



# Communique Committee of Experts

## **Committee of Experts expresses concern about the reduction of the budget for women's houses and especially the Houses of Indigenous and Afro-American Women (CAMIS)**

Washington, D.C., November 22, 2020. The Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention \(MESECVI\)](#) has been expressing its concern since the beginning of the pandemic about the significant reduction in public budgets destined for programs to prevent, combat, investigate and punish inequalities and violence against women within the States Parties to the Convention<sup>1</sup>.

Since 2012, the Committee of Experts (CEVI) has reiterated in successive hemispheric and country reports the important effort that the United Mexican States has made to identify budgets to address gender issues, and in particular, those to prevent violence against women. In spite of this, in the new context generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, this Committee has been aware of the difficulties experienced by some organizations that have seen their budgets reduced as a result of the measures adopted to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. In particular, the “Casas de la Mujer Indígena y Afroamericana” (CAMIS), which have been significant in advancing the care and defense of the rights of indigenous and Afro-Mexican women in the country.

The Committee considers it important to strengthen the support for women's organizations and houses, especially regarding indigenous and Afro-descendant women, and in particular in the midst of the crisis caused by COVID19. It should be noted that they are carrying out the support of their families and communities, assuming many of the responsibilities during this pandemic.

In following up on this concern, the Committee held a meeting with the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) in order to gather more information on the possible impact on institutions and programs of vital importance for a sustainable, egalitarian and respectful development of women's human rights in the country.

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<sup>1</sup> Violence Against Women and the Measures to Contain the Spread of COVID-19, CIM/MESECVI (2020). Available on: <http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/COVID-19-RespuestasViolencia-EN.pdf>

As a result of the meeting, the Committee wishes to acknowledge the country's efforts in the face of the current situation and to thank INMUJERES for its willingness to continue collaborating with this Committee. In addition, the CEVI is committed to follow-up on this concern and reiterates its call to guarantee women's rights, especially indigenous and Afro-Mexican women affected by the reduction of the CAMIS budget, whose functions are particularly relevant to strengthening strategic measures for the prevention, care and punishment of violence against women.

*The Committee of Experts is the technical part 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 State Party among its nationals, and serve in a personal capacity.*