

The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention to Co-Chair the EDVAW Platform in 2024

In 2024, the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) will co-lead the Platform for the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW), in conjunction with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Both organizations were chosen by their counterparts to jointly preside over the platform.

Washington DC, January 18, 2024. The expert mechanisms comprising the EDVAW Platform for the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence against Women elected this Thursday, during their eighteenth meeting, the [Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to jointly chair the platform during 2024.

Established in 2018, the EDVAW Platform is composed of seven regional independent and United Nations expert mechanisms on violence against women and women's rights operating at the international and regional levels¹. It aims to strengthen institutional links and thematic cooperation between the mechanisms to work towards harmonized strategies and undertake joint action towards the eradication of violence and discrimination against women.

In the year marking the 30th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention and the 20th anniversary of the creation of MESECVI, the Mechanism assumes for the first time the joint leadership of this international forum. Since its inception, the platform has played a pivotal role in placing the defense of women's human rights on the global agenda, aiming to enhance the implementation of existing legal and policy frameworks.

During the virtual meeting, the acting chair, Dorothy Estrada-Tank, President of the United Nations Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, emphasized that the decision to have a joint presidency for the Platform is a positive step to drive new advancements at the international and regional levels.

The meeting also served as an opportunity to address the progress of collaborative efforts and upcoming actions. In this regard, the President of the Committee of Experts

¹ The seven mechanisms comprising the EDVAW Platform are: the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI); the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls; the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls; the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO); the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Rapporteur on the Rights of Women.

(CEVI) of the MESECVI, Gloria Camacho, highlighted the Committee's concern about the situation of women and girls in the face of the escalating violence orchestrated by organized crime. She underscored that: 'In Latin America, we are increasingly experiencing the reality of these conflicts. In these contexts, women's bodies become spoils of war.'

The work of the EDVAW Platform facilitates the sharing of essential information on the situation of women's rights, on actions undertaken to combat violence against women as well as, on urgent issues, gaps and shortcomings in the implementation of international standards and government commitments.