procedures shall be followed:

- a.** All of the experts shall have access to the questionnaire responses and comments submitted by the States Parties.
- b.** The review subgroups shall examine the revised version of the corresponding preliminary reports and prepare the draft country reports, which the assigned expert shall submit to the plenary of the Committee for its consideration.
- c.** The plenary of the Committee may make any changes it considers necessary to the draft country reports, which shall contain the conclusions and recommendations deemed to be pertinent.
- d.** The Secretariat shall correct the draft country reports in the manner agreed upon by the Committee and present them for approval.
- e.** Once the country reports are approved, they shall be sent to the competent national authority and the corresponding Permanent Mission. The States Parties may submit additional observations within the time allowed by the Committee.
- f.** The Committee will be able to celebrate meetings with states Parties, at their request. Their request shall be processed through the Technical Secretariat, in accordance to the guidelines approved to this end.

Article 24. Final Report

Upon conclusion of a complete evaluation round, the Committee shall adopt a final report, which shall include the country reports and observations of the States Parties. Likewise, it shall include an overall and comprehensive review (hemispheric report) that identifies strengths and weaknesses in implementation of the Convention.

The hemispheric report shall contain, among other things, the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee based on the country reports, to strengthen hemispheric cooperation in implementing the Convention, especially the provisions considered in said round.

The President of the Committee shall present the final report to the Conference. Subsequently it shall be made public and submitted to the Assembly of Delegates of the CIM and the OAS General Assembly.

IV. FOLLOW-UP

Article 25. Follow-Up

Follow-up of the implementation of recommendations shall be carried out in the calendar year following approval of the country reports.

The MESECVI Technical Secretariat shall send each State Party the form approved by the Committee for follow-up of the implementation of recommendations in order for them to indicate the progress made in this regard, on the date set by the Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.o) of these Rules.

The replies of countries shall include specific measures adopted to move forward in the implementation of each recommendation. Countries may indicate their needs for technical or other assistance related to the implementation of recommendations.

The Secretariat shall compile the replies in a preliminary document, which will be used by the Committee to prepare its draft report on implementation of recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.o) of these Rules.

When the review of the reports of all States Parties is over in each round, the Committee shall issue a report on the implementation of the corresponding recommendations, which includes the observations of each analyzed State Party.

The Committee, through the Technical Secretariat, will be able to invite a State Party that has indicated its need for technical assistance, or assistance of another nature, to include in its report, presented pursuant

to article 24 of the Rules, details the adopted measures in response to the conclusions, observations and recommendations of the Committee.

At each meeting of the Committee, the Technical Secretariat will inform on those cases in which a report and/or additional information requested has not been received, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 21 and forth of these Rules of Procedure.

Upon completing the review of the reports of the States Party in each Round, the Committee will issue a final report with the corresponding recommendations, which will include the observations of each State party under analysis.

The publication of this report on the implementation of the recommendations shall be submitted to the approval of the Conference. As soon as this is public, it will be elevated to the Delegates Assembly of the CIM and the OAS General Assembly.

At each meeting of the Committee, the Technical Secretariat will inform on those cases in which a report and/or additional information requested has not been received, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 21 and forth of these Rules of Procedure.

Article 26. Reports in the framework of Plenary Meetings of the Committee

At the beginning of each Committee meeting each of the States Parties may present, in writing, information on the measures it has adopted between the previous meeting and the present one aimed at making progress in implementing the Convention. The Secretariat shall always include this issue in the draft agenda for each Committee meeting.

Article 27. Technical Assistance Visits

With a view to providing assistance to the States Party in the fulfillment of their obligations under the Convention, or as part of the follow-up of the Recommendations, by request a State Party, the Committee may conduct on-site visits to the States Party, for which it will designate at least two Experts. For the effective fulfillment of this provision, the necessary facilities and guarantees will be requested, and provided by requesting State Party.

V. PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Article 28. Participation of Civil Society Organizations

Upon the publication of the documents containing the draft questionnaires and working procedures and any other public documents that the Committee deems appropriate for dissemination, civil society organizations, women's organizations, women's movements, can:

- a. Present, through the Secretariat, specific proposals to be considered in the drafting process referred to in the foregoing paragraph. These proposals should be presented in electronic format, within the timeframe established by the Technical Secretariat, and they shall be made available to the public;
- b. Present, through the Technical Secretariat, specific information directly related to the questionnaire and to implementation of the analyzed provisions of the Convention during the round. This information shall be presented in electronic format, within the same time period allowed for States Party to respond to the questionnaire.

The Secretariat shall forward the information that complies with the terms and conditions referred to in this Article both to the State Party under analysis and to the experts in the corresponding review subgroup.

- c. Present proposals related to the collective interest issues to be addressed at the Committee meetings. These proposals shall be presented, through the Secretariat, with a copy in electronic format, no later than one month before the date of the meeting in which the Committee shall consider these issues.

The Secretariat shall forward these proposals to the States Parties and to the experts.

Article 29. Distribution of Information and Proposals put forward by Civil Society Organizations

The information and proposals presented by civil society organizations, in accordance with the provisions in the foregoing article, shall be distributed in the language in which they were presented.

The information and proposals presented by civil society organizations that are not in electronic format shall only be distributed at the Committee meeting when they are no more than ten (10) pages long. If they are longer, civil society organizations, women's organizations, women's movements shall provide the Secretariat with copies for distribution.

Article 30. Participation of Civil Society Organizations in Committee Meetings

The Committee may accept requests from civil society organizations, women's organizations, women's movements to give a oral presentation, prior to the start of the formal meeting of the Committee, of any information and proposals they have submitted pursuant to Article 28 of these Rules. The Committee shall decide how long the verbal presentation may last.

In the same manner, the Committee can invite representatives of civil society to make oral statements during the Committee's meetings, if it determines so, and to present information or documents that are pertinent to the activities of the Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, in the sessions of the Committee or the working group, before the period of sessions.

The Committee can celebrate meetings with the States Party, as requested; The request will be transmitted through the Technical Secretariat, in accordance with the guidelines agreed to that purpose.

VI. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND AMENDMENT OF THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article 31. Entry into force and amendment of the Rules

These Rules shall enter into force upon their adoption by the Committee and the Committee may amend them in accordance with Article 15 of these Rules. Once they have been adopted, the Rules shall be distributed by the Secretariat among the States Parties.

Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI)

1889 F Street NW
Washington, DC, 20006
United States

Tel: 1-202-370-4579

Fax: 1-202-458-6094

E-mail: mese cvi@oas.org

Webpage: <http://www.oas.org/en/mese cvi>

Twitter: @MESECVI



OAS | More rights
for more people

