

MESECVI visit to the Dominican Republic concludes with progress in the consolidation of the Draft Model Law on Digital Violence against Women

Santo Domingo, May 2, 2025 — With substantial progress in consolidating the Draft Inter-American Model Law to prevent, punish and eradicate gender-based digital violence against women, the official visit of a delegation from the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) to the Dominican Republic concluded after taking place from April 22 to 24. The visit was made possible thanks to the support of the Ministry of Women of the Dominican Republic and allowed the continuation of the consultation process to enrich the draft Model Law. It also provided a space for the Experts of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) that make up the Working Group on Digital Violence against Women to advance in consolidating the final text.

The delegation was composed of the CEVI Experts Mónica Maureira (Chile), Adriana Benjumea (Colombia), Cona Husbands (Guyana), Ana María Mendieta (Peru), Miriam Roache (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Yildalina Tatem Brache (Dominican Republic), and Sherna Benjamin (Trinidad and Tobago), members of the Working Group on Digital Violence against Women, accompanied by the Technical Secretary of the Mechanism, Luz Patricia Mejía, and specialists Sara Brochet and Julieth Palomo.

The agenda began with a consultation held at the Magaly Pineda Center for Equality Studies, which brought together over 30 participants, including high-level government authorities, representatives of the Legislative and Judicial branches, justice operators, civil society and academia. The event was inaugurated with remarks by the Minister of Women and Vice President of the Conference of States Parties of the MESECVI, Mayra Jiménez; the Vice President of the Committee of Experts, Sherna Benjamin; and the Technical Secretary of the Mechanism, Luz Patricia Mejía. All three emphasized the importance of joining efforts to move toward effective regulation that guarantees the protection of women from digital violence.

This consultation—the sixth of its kind organized in the region by the MESECVI, with the support of the Republic of Italy—gathered contributions from various sectors to enrich the draft Model Law.

As part of the visit, the CEVI Experts of the Working Group on digital violence held a working session to review more than 90 submissions received through the public consultation process and contributions gathered during the in-person consultations, with the objective of moving forward in finalizing the draft text of the Model Law.

The delegation also held a working meeting with the team from the Ministry of Women, during which the Committee of Experts presented the findings and recommendations of the

Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round of the MESECVI. In turn, the Ministry presented its initiatives on gender education, women's rights, and the prevention of violence against women. Contributions were also exchanged on the draft comprehensive law on violence against women, currently under development in the country.

The delegation was received by authorities from the National Congress in a meeting with the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Alfredo Pacheco, and the President of the Senate, Ricardo de los Santos, with the presence of Minister of Women Mayra Jiménez, and the participation of representatives of the Gender Commissions of Congress, and the representative of the OAS General Secretariat in the Dominican Republic, Esteban de la Torre Ribadeneira. The delegation also held a dialogue with legislators from the Gender Commissions of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies on legal reforms for a comprehensive response to violence against women, including addressing digital violence against women.

Finally, the delegation met with officials from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs, who presented the *Mujer Inspira* project, an initiative aimed at strengthening the economic capacities of women-led enterprises in vulnerable areas and promoting their economic empowerment.

With the conclusion of activities in the Dominican Republic, the regional consultation process enters its final stage, with a last in-person consultation scheduled in Grenada during the month of May. The Committee of Experts is expected to consider the adoption of this new regional instrument during the XXII Meeting of the CEVI to be held in Fortaleza, Brazil, on June 3 and 4, followed by the X Conference of States Parties on June 5 and 6 in the same city.