



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE  
BELEM DO PARA CONVENTION (MESECVI)  
**EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTY**  
December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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**AGREEMENTS OF THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTY 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” (MESECVI)<sup>1</sup>**

The States Parties to the *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará”*, meeting virtually at the Eighth Conference of States Parties to the MESECVI on December 11, 2020;

RECALLING that in order to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention, the First Conference of State Party was held on October 26, 2004 at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), where the “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, “Belém do Pará Convention” was adopted (MESECVI);

REITERATING the importance of the MESECVI as a tool that contributes to the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention, respecting the diversity of the countries of the region;

REAFFIRMING the need to foster mechanisms for cooperation and the exchange of information and best practices among the State Party to the Convention, especially between Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as with States that are not party to the Convention, with Permanent Observers to the OAS and other entities that address the issue of gender-based violence against girls, adolescents and women at the sub-regional, regional and international levels;

REITERATING the importance of dialogue between the Competent National Authorities and the CEVI to exchange experiences on progress and obstacles in matters relating to the strengthening, implementation, and dissemination of the *Belém do Pará Convention* and the institutional framework of

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<sup>1</sup> Pending approval by the delegation of Barbados.

both bodies, with the aim of strengthening the MESECVI and positioning it as a regional and universal benchmark<sup>2</sup>

TAKING NOTE of the current context in the region and the impacts caused by the pandemic, especially on women, girls and adolescents in all their diversity according to national legislations, as well as the increase in violence against women based on gender, highlighted in the report *Violence against women and the measures to contain the spread of COVID-19*,<sup>3</sup> and

REITERATING the importance of dialogue between the MESECVI and women's organizations and movements, and organizations for the defense of human rights of women, girls and adolescents;

**AGREE TO:**

1. Welcome the Appointment of Nadine Gasman, ANC from Mexico, as President of the Conference of States Parties to the MESECVI and Elizabeth Gómez, ANC from Argentina and Cecilia Chacón, ANC from Ecuador as Vice Presidents;

2. Take note and approve the publication of the informative document *Third Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the MESECVI Expert Committee*, document MESECVI-VIII/inf.26/20);

3. Request the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to continue working on the issue of violence against women, girls and adolescents in all their diversity according to national legislations, in both the public and private sphere, to continue the promotion of the application of the Convention of Belém do Pará;

4. Request the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to support the States Party, that so request, to deepen the analysis of the effect of the pandemic on the lives of women, girls, and adolescents, the development of policies focused on the post-pandemic scenario to ensure the exercise of women's rights in all their diversity, according to national legislations, and formulating recommendations to guarantee the right to a life free from violences, with autonomy and economic empowerment as binding elements to achieve this objective, taking into consideration the work of the CIM in the matters of its competence;

5. Request the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to promote the preparation of a draft joint declaration of States Party for the eradication of gender stereotypes in public spaces, that result in symbolic violence and political violence based on gender;

6. Highlight the career of Linda J. Poole, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) from 1986 to 1996, and her tireless work in defense of women's human rights, as one of the precursors of the Belém do Pará Convention;

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<sup>2</sup> Guidelines for the establishment of dialogues between the National Competent Authorities (NCA) and the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, document MESECVI/I-CE/doc.6/14

<sup>3</sup> Available at <http://www.oas.org/es/cim/docs/COVID-19-RespuestasViolencia-EN.pdf>

7. Express gratitude to Mrs. Liriola Leoteau, who served as President of the Seventh Conference of States Parties to the MESECVI and of the Second Extraordinary Conference of States Party, for her enormous contribution to this Mechanism;

8. Greet the States Party that have designated Experts in 2020 and urge the States Party that have not yet done so, to designate the Experts, principal and/or alternates, in accordance with the norms established in the Statute of the Mechanism;

9. Thank the support of the Government of Mexico for its leadership in the Presidency of the Conference of the States Party;