

## **Committee of Experts welcomes the progress of the bill to decriminalize abortion in Argentina**

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) welcomes and congratulates the Chamber of Deputies in Argentina for the approval of the bill that seeks to decriminalize the termination of pregnancy on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2018. This represents significant progress in the consolidation of women's rights in line with the spirit of the Belém do Pará Convention, since it seeks to protect women's lives, their physical and mental integrity, their fundamental freedoms, as well as guarantee their sexual and reproductive rights.

The initiative guarantees the termination of pregnancy up to 14 weeks. After this period, it would be permitted if the pregnancy is the result of rape, if the woman's health is at risk or if the fetus is deemed not to be viable outside the uterus. In this sense, this initiative is in line with national norms and the international *corpus juris* for the protection of the rights of women and girls, since they are recognized as subjects of international and national law.

Taking into consideration that the bill will pass to the Senate for their consideration, the Committee urges authorities to intensify their efforts so that the bill is fully approved, as well as to prioritize the right to life of women that this historic bill seeks to guarantee. In addition, authorities are invited to consider the relevance of this approval in the Americas. Argentina will mark the political agenda in this matter and with this advance, it shows a positive signal to the rest of the States.

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