

## **Civil Society Organizations Participate in First Round of Monitoring Hearings with the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI**

*Washington, DC, September 8, 2023.* More than 20 civil society organizations from Latin America participated this week in a series of hearings with the Committee of Experts of [the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention \(MESECVI\)](#). The purpose of these hearings was to receive information from civil society and women's organizations in the context of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round, carried out to monitor the progress and pending challenges in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention.

This is the first time in the context of the multilateral evaluation rounds, that this type of hearing have been held, allowing civil society organizations to present their observations and respond to questions from the Experts. As an integral part of the MESECVI, civil society participates in the follow-up process on the implementation of the Convention by submitting [Shadow Reports](#) that provide additional information for the analysis and monitoring work carried out by the Experts.

During the virtual hearings, the organizations had the opportunity to present information and their concerns regarding the situation of women in Latin American countries. Offering a comment on this, the President of the Committee of Experts (CEVI), Marcela Huaita, highlighted the importance of having this space for exchange: “For us, it is very important because, in addition to reading your reports, this helps us see the regional panorama and how there are elements that are going through all our countries.”

The current evaluation round is focused on access to justice, truth, and reparation for women victims and survivors of violence. Responding to this, the Expert from Argentina, Susana Chiarotti, opined: “There is a problem of justiciability, an average impunity rate that exceeds 99% in cases of violence in certain countries. The justice system is not listening to us.”

Some of the issues highlighted by the civil society organizations in their presentations were: impunity in cases of sexual violence against women and girls; the increase in the number of missing women throughout the region; and the need for better data to develop effective public policies and consistent budget allocations.

The Experts stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen the channels of exchange and communication between the CEVI and civil society.

To learn more about the participation of civil society organizations in the MESECVI, go to: [https://belemdopara.org/CIM\\_MESECVI/civil-society-ngos/](https://belemdopara.org/CIM_MESECVI/civil-society-ngos/)