



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)
Twenty-First Meeting of the Committee of Experts
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**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MESECVI COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Technical Secretariat of MESECVI presents this report as part of the XXI Meeting of the Committee of Experts, highlighting the activities and progress made during 2024. This work is aligned with the objectives of the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, which aims to accelerate the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention and ensure the human rights of women in all their diversity.

During 2024, MESECVI focused its efforts on the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round, aimed at ensuring women victims of violence access to truth, justice, and reparations. As part of this process, progress was made in automating the System of Progress Indicators of the Convention, which has strengthened the capacity of States Parties to collect and analyze data. During this stage, 9 countries actively participated in technical training workshops, consolidating their competencies to effectively implement the commitments undertaken in the Convention.

In the Caribbean region, MESECVI carried out two missions to Saint Lucia and Panama in February and March 2024, as part of the project "Guidelines for the development of a protocol for the protection of migrant, displaced, and refugee women against violence and sexual exploitation." This project, funded by the United Kingdom and executed in collaboration with OEA/DPS, aimed to develop an inter-institutional, inter-sectoral, and multidisciplinary tool to guarantee access to justice and protect the rights of these women.

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During the Ninth States Parties Conference of the MESECVI Monitoring Mechanism for the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention, held on June 11-12, 2024 in Santiago, Chile, the States Parties analyzed the progress and challenges in implementing the Convention. This event, which commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Convention and the 20th anniversary of its Monitoring Mechanism, served as a key space to reaffirm commitments, set new goals, and consolidate strategies to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women. The participation of our Board (Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago, and Mexico) was present, as well as experts from Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

Significant progress was also made in developing the Inter-American Model Law on Gender-Based Violence Facilitated by Technology. Throughout the year, both virtual and in-person consultations were held, with notable meetings in Colombia and Argentina, made possible with support from Italy. These consultations involved meetings with civil society, subject matter specialists, and state authorities, aiming to incorporate various regional perspectives

into the development of this law. Additionally, bilateral meetings were held with several States Parties to enrich the legislative content and ensure the law addresses the specific needs of the region.

In the normative field, two important general recommendations were published in 2024. Recommendation No. 5 addresses the specific violence faced by Afro-descendant women due to structural racism and intersectional discrimination, while Recommendation No. 6 analyzes gender stereotypes that affect the integrity of justice systems. Both recommendations emphasize the importance of removing these structural barriers to ensure effective access to justice and promote substantive equality. In collaboration with UNFPA, a campaign was developed to disseminate the standards established in the first recommendation.

Additionally, seven national reports were published, relating to the States of Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Uruguay, as part of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round, which focused on Access to Justice, Truth, and Reparation.

International cooperation was also a key element in MESECVI's activities. Active participation continued in the EDVAW Platform as co-presidency, promoting harmonized global strategies to combat violence against women. In collaboration with UN Women and UNDP, reports on cyberviolence and institutional violence were published, as well as studies related to human trafficking and gender-based violence in digital contexts. These documents have been essential tools for designing inclusive and sustainable policies in the region.

The work carried out in 2024 is closely aligned with the goals set in the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, which prioritizes the inclusive protection of women in vulnerable situations, the strengthening of state capacities, the visibility of adopted measures, and the acceleration of commitments made by States Parties. In this context, MESECVI has demonstrated its leadership in promoting women's human rights and in building practical tools to facilitate the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention.

The year 2024 marks a significant step toward consolidating the progress achieved and creating new opportunities to combat gender-based violence in all its forms. This report reflects MESECVI's unwavering commitment to promoting a life free from violence for all women and girls in the region, within a framework of equality, justice, and human rights.

Twentieth Meeting of the Committee of Experts.

The Committee of Experts of the Monitoring Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) met on November 28-29, 2023, in a hybrid format, in Washington D.C. and virtually, to evaluate the work carried out during the year and consolidate strategies under the framework of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round. During this twentieth meeting, the Committee reviewed the activities carried out, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the previous 2018-2023 Strategic Plan and the strengthening of protection mechanisms for the rights of women in the States Parties.

The Committee adopted several key agreements to advance the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. The agenda and organization of the meeting's work were approved, with some adjustments proposed by the Presidency. Among the topics discussed, Recommendation No. 6 on gender stereotypes, which affect the integrity of justice systems, was highlighted. A 30-day period was established to receive comments from the experts regarding this matter. Additionally, the Committee addressed the Coordinated Audit on Gender-Based Violence, a report that examines state responses in the prevention, protection, and reparation of women victims of violence and corruption. In this regard, the Technical Secretariat was asked to strengthen collaborative relationships to jointly address these issues.

The Annual Activity Report of the Presidency was approved, highlighting the achievements made during the year. The Committee's new website was presented, and activism campaigns conducted during the 16 Days of Activism were recognized, focusing on issues such as child marriage and violence against women with disabilities. Additionally, the progress of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round was reviewed, emphasizing both the progress made and areas requiring further attention. The Committee also discussed Recommendation No. 5 on violence against Afro-descendant women, and a 30-day period was agreed upon to receive additional comments from the experts.

The Committee approved the creation of an Inter-American Model Law to prevent and punish violence against women facilitated by technology and urged progress on its implementation. The Guidelines for technical assistance visits to the States Parties were also approved, aiming to strengthen support and follow-up on the commitments made by the countries. Furthermore, changes to the Committee of Experts' Regulation were approved ad referendum, as requested by the experts and already notified to the States Parties.

The Committee also issued important publications, such as the Guide for Strategic Litigation of Gender-Based Violence Cases in public and political life and an updated report on human rights protection standards. These tools are essential to strengthening the capacities of civil society and governments in the prevention and response to violence.

Finally, the Committee reiterated the importance of States Parties fulfilling their financial obligations to MESECVI, reminding them that the sustainability of the mechanism is crucial to continue advancing in the effective implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. Despite significant progress, the Committee highlighted that challenges remain related to the allocation of resources and the implementation of public policies to guarantee a life free from violence for all women and girls in the region.

An extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Experts of MESECVI was held on Friday, May 10, 2024, with the purpose of addressing concerns regarding the lack of participation of the Experts in the CEP, which aimed to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention, and to consider concrete actions the Committee could take in response to this situation. As a result, 9 experts participated in the commemoration.

Similarly, on September 12, 2024, an Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee of Experts was convened to review the guidelines for issuing the Committee's statements. Various issues were discussed, and it was agreed to address them during the next regular meeting

Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Follow-up Mechanism of the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI)

During the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Follow-up Mechanism of the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), held on June 11 and 12, 2024, in Santiago, Chile, the States Parties analyzed the progress and challenges in the implementation of the Convention. This event, which commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Convention and the 20th anniversary of its Follow-Up Mechanism, served as a space to reaffirm commitments, set new goals, and consolidate strategies to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women.

One of the most notable agreements was the request to the MESECVI Technical Secretariat to continue addressing violence against women from an intersectional and inclusive perspective. The conference emphasized the need to tackle factors that increase vulnerability, such as ethnicity, race, migration status, sexual orientation, refugee or displaced status, disability, and the impacts of armed conflicts and organized crime. This approach acknowledges the diversity of realities in the region and the importance of ensuring the full application of the Convention in varied contexts.

The conference also addressed the emerging challenge of technology-facilitated gender-based violence. In this context, the States Parties urged the Technical Secretariat to continue promoting the development of a Comprehensive Model Law to prevent, punish, and eradicate this form of violence, establishing regional regulatory frameworks. This effort seeks to protect women and girls from new threats in the digital sphere, a topic that has gained importance in recent years.

The importance of various reports and recommendations presented during the conference was also highlighted. Among them, the Subregional Report on Access to Justice, Truth, and Reparations for Women in Latin America, which underscores the progress and gaps in the region in ensuring these rights. The main findings of the Subregional Report on Legislative Advances in the Caribbean and General Recommendation No. 5 of the CEVI, which addresses gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women and emphasizes the need to combat structural racism and intersectional discrimination, were also discussed.

In the normative sphere, significant strategic documents were approved to guide MESECVI's actions in the coming years. Among them, the approval of the MESECVI Strategic Plan 2024-2029 stands out, which establishes priorities such as strengthening the institutional framework of the Mechanism, promoting technical training for States Parties, and advancing inclusive public policies to eradicate gender-based violence. Likewise, the Declaration on

Accelerating Strategies for the Implementation of the Convention was approved, identifying key measures to progress toward the elimination of violence against women.

Other agreements included the amendment of the Rules of Procedure for the Conference of States Parties to optimize its functioning and the promotion of regular dialogues between the National Competent Authorities and the Committee of Experts (CEVI). These spaces foster constructive exchanges on experiences, obstacles, and progress in the implementation of the Convention, strengthening collaboration among the States Parties.

The participation of civil society was another central theme of the conference. The commitment to actively foster the inclusion of organizations and movements led by women, as well as other social actors, in MESECVI's activities was reaffirmed. This approach recognizes the fundamental role of civil society in promoting and defending women's rights and identifying local and regional challenges.

An innovative aspect of the agreements was the incorporation of gender-responsive climate change adaptation measures. The States Parties highlighted the need to establish a focal point to coordinate the mainstreaming of gender into issues related to violence and environmental impact, acknowledging how climate change exacerbates gender inequalities.

In terms of institutional strengthening, the States Parties were urged to appoint principal and alternate experts, in accordance with the rules established in the Mechanism's Statute. Additionally, the Government of Chile was thanked for its hospitality as the host of the conference. The invitations from Brazil to host the Tenth Ordinary Conference of States Parties in 2025, in Belém do Pará, and from the Dominican Republic to host the Eleventh Conference in 2027, were accepted.

The Ninth Conference reaffirmed the collective commitment of the States Parties to the effective implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention and solidified MESECVI as a leading mechanism in promoting the human rights of women in the region. The agreements reached reflect a strategic vision to address current and emerging challenges, ensuring that the Mechanism's actions remain relevant and effective in the fight against gender-based violence.

54th General Assembly of the OAS

During the 54th General Assembly held in June 2024 in Asunción, Paraguay, Resolution AG/RES. 3028 (LIV-O/24) was approved, which agreed to:

1. To reiterate the commitment of the States Parties to the work of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI) and its purposes, and to urge the Mechanism to generate, within available resources and pursuant to the competencies of the bodies comprising it, relevant data and information disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, sex, age, and other important categories on the extent and impact of the multiple forms of sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination from an intersectional perspective, in

order to achieve gender equality and full access and enjoyment of human rights for all women, adolescents, and girls in all their diversity.

2. To urge the MESECVI to analyze implementation of the recommendations of the –Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round and to continue encouraging the participation of the states parties in the Fifth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI, with a view to providing data and information pertaining to the indicators transmitted by the Committee of Experts.

3. To recommend that the MESECVI conduct, within available resources, a review of up-to-date data and develop a strategy to prevent, eradicate and punish gender-based violence, including but not limited to physical, psychological, sexual, economic, property-related and cyber violence; trafficking of women and girls, symbolic violence, and child and adolescent pregnancy, child abuse, as well as to prevent child, early or forced marriages and unions; and access to justice for women and girls.

4. To recommend that the MESECVI continue pursuing actions to address the agreement adopted at the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI-VIII/doc.134/20 rev. 2), whereby the Technical Secretariat was requested to foster measures and mechanisms for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the legal, cultural, political, social and institutional spheres, in order to ensure the right to a life free from all forms of violence and discrimination, throughout their life cycle.

5. To request from the Executive Secretariat of the CIM, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI, subject to available resources, a report to be presented in the month of November that details the status of the MESECVI, and that explains the tasks carried out during the year to promote the fight against gender-based violence, as well as the allocation of resources to comply with the annual planning of said Technical Secretariat.

6. Urge States Parties, Member States that have not yet ratified the Convention, permanent observer States and other donors to make voluntary contributions to the specific fund dedicated to financing the activities of the MESECVI, including offering to organize and host the meetings of its bodies.

Designation of Experts for the 2024 Period

During this year, we registered the departure of six experts from the Committee: Argentina: Susana Chiarotti, Colombia: Angela Margarita Rey Anaya, Paraguay: Pilar Callizo, Dominican Republic: Cristina Altagracia Sánchez Martínez, Peru: Marcela Huaita Alegre, Panama: Aracelly De León De Bernal. We thank them for all their contributions and wish them the very best.

Likewise, we extend a warm welcome to the Experts Ana Belén Marmora, appointed by Argentina; Adriana Benjumea, appointed by Colombia; María Angélica Cano Redil, appointed by Paraguay; Yildalina Tatem, appointed by the Dominican Republic; Haydee Méndez, appointed by Panama; and Ana María Mendieta Trefogli, appointed by Peru.

Publications

Guidelines for the Development of an Interinstitutional, Intersectoral, and Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Protection of Migrant, Displaced, and Refugee Women, Victims, and Survivors of Sexual Violence:

As part of strengthening human rights and gender equality, a technical report was developed in Spanish, aimed at creating an inter-institutional, inter-sectoral, and multidisciplinary action protocol in Panama. Published in 2024 on the Belém do Pará website, this document is the result of coordinated work with the OAS Department of Public Security and funding from the United Kingdom.

The protocol addresses the increase in irregular migration in the region and its severe social and humanitarian consequences, particularly for women and girls, such as sexual violence, trafficking, and exploitation. Its main goal is to protect migrant, displaced, and refugee women, ensuring their access to justice and the protection of their fundamental rights.

It includes strategic guidelines to coordinate efforts in the areas of health, justice, and security, promoting comprehensive care from a gender and human rights perspective. It also prioritizes the protection of victims' personal information and rejects the criminalization of irregular migration, treating it as an administrative offense rather than a criminal one.

This work represents a significant advance in addressing the challenges associated with irregular migration, reinforcing Panama's commitment to the eradication of gender-based violence in migratory contexts.

National Study on Shelters for Women Victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence – Saint Lucia:

The document, published in English, is a national study that examines the operation and provision of shelters for women victims of sexual and gender-based violence in Saint Lucia. It was developed under the previous project, in collaboration with the OAS Department of Public Security (DPS), and with support from the UK government.

The report highlights the importance of shelters as safe spaces for women and children in high-risk situations due to domestic and intimate violence. It analyzes the legal frameworks, institutional capacities, coverage, budget, and evaluation mechanisms related to these spaces in Saint Lucia. Field visits and meetings with key stakeholders were conducted in March 2024, including a visit to the country's only shelter, the Women's Support Centre (WSC).

Significant challenges were identified, such as inadequate infrastructure, limited budget, and insufficient capacity to meet the growing demand. At the time of the visit, the shelter was temporarily closed for urgent repairs.

Among the good practices identified in Saint Lucia, the following stand out: gender-based violence referral routes, confidential reporting mechanisms, support for women refugees for their socio-economic reintegration, and the collection of data for case monitoring. However,

the study emphasizes the need to improve inter-institutional coordination, increase funding, and develop more robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The report concludes with a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening institutional capacities and improving services for women survivors of violence. It also underscores the importance of ensuring adequate infrastructure, increasing security for shelter staff, and providing continued support to women after their stay in shelters.

General Recommendation of the Committee of Expert of the MESECVI (n°5): Gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women. (MESECVI, 2024)

General Recommendation No. 5 of the Committee of Experts on gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women was presented through a strategic communication campaign developed in collaboration with UNFPA and the Network of Afro-Latin, Afro-Caribbean, and Diaspora Women. This campaign included the publication of graphic materials on social media, mass distribution of the recommendation to key stakeholders, a launch webinar, and the dissemination of articles in media outlets, aiming to promote its implementation and raise awareness about this issue.

The document addresses the multiple vulnerabilities faced by Afro-descendant women, arising from the intersection of their gender, race, and socio-economic status, which expose them to various forms of violence and structural barriers to accessing basic rights such as health, education, and justice. In this context, States Parties are urged to adopt specific measures, such as care protocols, training in key sectors, and awareness campaigns to combat racial and gender stereotypes.

The dissemination of this recommendation seeks to strengthen state commitments to generating evidence-based public policies, highlighting the need to collect disaggregated data by gender and race. These actions are crucial to ensure effective responses to gender-based violence and contribute to the protection of Afro-descendant women's rights in the region.

EDVAW Platform:

CEDAW and MESECVI jointly assumed the co-presidency of the Independent Expert Platform on the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW) in January 2024. Since then, four key meetings have been held on January 18, March 13, July 18, and October 28, aimed at advancing the strategic goals of the platform. Under this co-presidency, a simultaneous leadership model was implemented to ensure equitable representation between a global mechanism and a regional one, promoting effective collaboration and strengthening the capacity of the participating mechanisms. This approach has enabled the design and execution of an annual work plan for the 2024-2025 period, focusing on strengthening the platform, increasing its visibility, and consolidating joint advocacy on critical gender issues.

Within the framework of these meetings, important decisions have been made that have contributed to raising the profile of EDVAW internationally. Notably, joint statements were issued on key dates such as March 8 (International Women's Day), addressing issues like poverty, inequality, and gender-based violence. Additionally, work has been done on a statement for November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), focusing on the effects of armed conflict on women and girls. Another major achievement has been the development of the platform's Internal Rules of Procedure, a document aimed at formalizing essential processes such as internal communication, decision-making, and financing strategies. This effort also included the creation of a position paper on Beijing+30, aimed at assessing progress and setbacks in gender equality over the past three decades, which is expected to be formally adopted in 2025.

While the co-presidency has made significant progress, challenges remain, such as the need to secure sustainable funding for the platform's activities and to ensure the inclusion of underrepresented mechanisms in its decisions. Despite these challenges, the four meetings held this year, including the one on October 28, have solidified EDVAW as a strategic space to coordinate global and regional efforts in the fight against discrimination and gender-based violence. The co-presidency of CEDAW and MESECVI has proven to be a successful model of shared leadership, capable of advancing a common agenda for gender equality and the protection of women's rights worldwide.

Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the Belém do Pará Convention

In the framework of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI Committee of Experts, various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean continue to make progress in finalizing the Indicator System. In Latin America, the Dominican Republic is still working on the full implementation of this system, with the aim of fulfilling the commitments set out in the Belém do Pará Convention.

In the Caribbean, the evaluation process was relaunched in August 2024, with an invitation to the States Parties in the region to participate in workshops on monitoring the implementation of the Convention and the Indicator System. This relaunch has been crucial for engaging Caribbean countries that still need to make progress in registering and implementing the indicators. To date, Trinidad and Tobago is the only Caribbean country that has fully completed and responded satisfactorily to the indicators.

However, several Caribbean countries still need to complete the registration of the indicators on the platform, including Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Haiti, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These countries are in the process of registering the necessary data for evaluating their implementation of the Convention.

On the other hand, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis have requested an extension to complete their indicator registration. Along with Suriname, these countries are in the process of responding to the pending indicators.

Finally, it is worth noting that Nicaragua and Venezuela did not participate in this Evaluation Round, preventing their progress in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention from being assessed in the context of this process. The absence of these countries limits the scope of the regional evaluation, highlighting the importance of the active participation of all States Parties in monitoring and implementing the Convention.

Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence Against Women

The MESECVI initiated regional consultations on the Model Law project to eradicate violence against women facilitated by technologies, with the support of the Republic of Italy. These consultations included meetings in Argentina, Colombia, and Panama, with the participation of over 150 specialists from various disciplines, such as human rights, cybersecurity, and gender. Held between November 19 and 26, 2024, these consultations allowed representatives from all three branches of government, civil society organizations, academics, and international organizations to contribute to the development of this legal initiative.

The process began in Buenos Aires, where meetings were organized in collaboration with the University of Buenos Aires, the Regional Alliance for Free Expression, Amnesty International, and other entities. Additionally, the project was presented in the National Chamber of Deputies and before key institutions in the Buenos Aires and Santa Fe provinces. In Colombia, the consultations included a meeting with prosecutors from 17 countries of the Gender Network (REG) of the Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries (AIAMP) in Cartagena, and a session in Bogotá in collaboration with the Externado University. In Panama, the project was presented during the event "Building Safe, Inclusive, and Violence-Free Digital Spaces," organized in partnership with Parlaméricas and the Ministry of Women of Panama.

These meetings were supported by experts from the MESECVI Committee of Experts (CEVI) and involved the participation of Equality Now and UN Women. The consultation process will continue in other regions such as the English-speaking Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago/Jamaica), North America (Mexico), Central America (Guatemala), and Latin America (Brazil), as part of the 30th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention.

Technical Assistance

In the Caribbean region, MESECVI carried out two missions to Saint Lucia and Panama in February and March 2024, as part of the project "Guidelines for the Development of a Protocol for the Protection of Migrant, Displaced, and Refugee Women Facing Violence and

Sexual Exploitation." This project, funded by the United Kingdom and implemented in collaboration with the OAS/DPS, aimed to develop an interinstitutional, intersectoral, and multidisciplinary tool to ensure access to justice and the protection of these women's rights.

In Saint Lucia, the missions included participatory workshops and consultations with local and international stakeholders, as well as a visit to the Women's Support Centre (WSC), the only shelter in the country for women victims of gender-based violence. Despite facing challenges such as inadequate infrastructure and temporary closure for repairs, practices such as referral pathways for gender-based violence cases and mechanisms for confidential victim assistance were highlighted. These efforts contributed to strengthening national and interinstitutional strategies for the protection of women in situations of high vulnerability.

In Panama, activities focused on the development of a protocol targeting migrant, displaced, and refugee women facing elevated risks, particularly during their transit through the Darién Gap, one of the most dangerous migration routes in the region. During the missions, workshops and consultations were held to identify critical needs and consolidate strategic guidelines to strengthen institutional coordination in areas such as health, justice, and security. Outcomes included advances in raising awareness among key stakeholders and the design of comprehensive care measures that ensure a gender and human rights-based approach. An indicators workshop was also held with officials responsible for providing information, which strengthened their response to MESECVI.

These missions in Saint Lucia and Panama consolidated a regional strategy to address gender-based violence in migration contexts, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive and sustained approach to guarantee the protection of migrant, displaced, and refugee women, as well as their effective access to justice.

On February 16, an Indicators Workshop was held with authorities from Honduras, which facilitated the country's completion of its response in a timely and appropriate manner. On February 20, the Secretariat participated in the Global Online Symposium on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TF GBV), co-organized by UNFPA and the Online Safety Commissioner. On February 21, it was invited to participate in the "Launch of the TikTok Guide for Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers."

Within the framework of the CSW, on March 12, the General Recommendation on Consent was presented during the parallel event organized with Equality Now and UNFPA on "Sexual Violence: Strengthening Institutions to Eliminate Barriers to Access to Justice for Women and Girls with Disabilities."

On April 16, the Secretariat participated in a "Conversation on the Latin American Context of Violence Against Women" organized by the Regional Feminist Articulation, which includes seven organizations: ELA from Argentina, Demus from Peru, Equis from Mexico, La Coordinadora de la Mujer from Bolivia, Humanas Ecuador, Humanas Chile, and Humanas Colombia.

On May 15, an Indicators Workshop was held for the Dominican Republic, which is currently in the process of finalizing its response. On May 29, MESECVI was invited to participate in training on the prevention and response to gender-based violence at the local level, as part of an International Seminar in Bolivia.

On June 26, the Secretariat participated in a conference with the Supreme Audit Institution of Mexico.

On July 2, the work of the Committee was presented during the event "Addressing Child, Early, and Forced Marriages and Unions (CEFMU) Through Normative Frameworks and Comprehensive Policies." On July 3, the Secretariat participated in the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Secretariat also participated in meetings of the High-Level Multisectoral Commission (CMAN) in Peru and the event "ParlAmericas Beyond Borders: Regional Security Strategies for the 21st Century."

On August 28, in compliance with the objectives of the Fourth Round related to access to justice, MESECVI participated in the Virtual Panel in Costa Rica: "Guide for the Preparation of Reports from the Judiciary to International Organizations." It also participated in the synchronous session of the Advanced Diploma on Measuring Gender-Based Violence and Femicide/Feminicide and delivered a virtual intervention during the event "Human Rights Standards in the Investigation of Cases of Missing Women, Adolescents, and Girls and Femicide."

On September 19, the Secretariat collaborated in the Gender Justice Commission Event in Peru. On September 25, it was invited to the Launch Event of the ACT Program to End Violence Against Women, representing the presidency of the EDVAW Platform. On the same date, the Secretariat participated in the event "Promising Practices for Preventing Online Violence Against Women in Public and Political Life," and on September 26, it attended the event "Gender Links: Second Meeting of the Inter-American Gender Network."

Additionally, on September 27, 2024, with the objective of relaunching the Fourth Round, authorities and experts from eight Anglophone Caribbean countries were invited to a virtual meeting to support their efforts in participating in the Fourth Evaluation Round. During this meeting, several countries expressed interest in conducting training workshops for officials on the indicator system.

As a result, in October, three workshops were held with the participation of over 30 officials from countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Following these workshops and the provision of access credentials to participating States, authorities have three months to complete the corresponding report. They also have the option to request a two-month extension if necessary. This process reinforces efforts to ensure the correct implementation of the Fourth Evaluation Round and that States have the necessary tools to report and monitor gender-based violence indicators.

In October, the Secretariat presented MESECVI's work at the event "Sexual Violence and Femicide: Continuities and Impunity—A Global Scourge," held in Matera, Italy. It also presented its work with Spotlight on "Transformative Reparations for Human Rights Violations Against Women" during an online event organized by ORMUSA. On November 15, it participated in the event "Shaping the Future of Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the Americas."

On December 4-5, the Secretariat was invited to the Sixty-Sixth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Meeting with Feminist and Women's Organizations within the framework of the ACT Program to End Violence Against Women, in Chile.

Academic Seminars and Continuing Education:

In collaboration with various institutions and human rights experts, the specialized course *"Human Rights Standards in the Investigation of Cases of Missing Women, Adolescents, and Girls, and Femicide"* was conducted. The course aimed to provide staff from public prosecutor offices, search commissions, police, and other authorities with conceptual, methodological, and practical tools to apply international and national standards that ensure the human right of women to live free from violence.

Through five modules and interactive workshops held between August 22 and October 11, topics such as gender perspective, structural violence, and due diligence in investigating femicide and disappearance cases were addressed. The sessions emphasized the importance of mechanisms such as the Alba Protocol, context analysis, and evidence assessment in gender-based violence cases. Additionally, the course promoted the awareness and participation of victims' families in the search and adjudication processes.

Furthermore, the CEVI and the Technical Secretariat participated in the *"Follow-up Articulation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence Against Women (Belém do Pará Convention)"*, as part of the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of this important international instrument. This event, held in five pedagogical sessions combining virtual and in-person formats, strengthened the commitment of various stakeholders to the eradication of gender-based violence and promoted the implementation of effective measures to protect the rights of women in the region.

During the sessions, the active participation of experts and leaders of civil society organizations was key to influencing multilateral policies and advancing towards a violence-free future, consolidating the impact of the Convention as an essential tool in the defense of women's human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Finally, the MESECVI Technical Secretariat played a prominent role in the fourth edition of the international course *"Human Right of Women to a Life Free from Violence 'Rosa María Álvarez González'"*, held between August and October 2024. This program, organized in collaboration with various institutions, aimed to strengthen participants'

knowledge and capabilities in applying international standards for the protection of women's human rights and the eradication of gender-based violence.

COMMUNICATIONS

Statements from the MESECVI Committee of Experts

Article 3, section 1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts establishes that one of the functions of the Committee is to make recommendations, when deemed appropriate, to the States Parties to adopt the necessary measures in favor of women's human rights, when specific situations warrant a special statement.

During 2024, 15 press releases approved by the Committee of Experts were disseminated:

1. The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention to Co-Chair the EDVAW Platform in 2024 (January 18)
2. Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence against Migrant Women: OAS/CIM/MESECVI Delegation Visits Panama to Strengthen Capacities for Action and Regional Cooperation (February 9)
3. Committee of Experts Expresses Concerns about Setbacks in Women's Institutional Framework in Argentina (February 22)
4. Committee of Experts of the MESECVI expresses concern about the possible closure of the judicial entity responsible for strengthening access to justice for women victims of violence in Guatemala (February 28)
5. Joint Statement with the EDVAW Platform: International Women's Day 2024 – Awareness and Action on Poverty, Inequality and Gender-Based Violence against Women (March 8)
6. Committee of Experts expresses concern about the treatment of the case of sexual assault against a 4-year-old girl by the Judicial Power of the State of Mexico (March 27).
7. Committee of Experts of MESECVI and IACHR Rapporteur on the Rights of Women condemn attack on Human Rights Defender in Argentina and express concern about guarantees of protection for women (April 10).
8. Committee of Experts of the MESECVI expresses concern over regressive proposals to modify the Law on violence against women in Uruguay (May 9)
9. IX Conference of States Parties: Latin American and Caribbean States Agree to Accelerate Efforts, Strengthen Mechanisms, and Increase Budgets to Eradicate Violence Against Women (June 24)
10. Amid Concerns About Katty Hurtado's Case in Chile, the Committee of Experts of MESECVI Calls for Her Prompt Release (July 4)

11. Gender-based Violence, Structural Racism, and Racial Discrimination: New General Recommendation from the MESECVI Addresses Specific Violence Against Afro-Descendant Women and Proposes Resources for Its Elimination (July 29)
12. Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Rejects the Closure of Institutions and Policies for the Protection of Women in Argentina (August 22)
13. Committee of Experts urges Chilean authorities to continue collaborating with the investigation into rape allegation against the former Undersecretary of the Interior (November 13)
14. The Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform) Express Deep Concern Over Escalating Violence Against Women in Conflicts exacerbated by weapons (November 25)
15. MESECVI Launches Regional Consultations on the Model Law to Combat Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women in Argentina, Colombia, and Panama (December 2)

These statements can be found on the MESECVI website. Regarding the content of the statements, concerns are raised about setbacks in women's rights and cases of violence. These include regressive legislative reforms, sexual assaults, femicides, and political violence. The Committee also calls for strengthening justice and eradicating gender-based violence in the region.

Communication Campaigns

In 2024, MESECVI implemented various communication campaigns aimed at promoting its products, increasing its presence on social media, and strengthening the dissemination of women's rights in compliance with the Belém do Pará Convention. Below are the main initiatives carried out:

Promotion of the Products of the Committee of Experts

Throughout the year, actions were carried out on social media to promote the products of the Committee of Experts, which include thematic reports, General Recommendations, Political Declarations, and Model Laws. These activities included the creation and publication of posters and graphic materials, with the support of a graphic designer working closely with the Technical Secretariat team.

Campaign for the Dissemination of the Regional Declaration

The campaign for the dissemination of the Regional Declaration on the Eradication of Gender Stereotypes in Public Spaces that Lead to Symbolic and Political Violence against Women on Gender Grounds included the publication of 11 posters in Spanish, English, and Portuguese on social media. Additionally, the Declaration was distributed through mass messaging to MESECVI's contact lists in all three languages.

Project: Prevention of Sexual Violence against Migrant Women and Girls

This project, implemented in Panama and Saint Lucia with funding from the United Kingdom, included the following actions:

- Publication of posters on social media.
- Dissemination of 2 thematic reports.
- Preparation of 2 press releases.
- Production of 4 television segments, 1 radio interview, and more than 20 articles in the media.

Launch of the Instagram Account @mesecvi_oea

In April 2024, MESECVI launched its official Instagram account, expanding its presence on social media and reaching new audiences. The Mechanism currently has an active presence on X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Facebook.

30th Anniversary Campaign of the Belém do Pará Convention

With the support of the Republic of Italy, a special graphic line was developed for the anniversary, which included commemorative illustrations and a toolkit of promotional materials. These materials were shared with the States Parties, the Committee of Experts, civil society organizations, and international organizations, achieving wide distribution through the networks of strategic allies. Additionally, at least 8 articles were published in regional and national media (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay). During the States Parties Conference in Santiago, Chile, and at the consultations in Colombia, anniversary promotional materials were distributed.

Launch of General Recommendation No. 5

In partnership with UNFPA and the Network of Afro-Latin, Afro-Caribbean, and Diaspora Women, a communication campaign was conducted for the launch of General Recommendation No. 5, which addresses gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women. The actions included:

- Publication of posters on the social media accounts of the three organizations.
- Mass messaging of the recommendation.
- Participation in a launch webinar.
- Publication of articles in the media.

Campaign for November 25 and 16 Days of Activism

In collaboration with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and with the support of the Republic of Italy, joint materials were developed for a campaign disseminated on social media. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the fight against gender-based violence in the context of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Fourth Evaluation Round

The reports from the Fourth Evaluation Round were published on the MESECVI website, providing access to key information on the progress of the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention by the States Parties.

Media Impact

Throughout 2024, media outlets from various countries published articles, interviews, and columns created by CEVI Experts or related to MESECVI products. Some of the notable media outlets include:

El País (Spain); La Diaria (Uruguay); El Espectador and El Tiempo (Colombia); La Tercera and CNN Chile (Chile); Página 12 (Argentina); La Estrella (Panama); HTS News4orce TV and DBS TV (Saint Lucia); DW en Español (Germany, regional).

Distribution of Statements

Throughout the year, a total of 15 statements were issued in various countries:

Country/ Activity	Number of Statements
Argentina	3
Chile	2
Guatemala	1
México	1
Uruguay	1
EDVAW Platform	3
Activities and Launches of the Mechanism	4

ACTIVITIES OF THE EXPERTS AND THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

The CEVI Experts participated in the following activities:

During the reporting period, the CEVI experts actively engaged in various activities aimed at preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women, as well as promoting gender equality in the region.

Gloria Camacho, President of CEVI and representative of Ecuador, had a prominent agenda. On December 1, she participated in the inauguration of the regional event “Towards a Comprehensive Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Gender-Based Violence Against Women Facilitated by Technology,” which included participation from civil society and experts. On December 13, she was present in Quito at the National Assembly for the

“Presentation of the Proposed Regulatory Reform to Achieve Gender Parity Among Women Authorities in Ecuador's Courts of Justice.”

In 2024, Gloria Camacho continued her active involvement: on February 22, she took part in a dialogue organized by the Advisory Council of Women of Ecuador, and in March, she stood out at events of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), where she addressed violence against women with disabilities and presented a report to the Secretary-General. On March 6, she participated in the OAS Permanent Council on new forms of violence, marking 30 years since the adoption of the Belém do Pará Convention. In June, she also contributed to the launch of General Recommendation No. 5 on gender-based violence against Afro-descendant women. During the second half of the year, she took part in notable events such as UNICEF’s “Primero la Infancia” in Quito, the International Day of the Girl webinar, and the regional consultation on the Model Law against technology-facilitated violence held in Bogotá, alongside Lourdes Montero and Ana María Mendieta.

Leila Linhares Barsted, representative of Brazil, began her agenda in April 2024 at the Seminar on Sexual Feminicidal Violence in São Paulo, organized by CLADEM Brazil. On July 24, she participated in the launch of General Recommendation No. 5, and on October 3, she took part in the regional seminar “International Standards for the Protection of Human Rights.”

From Chile, Mónica Maureira carried out an intense agenda in 2024, addressing issues related to gender, violence, and human rights. She participated in significant events such as the National Meeting of SernamEG and the Regional Dialogue on the 30th Anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention, as well as international forums in Lima and Buenos Aires on digital violence and laws against workplace sexual harassment. She also moderated panels, presented at key meetings, and held discussions to address the concerning issue of missing women in Chile.

In the field of communications, she maintained an active presence in media outlets such as CNN Radio, *La Otra Diaria*, and *El Tiempo* (Argentina and Colombia), where she shared her insights on women’s rights. She published opinion pieces, including “Belém do Pará: A Convention that Challenges States,” and participated in regional ILO workshops and forums on gender and inclusion. Her work combined public advocacy with proposals to prevent violence and promote equality.

María Angélica Cano, from Paraguay, focused her efforts on activities related to political violence and the promotion of women's rights. In February 2024, she issued formal communications to Paraguayan authorities denouncing cases of political violence. In June, she contributed to studies on care systems, publishing articles on the value of care work. In November, she participated in the National Congress of Women Leaders in Law and the Workshop on Women’s Political Participation, organized by the OAS.

Vice President Teresa Incháustegui had a prominent role in 2024, representing the Committee and addressing key issues on women's rights and gender-based violence. In January, she gave an interview to Agencia EFE regarding the Colombian Constitutional Court's decision on Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS). In June, she engaged in a dialogue with *La Diaria* of Uruguay on the 30th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention. In July, she presented MESECVI's General Recommendation No. 5 on violence against Afro-descendant women and participated in the commemoration of International Afro-descendant Women's Day, organized in collaboration with UNFPA. In August, she was a speaker in a UNFPA course on youth, and in September and October, she participated in a course on international standards for women's right to a life free from violence. In November, she presented General Recommendation No. 5 at events held in Jamaica, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

Elaine Sands, an expert from The Bahamas, participated in key committees such as the Health System Strengthening Committee for Gender-Based Violence and attended international events, including the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Women's Affairs and CSW68 at the United Nations. Additionally, she coordinated a campaign for the 30th Anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention, led the "Stop The Violence" march in New Providence, and took part in interviews on the national broadcaster ZNS to address violence against women and girls.

During 2024, expert Bárbara Bailey published *Critical Caribbean Perspectives on Preventing GBV against Caribbean Women: Femicide – a Major Gap in the Legislative Framework* with Routledge, an in-depth analysis of femicide and legislative gaps in the Caribbean. She also authored the foreword for *Gender-based Violence in the Global South: Ideologies, Resistances, Responses and Transformation*, reaffirming her intellectual leadership on issues of gender and violence.

Finally, in June, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention, the Committee's experts were invited to participate in the IX Conference of States Parties held in Santiago, Chile. The leadership team, composed of Gloria Camacho, Sherna Alexander, and Teresa Incháustegui, had the opportunity to speak at various moments during the commemoration. Additionally, experts Mónica Maureira, Teresa Incháustegui, Elaine Sands, Leila Linhares Barsted, Beatriz Schulthess, Bárbara Bailey, Aracelly de León, María Angélica Cano, and Yildalina Tatem Brache also participated.

Throughout the year, the activities of the experts solidified their roles as key figures in the fight to eradicate gender-based violence and promote women's rights in the region. Their efforts drove concrete initiatives and created spaces for reflection and action.

OTHER PROJECTS

Project "Contributing to the Prevention of Sexual Violence against Migrant Women and Girls in the Americas"

This project was implemented by the Organization of American States (OAS), through the Department of Public Security (DPS), the MESECVI (Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention), and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), with financial support from the United Kingdom. Developed between January and March 2024, the main objective of the project was to strengthen legal frameworks and public policies in countries like Panama and Saint Lucia to prevent sexual exploitation and violence against migrant women and girls.

The project arose following a bilateral meeting in February 2023 between the OAS Secretary General and the UK's Minister for the Americas and the Caribbean, where the urgent need to address sexual violence faced by women and girls during their migration journey was recognized. This issue is exacerbated by the presence of transnational human trafficking networks and criminal organizations, as well as the lack of resources and tools in receiving countries to protect victims.

During its implementation, the project included field visits, thorough research, and data collection in collaboration with government authorities in the selected countries. As a result, four reports and two compendiums were produced, offering practical tools for government agencies, judicial operators, civil society organizations, and international organizations. Additionally, workshops and training sessions were organized, benefiting over 100 public officials, and more than 150 people participated in activities related to the project.

Among the key impacts, the project succeeded in raising awareness among authorities and strengthening their capacity to implement the Belém do Pará Convention, as well as generating regional interest in replicating this initiative in other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, it opened the possibility of developing regional guidelines to address common challenges, improving the network of shelters for victims of gender-based violence, and facilitating the exchange of best practices between states.

This project represents a significant step toward building stronger legal and institutional frameworks that guarantee the protection of the rights of migrant women and girls, promoting a comprehensive approach based on gender, human rights, and security. Through these actions, the goal is to advance the prevention of sexual violence and the protection of victims in complex migratory contexts.

FUNDING OF THE MESECVI

MESECVI Funding Sources

The fund created for MESECVI received contributions in 2024 from Italy, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

ANNEX I

HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MESECVI 2013- 2024

Contribuciones MESECVI		
Año	Donante	Total (USD \$)
2013	Argentina	15.000,00
	Francia	2.091,89
	México	29.453,11
	Nicaragua	5.000,00
	Suriname	2.000,00
	Trinidad y Tobago	15.000,00
2013 Total		68.545,00
2014	Argentina	15.000,00
	México	34.529,59
	Nicaragua	6.000,00
2014 Total		55.529,59
2015	México	29.717,87
	Nicaragua	6.000,00
2015 Total		35.717,87
2016	México	30.253,85
	Trinidad y Tobago	15.000,00
2016 Total		45.253,85
2017	Panamá	78.159,80
	México	25.013,89
2017 Total		103.173,69
2018	Trinidad y Tobago	30.000,00
	México	20.973,26
	Argentina	10.000,00
	Nicaragua	5.000,00
	Panamá	6.100,00
2018 Total		72.073,26
2019	Panamá	38.000,00
	Panamá	7.000,00
	Trinidad y Tobago	15.000,00
	México	19.589,32
	Nicaragua	3.000,00
	México	77.103,77
2019 Total		159.693,09
2020	Trinidad y Tobago	15.000,00
	UN Women	98.386,00
2020 Total		113.386,00
2021	México	25.164,19
	Trinidad y Tobago	15.000,00
	UN Women	155.164,84
	PADF	3.000,00
	PNUD	30.000,00
2021 Total		228.329,03
2022	México - Reunión	64.419,57

	México - Recurrente anual	20.000,00
	UN Women	40.000,00
	Trinidad y Tobago	15.000,00
	Liechtenstein	31.563,34
2022 Total		170.982,91
2023	Chile	5.147,01
	República Dominicana	9.975,00
	Italia	54.717,00
	México	57.763,40
	UNDP	45.000,00
	Trinidad y Tobago	15.000,00
2023 Total		187.602,41
2024	Italia	134.230,00
	República Dominicana	9.975,00
	México	29.404,50
2024 Total		173.609,50
Grand Total		1.413.896,20

ANNEX II

States Pending Appointment or Official Notification of Expert as of November 2024

COUNTRY	ESTATUS
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
BARBADOS	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
BELIZE	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
DOMINICA	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
EL SALVADOR	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
GRENADA	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
GUYANA	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
HAITI	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
HONDURAS	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)

NICARAGUA	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
PANAMÁ	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
URUGUAY	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)
VENEZUELA	Pending appointment of Experts (P and A)