



# OAS | MESECVI

FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM  
BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI).  
NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTY  
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## MESECVI STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029<sup>12</sup>

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, commonly known as the Convention of Belém do Pará (1994), stands as a significant milestone in recognizing women's right to live free from violence as a fundamental human right.

Three decades have passed since that pivotal moment, and twenty years since the establishment of the Convention's Follow-up Mechanism (MESECVI). This ongoing commitment provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the past, recognize the progress that has been made, and address the new challenges that are emerging as cultural shifts shape our understanding of how to promote the rights of women<sup>3</sup>, adolescents and girls in all their diversity. To this end, the States Parties take into special consideration the vulnerability to violence experienced by women due to various factors, including: ethnic or racial origin of women, minority or indigenous status, the condition of living in urban or rural areas, color, socio-economic status, language, religion or beliefs, political opinion, national origin, marital status, maternity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, refugee or asylum status, internally displaced status, statelessness, widowhood, migratory status, deprivation of liberty, trafficking in women, situations of armed conflict, and the stigmatization of women who advocate for their rights, particularly human rights defenders or any other condition that may render women and girls vulnerable, in accordance with national legislation in various spheres of public and private life, in order to continue promoting the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Republic of El Salvador reaffirms its strong commitment to fulfilling its obligations and commitments in the...

<sup>2</sup> The Republic of Paraguay reserves the terms: women in all their diversity; women, adolescents, and girls in all ...

<sup>3</sup> According to the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Violent Death of Women...

<sup>4</sup> Henceforth, when reference is made to women and girls, it shall be understood to mean any woman or girl who...



As a trailblazer in advocating for women's rights, the region has compelled its Member States to develop comprehensive public policies, establish supportive structures, facilitate educational initiatives, launch prevention campaigns, and allocate significant human and material resources. These collective efforts aim not only to bring visibility to the scourge of gender-based violence against women and girls but also to understand and address its underlying causes and far-reaching consequences. However, there is also increasing resistance based on public discourse and unequal power structures, both with respect to social norms and the institutions that articulate the region's legal and juridical scaffolding.

A decade after the Convention entered into force, MESECVI has accumulated 20 years of experience in data collection and evaluation, providing a comprehensive overview of the region. This history provides insight into the initiatives implemented, the lessons learned, and the challenges that remain. Significant progress has been made on several fronts, including the recognition and protection of rights, the strengthening of state capacity, cultural shifts, and increased awareness of women's right to live free from gender-based violence. There have also been notable advances in the establishment of laws and mechanisms for access to justice.

In addition, MESECVI has facilitated peer-to-peer exchanges through platforms such as EDVAW (The Platform of International & Regional Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women) and intergovernmental mechanisms. These avenues have fostered a more nuanced understanding of the international obligations stemming from the Convention. Concepts such as due diligence in preventing, investigating, punishing and redressing violence against women in all its forms, and the obligation to collect information and statistics disaggregated by sex and other relevant variables to assess State efforts, have become fundamental. This framework of equitable indicators has allowed for the analysis of progress and, at times, setbacks in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention by Member States.

In this context, it is imperative to expedite compliance with the commitments outlined in the Convention and to bolster international cooperation to effectively combat violence against women and girls in all its manifestations and across all sectors.

## **II. A NEW SCENARIO: THE CONTINUUM OF VIOLENCE**

The global prevalence of violence against women is increasingly well-documented and substantiated. According to UN Women, in 2022 alone, nearly 48,800 women and girls were killed by their partners or other family members worldwide. In addition, an estimated 736 million women worldwide—nearly one in three—have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner, sexual violence outside of a relationship, or both, at least once in their lives (affecting 30%



of women aged 15 and over). It's important to note that these figures do not even include instances of sexual harassment<sup>5</sup>.

The preliminary findings of the subregional report: "Access to Justice, Truth, and Reparation for Women in Latin America" by the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI (CEVI), corresponding to the IV Multilateral Evaluation Round, which is expected to be approved at the next CEVI meeting, also revealed alarming figures related to gender-based violence in the region. Between 2018 and 2022, 700,126 women and 482,227 girls under 18 were reported as victims of sexual crimes. Additionally, 158,177 of these female victims belonged to an ethnic group. Furthermore, 1,973,326 cases of women with disabilities suffering physical, psychological, or sexual violence were documented. Lastly, 1,131,052 cases of pregnant girls were recorded.

Women who have endured violence are disproportionately affected by a range of health issues, including higher rates of depression, anxiety disorders, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV, among others, compared to those who have not experienced such violence. These health challenges may persist even after the violence has ceased<sup>6</sup>.

Most of the violence against women is perpetrated by their current or former spouses or partners. Shockingly, more than 640 million women aged 15 and older—equivalent to 26% of the total population—have been subjected to intimate partner violence<sup>7</sup> while current or former partners have the highest probability of perpetrating a femicide.

Among those who have been in relationships, nearly one in four adolescents aged 15-19 years (24%) has experienced physical or sexual violence from a spouse or partner. Furthermore, sixteen percent of young women aged 15 to 24 have endured this type of violence within the past 12 months.

Despite concerted efforts to shed light on the issue including femicide or feminicide, in the region, significant challenges remain that impede progress toward eradicating violence against women and girls. Both sexual and physical violence against women and girls persists in both the public and private spheres. Moreover, the *continuum* of this violence is expanding into new areas, with technology facilitating new forms of violence, enriched by mechanisms of symbolic violence that previous efforts have struggled to eliminate.

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<sup>5</sup> UN Women, Facts and figures: Ending violence against women. September 2023. Available at: ...

<sup>6</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*.



Within these challenges, sexual violence and barriers to the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights remain pervasive realities at the regional level, with devastating effects on the lives of women, adolescents and girls. Trafficking and crimes associated with sexual exploitation, forced marriage and pregnancy of women and girls, genital mutilation, as well as other forms of abuse expose girls and women to a high risk of physical and mental trauma. These include sexual violence in domestic or family settings, educational institutions, and the workplace, as well as challenges related to access to justice for victims and survivors. Stigma, mistrust, fear, and delays continue to characterize the right to access justice, which remains largely unfulfilled in the Americas for victims, survivors, and their families.

Simultaneously, the proliferation of public discourses that challenge gender equality and downplay the gravity of violence against women poses a concerning setback in the fight against this issue. These discourses not only undermine the strides made in advancing women's rights but also contribute to the erosion of institutions tasked with safeguarding and defending women's rights in all their diversity. This, in turn, perpetuates attitudes and behaviors that legitimize gender-based violence against women and girls and symbolic violence. Therefore, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary, it is imperative to bolster the political will of the States Parties through a robust Strategic Plan aimed at realizing the commitments made with the adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará to combat all forms of violence.

In this regard, it is essential to redouble efforts to promote gender equality and prevent violence against all women and girls, both domestically and internationally. This requires the adoption of concrete actions to translate the commitments made upon ratification of the Convention of Belém do Pará into tangible results, accelerating its effective implementation thirty years after its adoption and twenty years after the creation of the MESECVI. These actions must also address the root causes of gender-based violence and ensure access to justice and appropriate remedies for victims, survivors, and their families.

In this context, the previous MESECVI Strategic Plan, which covered the period from 2018 to 2023 and was extended to 2024, proved to be a crucial tool for guiding action in the region. Despite the disruption in women's lives caused by COVID-19 and the subsequent increase in gender-based violence and discrimination, as well as the stark evidence of persistent inequalities in the region, more than 90% of the plan's objectives were successfully achieved.

Furthermore, the advent of COVID-19 marked a definitive shift from the nascent virtual world for some to a stark reality. Despite the significant digital divide and resulting exclusion, this transition has resulted in a significant shift in the types of violence experienced by women and girls, from offline manifestations to the online sphere.



All forms of violence known up to this point have transitioned into the digital realm, facilitated by the rapid pace of technological advancements and the proliferation of online platforms. This shift has presented new challenges and brought to light additional actors beyond those initially identified in the early years of the Convention and MESECVI.

For instance, in the region, there has been a consistent rise in technology-facilitated violence targeting women, adolescents, and girls as their engagement in digital spaces has increased. Victims commonly report instances of cyberstalking, cyber-sexual harassment, and the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, with social networks serving as the primary medium for these acts of aggression and gender-based violence. Facebook and X have emerged as the predominant platforms where such violence occurs in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, it is important to keep in mind that the list of these platforms is likely to continue to expand during the years of the Plan's implementation.

Furthermore, there is a concerning and sustained uptick in the use of technology to perpetuate domestic and intimate partner violence, often without victims managing to identify that the cyber-control exerted by their partners constitutes a form of violence. Additionally, women who utilize social media platforms to advocate for gender equality, women's rights, and minority rights are particularly susceptible to acts of cyberbullying and threats.

In addition, it has been recognized that women parliamentarians, politicians, journalists, and other women active in digital discourse are disproportionately targeted through digital smear campaigns. These campaigns often involve identity impersonation to silence and send death threats to these women, highlighting the deeply entrenched patriarchal tendencies within Latin American societies<sup>8</sup>.

To make significant strides in addressing these issues, it is imperative to overcome existing obstacles and intensify efforts to promote women's rights based on gender and prevent such violence. This entails not only the development of more robust laws and public policies but also a commitment to strengthening national and regional structures for the prevention and protection of women's rights. Central to this effort is prioritizing the planning and allocation of resources to address both historical challenges and emerging forms of gender-based violence.

There is also an urgent need to strengthen platforms for exchange, thematic dialogues, and the inclusion of diverse women's voices, taking into account an intercultural perspective. Only through

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<sup>8</sup> MESECVI/UN Women: Report on Cyber-stalking and Cyber-violence in the framework of the Belem do Para...



coordinated and determined action can we envision a future in which all women can live free from gender-based violence and fully enjoy their human rights.

In order to strengthen the work of MESECVI within the English-speaking Caribbean, it is critical to advocate for their active and meaningful participation as an integral part of the mechanism. Recognizing the cultural diversity and unique characteristics of each state, efforts will be directed towards promoting interregional cooperation and sharing best practices in the prevention and elimination of violence against women. This will involve the establishment of platforms for dialogue and cooperation to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences, professional training and the implementation of inclusive policies tailored to the specific needs of women and girls in the English-speaking Caribbean. In this way, the strengthening of MESECVI in the English-speaking Caribbean will contribute significantly to the protection of women's rights and to the building of more equitable and just societies.

Furthermore, it is essential to reinforce and sustain interaction between the two bodies of MESECVI—the Conference of States Parties and the Committee of Experts—to ensure effective coordination in policy formulation, implementation of recommendations, monitoring of policy implementation, and evaluation of their efficacy, both at the national and hemispheric levels. This underscores the importance of fostering an ongoing and constructive dialogue between the two bodies, while facilitating the exchange of information and best practices to comprehensively address violence against women and girls in the region.

Additionally, it is imperative to ensure the effective functioning of national and regional mechanisms to respond to violence against women. This includes promoting the participation of women in structures directly or indirectly influencing public policy related to security, health, employment, migration, education, gender-based violence eradication, the 2030 agenda, and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

Ensuring equitable representation of women in decision-making and leadership, and allocating sufficient resources for the execution of programs and actions aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women and girls in all its forms is essential. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programs is essential to ensure an effective and sustainable response to this issue.

The Strategic Plan should have a maximum duration of five years, with implementation proposed between June 2024 and December 2029. This timeframe will allow for the evolution of the content, periodic review and adaptation of the plan based on regional needs and the progress, achievements and rights that women are advocating for through their local efforts.



### III. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ENHANCED BY THE PRESENCE OF VIOLENCE WITH FIREARMS IN THE REGION'S TERRITORIES

Discrimination and violence that victimize women and girls and impede the enjoyment of their rights intersect with their social condition, class or economic position, age, race, skin color, disabilities and gender differences. In addition, these intersections are linked to the situations of vulnerability that affect their lives, such as: massive migration, displacement of communities due to climate disasters, the presence of armed violence and firearms violence, as well as of criminal organizations that appropriate their resources and territories, trafficking for sexual exploitation, femicides, among others.

The presence of firearms completes the knot of all forms of violence, interconnecting and exacerbating all forms of gender-based violence, reconfiguring the continuum of violence experienced by women in private, public and community spaces<sup>9</sup>.

With the proliferation of firearms, the continuum of violence that crosses the private and public spheres has subjected women to two incessant offensives: aggressions in the private sphere derived from men's resistance to the advancement of women's rights and autonomy, and attacks by criminal organizations that mark their territory of operation on women's bodies<sup>10</sup> and destroy living conditions, security and democracy in the territories where they establish their dominion.

The presence of firearms has made Latin America and some Caribbean countries the most violent region in the world in terms of homicide deaths and one of the most heavily armed in the world. The UNODC report (2020)<sup>11</sup> provides evidence of how weapons deteriorate living conditions and social and economic development in the region's precarious areas. The presence of criminal or delinquent groups deteriorate democratic life everywhere, but more intensely affects the poor populations with greater vulnerability and risk conditions, where women tend to be the majority.

The increasingly ubiquitous presence of illegally trafficked small arms and light weapons (SALW) has significantly increased the number of violent deaths from alleged homicides, with a significant impact on the increase in femicides due to the use of these weapons, as shown by studies carried out in Argentina<sup>12</sup>, Mexico<sup>13</sup>, Ecuador, Peru and some Caribbean countries<sup>14</sup>.

On the other hand, the ease of acquiring SALW in the illegal trade circuits in many areas of the Americas is having a negative impact on efforts to move towards more egalitarian and peaceful

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<sup>9</sup> Incháustegui Romero, T. (2023). The Trafficking of Weapons and its Impact on the Life and Security of Women...

<sup>10</sup> Rita Segato (2006). Writing on the bodies of murdered women in Cd. Juárez. Territory, sovereignty and...

<sup>11</sup> According to UNODC (2020) Global Study on Firearms Trafficking, by 2012 homicides by firearms...

<sup>12</sup> Otamendi, Ma. Alejandra (2015) suicides, femicide-suicides and firearms in Argentina Hegemonic masculinity...

<sup>13</sup> See Cos, Magda (2012). Tráfico de Armas en México. Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial México and also...

<sup>14</sup> In the case of Ecuador see: #8M Nothing to celebrate Fundación Aldea Ecuador (2022) Femicidios 2022. At...



gender relations by promoting new forms of masculinity, which has been achieved through the various actions aligned with the objectives of the Belém do Pará Convention. Overcoming violent forms of masculinity is essential to favor the structural and institutional adjustment of women's progress with male expectations and behaviors, in order to overcome cultural obstacles to the eradication of violence against women and girls.

In this context, the prevention policies promoted by the Convention of Belem do Para must address the effect of the armament of SALW, paramilitarism and the presence of criminal organizations on the territories, lives and security of women, as they severely affect their human rights and destroy their lives and are an obstacle to the advancement and full exercise and enjoyment of their rights.

This requires joining the just demand of feminist pro-peace and disarmament organizations from all continents, to position the control of small arms and light weapons as an urgent and strategic issue in policies for the prevention and eradication of violence. In order to address it, MESCVI-CEVI proposed at the XIX EDVAW Meeting held in New York (13/03/2024) to incorporate the gender perspective in the reports of the international protocols for the control of illegal trafficking in arms and ammunition corresponding to the International Convention against Organized Crime (Palermo Convention, 2000) and to follow up on the actions of the signatory states in the trafficking and possession of SALW. This also means including the impact of SALW on the lives and safety of women in the reports of the OAS States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (OAS, 1997)<sup>15</sup>.

Likewise, within the framework of EDVAW, MESECVI plans to demand the incorporation of the violent situations created by the presence of criminal organizations and armed violence and by firearm in our territories, as part of the reports and follow-up to Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council, in addition to strengthening the policies for the prevention of gender-based violence that the State Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention have in place.

#### **IV. INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE AS A FACTOR THAT INTENSIFIES ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE**

Along with the growth and diversification of violence against women and girls, the failure of States' capacities or the weakness of the institutionalization of their commitments does not seem to be resolved. Stigmatization, resistance, omissions, indifference, misconduct, offenses and even criminal behavior on the part of police, prosecutors, forensic experts, judges, as well as mistreatment of women by healthcare workers when they come to seek help, support and

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<sup>15</sup> The Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and...





protection, generate distrust, fear and fear in the victims. This discourages reporting, but also grants impunity to the aggressors. As a result, the prosecution and administration of justice continue to be indebted to victims, survivors and relatives of victims in the Americas.

Institutional violence is a silent, but persistent and omnipresent violence that adds victims and re-victimization on a daily basis. Institutional violence intensifies all forms of violence because it re-victimizes women. Therefore, one of the fundamental commitments of the States Parties to the principles and recommendations of the Convention is to reverse discriminatory and/or misogynistic and inferiorizing attitudes, behaviors and treatment of police officers and justice operators that result in refusals to provide care, protection and justice to women who report and seek protection or support. From this perspective, the consequences of violence weaken the rule of law.

Complaints from women who face the various forms of institutional violence on a daily basis are common and recognized, but little is known about what these practices are made of and the institutional background they rely on. Therefore, it is essential to know how these forms of resistance that are expressed in patriarchy and neglect are presented; to establish both their objective and subjective typicity, considering that, in the violation of the human rights of women and girls, it is the State who participates directly and indirectly, whether by promoting it, consenting to it, hiding it or generating an organizational climate that gives it shelter (Barrientos, P.2016).

In this sense, the MESECVI intends to redouble its advocacy, monitoring, analysis and recommendations to the State Parties regarding the prevention and eradication of institutional violence.

## **V. THE NON-REGRESSION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

Although there are significant advances and opportunities in the region for the fulfillment of women's rights, with sustained progress in recognizing the rights of all women, the inclusion of specific national plans, the recognition of criminal offenses related to violence against women, the increase in specialized justice and relevant jurisprudence, and greater training for officials, challenges and threats persist, some of which have been articulated through political narratives.

However, the consensus on equality and non-discrimination as an ethical and legal principle remains strong, and despite our great diversity, equality as a human good unites the will of the States Parties and enhances all our efforts towards a life free of violence for all women and girls in the region.

The challenge lies in highlighting and renewing these ideas and the efforts of the States so that the advances, including those achieved at the level of Inter-American jurisprudence, can be integrated



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into the cultures of the countries and become part of an education free from stereotyped behavior patterns and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority and subordination, which our mechanisms are working to eliminate.

Hence the importance of having as a fundamental axis the principles of non-regression of women's rights, which is based on the obligation to ensure that once certain rights have been achieved, they cannot be diminished. This means that any attempt to reverse the progress in women's rights would be contrary to international human rights commitments and the principles of progressivity and non-discrimination.

Therefore, the States commit to protecting and promoting women's rights, ensuring that any legislative or policy measures or their narratives do not diminish or annul the rights already acquired. For this reason, the Belém do Pará Convention and its monitoring mechanism are important tools to guarantee the progressivity and non-regression of women's rights. The effective implementation of the Convention and participation in its monitoring Mechanism can help strengthen the protection of women's rights and prevent any attempts at regression in this area.

## **VI. THE CHALLENGES OF THE CONVENTION AND THE MESECVI IN THE FACE OF THE VIOLENCE PANORAMA**

The complex panorama of violence against women and girls in the region described above places the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Convention of Belém do Pará and the twentieth anniversary of the creation of MESECVI-CEVI at a particularly important juncture that requires deepening efforts to strengthen the political will and response capacities of the States Parties through a strategic plan that succeeds in materializing the commitments assumed with the adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará to combat all forms of violence.

This requires defining and adopting concrete actions around the old and new challenges of the mandates of the Convention and its instruments, to accelerate their effective implementation, as well as to address the underlying causes of gender-based violence and ensure access to justice and adequate remedies for victims.

The MESECVI Strategic Plan for the period from 2018 to 2023, extended until 2024, was an instrument for guiding actions in the region, which managed to successfully address more than 90% of the proposed issues, despite the irruption of COVID 19 and what it affected in terms of violence, discrimination and inequality in the lives of women and the region.

Overcoming existing obstacles and redoubling efforts to promote women's rights based on gender, as well as preventing the violence that affects their lives and rights, are conditions without which



it will not be possible to achieve significant progress. This requires, above all, strengthening national and regional structures and mechanisms for the prevention and protection of women's rights and improving the design of legislation and public policies. This, in turn, implies focusing on planning and adequate financial and human resources to address the challenges of old and new forms of violence against women and girls.

It is especially necessary to strengthen spaces for exchange, thematic dialogues and listening to the different populations of women, from an intercultural perspective. Greater coordination and interweaving of the different government agencies are also required to materialize effective and pertinent responses to the conditions and situations of violence experienced by women and girls in all their diversity. More decisive and comprehensive prevention policies and measures are also needed so that women and girls can live free from violence and fully enjoy their human rights.

It is necessary to deepen the analysis of good and bad practices and studies on the new complexity of violence, in order to clearly identify the focal points of priority attention and the entry points for attention. It is necessary to develop essential care services and forms of preventive follow-up, attending to the differentiated risks of women, according to their characteristics and situations. It becomes imperative to extend the links between the mandates of the Convention and other international instruments in order to address the new wars and armed conflicts, as well as the new criminological and sociodemographic phenomena to which thousands of women in our region are subjected.

In this context, it is essential to strengthen the work of the MESECVI, particularly in the context of the English-speaking Caribbean countries, since it is imperative to promote active and meaningful participation as States Parties to the Convention and as members of the Mechanism. Recognizing the cultural diversity and particularities of each State, we will work to promote inter-regional collaboration and the exchange of best practices in the prevention and eradication of violence against women. This will involve the creation of platforms for dialogue and cooperation to facilitate the exchange of information, the training of professionals and the implementation of inclusive policies that address the specific needs of women in the English-speaking Caribbean. In this way, the strengthening of the MESECVI in the English-speaking Caribbean region will contribute significantly to the protection of women's rights and the construction of more egalitarian and just societies.

It is also essential to strengthen and continue the interaction between the two organs of the MESECVI, the Conference of States Parties, the Committee of Experts and Civil Society, to ensure effective coordination in the formulation of policies, the implementation of recommendations, the follow-up of implemented policies and the evaluation of their effectiveness, both at the national and hemispheric levels.



This implies maintaining a continuous and constructive dialogue between the two bodies, as well as facilitating the exchange of information and best practices to comprehensively address violence against women in the region.

On the other hand, it is imperative to financially guarantee the proper functioning of national and regional mechanisms to respond to violence against women, as well as to promote the participation of women in the structures that directly or indirectly impact public policy related to security, health, labor and education for the eradication of gender-based violence, the 2030 agenda and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

This includes ensuring the equitable representation of women in decision-making spaces and the allocation of adequate resources for programs and actions aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women in all its manifestations. The inclusion of a gender perspective in all policies and programs is essential to ensure an effective and sustainable response to this problem.

The Strategic Plan should not exceed five years, and the proposed period for its execution is from June 2024 to December 2029. This will make it possible to advance in the contents, review and adjust the plan according to the needs of the region and the progress, conquest and vindication of rights that women themselves achieve through their local struggles.

### **III. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND AXES OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Goal I: Strengthen the guarantees and protection of women's human rights from the perspective of diversity, intersectionality<sup>16</sup> and interculturality (Articles 7 and 9 of the Belém do Pará Convention).**

#### **Main Objective:**

To promote the effective protection and assurance of women's human rights, employing an inclusive approach that acknowledges diversity, intersectionality and interculturality, from June 2024 to December 2029. This will be achieved through the implementation of public policy instruments and model regulations, aimed at facilitating and strengthening the capacities of the States Parties in eradicating violence against women, adolescents and girls in the region.

#### **Secondary Objectives:**

1. Strengthen the attention and response to the specific needs of women with disabilities, Afro-descendant, indigenous, migrant and elderly women, adolescents and girls, women living in rural

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<sup>16</sup> CEDAW, General Recommendation 28, paragraph 18: Intersectionality is a basic concept for understanding the...



areas, women human rights defenders, journalists, women politicians, refugees and victims of human trafficking.

2. To foster processes of investigation, truth, justice, reparation, and the eradication of stereotypes based on gender, culture, ethnicity, race and/or national origin, social or economic status, disability et al., which are crucial in combating violence in the region. This will be achieved through the implementation of specific tools, laws, and model regulations.

3. Promote the adoption of laws, policies and mechanisms to eradicate trafficking in women, girls and adolescents and associated transnational crimes in the region, from a prevention and reparation approach, identifying risk and vulnerability factors that facilitate trafficking.

4. To bolster strategic partnerships with executive powers, particularly with key sectors such as security, education, health, migration, justice, and finance.

5. Forge strong alliances with the judicial and legislative branches, as well as with public ministries and ombudsman's offices, to advocate for public policies that incorporate a gender, intercultural, diversity, and human rights perspective.

6. Strengthen alliances with civil society organizations.

7. Consolidate the MESECVI as a space for technical dialogue, promoter and interlocutor of social communication as agreed upon by the States Parties in order to move forward.

8. Strengthen adequate fund raising that guarantees the implementation of the Strategic Plan and its effective budgetary execution.

### **Compliance Indicators:**

- Short Term (until 2026):

a. Enhanced involvement of Afro-descendant, indigenous and rural women, elderly women, migrant women, women with disabilities, and civil society organizations in capacity-building initiatives aimed at monitoring the implementation of the Convention in State Parties.

b. Facilitation of at least two strategic litigation workshops in collaboration with civil society that promote gender equality and women's rights.

- Medium Term (until 2028):

a. Establish strategic agreements with each of the three branches: executive, judicial and legislative of State Parties, as well as with the public and forensic ministries and Ombudsman's offices, in accordance with the regulations of each State.



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- b. Strengthening strategies that enable the generation of resources from international cooperation for the approval of at least two Model Laws and two public policy instruments with an intercultural, intersectional, human security, and gender-sensitive approach.
- c. Increase in resource allocation for gender-based violence prevention programs in at least two State Parties.
- d. Development of at least two training on existing cooperation mechanisms for the eradication of human trafficking with civil society, network of experts, survivors and other social and institutional actors, including officials of the police, courts of justice, Public Prosecutor's Office, among other related actors.
- e. Update the Progress Indicators for the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention.
- f. Consolidation of intersectoral strategic alliances for the promotion of women's rights.

## - Long Term (until 2029):

- a. Enhanced capacity of States to report process and outcome indicators, along with comprehensive analysis of this information from an intersectional and gender approach at the regional level.
- b. Consolidation of at least three multi-sectoral strategic alliances dedicated to the advancement of women's rights in each State Party.
- c. Increase and sustainability in the allocation of resources for gender-based violence prevention programs.

## **Goal II: Strengthening the capacities of the States Parties to comply with the provisions of Article 8h of the Convention**

### **Main Objective:**

To strengthen the capacity of States Parties to comply with the protection standards set out in the Convention, using the Indicators System, from June 2024 to December 2029.

### **Secondary Objectives:**

1. Promote inter-institutional agreements and action platforms at the national, local, regional, and global levels to facilitate dialogues and exchange of experiences aimed at strengthening Convention implementation.
2. Ensure effective monitoring of compliance with MESECVI commitments or recommendations during the hemispheric rounds.



3. Provide training tools to States Parties on designing and assessing the impact of public policies related to security, education, health, justice and the eradication of gender-based violence.
4. Offer permanent technical assistance to States in transitioning to inclusive laws and public policies addressing various forms of violence against women.
5. Evaluate the situation of vulnerability<sup>17</sup> and intersectionality in the attention to the different factors of violence and discrimination that can affect all girls, adolescents and women.
5. bis Evaluate the situation of vulnerability in the attention to the different factors of violence and discrimination that can affect trans, lesbian and intersex women<sup>18</sup>.
6. Strengthen the capacity of States to prevent, punish and eradicate sexual violence, while ensuring the protection of the sexual and reproductive rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity.
7. Strengthen the capacity of the States Party to adapt legislation and criminal, civil and administrative, as well as procedures of other natures to prevent re-victimization or discrimination against women victims or witnesses during the investigation of crimes and the corresponding trial, and consequently, train judicial personnel on the importance of effectively protecting these women.
8. Facilitate and promote the incorporation of the use of the Indicator Systems, during the period from June 2024 to December 2029, for the compilation of information for the preparation of national and sub-regional reports.

## **Compliance Indicators:**

### - Short Term (until 2026):

- a. Establish at least two inter-institutional agreements at the regional level.
- b. Conduct at least three training sessions on public policy design for officials, including at least one session in the English-speaking Caribbean.
- c. Carrying out at least two instances of exchange of good practices in the area of procedural guarantees and standards of protection for women witnesses/victims or witnesses of gender-based crimes, aimed at officials of justice institutions and prosecutors/public prosecutors' offices.

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<sup>17</sup> Art. 9 Belém do Pará Convention: “With respect to the adoption of the measures in this Chapter, the States...

<sup>18</sup> Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines establish a reservation to this language.



- Medium Term (through 2028):

- a. Revise the current legislation related to the protection of women's rights to enhance inclusiveness and with the purpose of generating at least 3 thematic recommendations to achieve a change in the legislation of the States Party, and being at least one in the Anglophone Caribbean.
- b. Implementation of pilot programs with special attention to afro-descendant, indigenous, rural, migrant women, and progressively for other women in situations of vulnerability.
- b.bis Implementation of pilot programs with special attention to trans, lesbian and intersexual women and of sexual diversity in at least two States Parties.
- d. Conduct at least two studies, one in the Caribbean region and the other in Latin America about institutional violence and promote the exchange of experiences among the States Parties on effective programs in its reduction.

- Long Term (until 2029):

- a. Improve the capacity of States Parties to implement measurements on the prevalence of sexual violence, especially associated with transnational crimes such as trafficking of women, girls and adolescents for sexual exploitation.
- b. Review and analyze regulations in at least five States Parties in order to formulate thematic recommendations to promote changes in the legislation guaranteeing sexual and reproductive rights and the right to health.

**Goal III: Visibility of measures adopted to prevent and eradicate violence against women (Article 10 of the Convention of Belém do Pará).**

**Main Objective:**

To increase the visibility of measures implemented for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women, while identifying and addressing challenges in their implementation, from June 2024 to December 2029.

**Secondary Objectives:**

1. Strengthen the capacities of the national women and gender machineries to mainstream gender responsiveness as well as to monitor and evaluate the response to laws and policies for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence.





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2. Strengthen existing bridges between States Parties of the Convention and Civil Society Organizations for the monitoring of the implementation and the response to gender responsive laws and policies for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence.
3. Develop awareness-raising and training materials, as well as Information, Education and Communication (IEC) tools for the defense of women's rights.
4. Conduct capacity-building processes in specific States Parties to improve understanding and advocacy for women's rights.

## **Performance Indicators:**

### - Short Term (through 2026):

- a. Implementation of monitoring programs in at least three States Parties from the region, at least one of which is from the English-speaking Caribbean.
- b. Development of awareness-raising materials on the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women and girls and women's rights in four languages: spanish, english, french and portuguese.

### - Medium Term (through 2028):

- a. Increase the participation of women in all their diversity<sup>19</sup> in spaces for discussion and decision-making on public policies to eradicate violence against women and girls.
- b. Carry out five capacity building processes in different regions that include a variety of populations of women and girls.

### - Long Term (until 2029):

- a. Publication of annual reports detailing the implementation of measures to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women and girls.
- b. Integration of the gender perspective into public policies in at least six States Parties.

## **Goal IV: Acceleration of the implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará.**

### **Main Objective:**

To compel States Parties to fulfill their commitment to eradicating various manifestations of gender-based violence and guaranteeing the right of women in all their diversity to live a life free from violence.

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<sup>19</sup> Jamaica, Paraguay and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines establish reservation to this language.



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## **Secondary Objectives:**

To ensure the cooperation of States Parties in the formation of one or more working groups tasked with developing concrete actions to change the narrative in Caribbean and Latin American countries, and to promote greater commitment improving synergies with the Regional Gender Agenda.

## **Compliance Indicators:**

### - Short Term (until 2026):

- a. Create and articulate working groups for the strengthening of the MESECVI through processes guided by the States Parties.
- b. Incorporation of civil society organizations that promote women's rights into the working groups.
- c. Strengthening of the mechanism for periodic monitoring of goal attainment through the measurement of proposed indicators.

### - Medium Term (until 2028):

- a. Establishment of general agreements to strengthen relations between the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Latin America through the exchange of best practices, experiences and lessons learned.

### - Long Term (until 2029):

- a. Creation of tools to enable the implementation of established agreements, as well as public policies in at least five States Parties in the English-speaking Caribbean countries and three in Latin America.



## FOOTNOTES

1. ... field of human rights, both at the Inter-American and universal levels, particularly in protecting the rights of all women, adolescents, and girls, equitably and without any form of discrimination. El Salvador reserves the right to interpret or apply the terms contained in this Declaration in a manner consistent with its Constitutional principles and internal legal order. This reservation also applies to any legal interpretations that do not align with public policies aimed at benefiting the majority or that seek to alter the language agreed upon in international treaties ratified by the country.

El Salvador reiterates its commitment to fully applying the Constitutional principle of Equality and Non-Discrimination of individuals and to fulfilling the obligations derived from this principle in national legislation.

Furthermore, it reaffirms its responsibility to continue working collaboratively to transform sociocultural patterns that generate violence, inequality, and discrimination in all areas.

2. ...their diversity; women and girls in all their diversity; any person self-perceived as a woman; sexual and reproductive rights; intersectionality; trans, lesbian, and intersex women; sexual orientation and gender identity. These terms will be interpreted in accordance with its national legislation and will not be considered in case of contravention to its regulations.
3. ...(Femicide/Feminicide) which establishes in its article 3.e: "Woman: any person self-perceived as a woman".
4. ... may belong to these groups or populations that may be in a situation of greater vulnerability.
5. ...<https://www.unwomen.org/es/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures#83918>
6. Ibidem.
7. Ibidem.



8. ...Convention, pg. 54. 2022. Available at: <https://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/MESECVI-Ciberviolencia-ES.pdf>
9. ...and Girls. In: Security, International Law, and Police Institutions. Ed: University of Guadalajara et al.
10. ...second-state crimes. In: [https://www.feministas.org/IMG/pdf/rita\\_segato\\_.pdf](https://www.feministas.org/IMG/pdf/rita_segato_.pdf)
11. ...accounted for 70% in Central America and 60% in South America and the Caribbean, while in the rest of the world only 42% of all homicides were associated with firearms.
12. ...under debate. Available at: <https://rcs.cienciassociales.edu.uy/index.php/rcs/article/view/75>. Also Khatchik Der Ghougassian; Alejandra Otamendi; Diego Fleitas Ortiz de Rosas (2015) Intimate violence, femicides and firearms in Argentina. And Argentina Judicial Information Center 2022 At <https://ssl.cij.gov.ar/nota-38781-Femicidios-con-armas-de-fuego-en-uno-de-cada-cuatro-casos.html>
13. ...Incháustegui Teresa (2023) El tráfico de armas y su impacto en la vida y seguridad de las mujeres y las niñas. In Moloeznik, M.P., Padilla, López J.T and Nuño, G. Uriel (Coords) Seguridad, Derecho Internacional e Instituciones policiales. UdG -Centro Universitario del Norte, Mexico. <https://isbnmexico.indautor.cerlalc.org/catalogo.php?mode=detalle&nt=406394>
14. ...<http://www.fundacionaldea.org/noticias-aldea/primermapa2022>. Also Jenny Pontón Femicidio en el Ecuador (2009): realidad latente e ignorada. Flacso Ecuador. In Peru see Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática In: <https://m.inei.gob.pe/prensa/noticias/141-victimas-de-feminicidio-se-registraron-en-el-peru-durante-el-ano-2021-14081/> For other countries in the region including the Caribbean see IDB (2020) "Feminicidio en América Latina y el Caribe. A route towards data standardization. Case studies: Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, and Paraguay.
15. ... Ammunition (generally referred to as the Firearms Protocol), adopted by the UN General Assembly on May 2001, which complements the instrument from which it derives, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention, 200).
16. ...scope of the general obligations of States parties contained in article 2. The discrimination of women based on sex and gender is inextricably linked with other factors



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that affect women, such as race, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, status, age, class, caste and sexual orientation and gender identity”.

17. ... Parties shall take special account of the vulnerability of women to violence by reason of among others, their race or ethnic background or their status as migrants, refugees or displaced persons. Similar consideration shall be given to women subjected to violence while pregnant or who are disabled, of minor age, elderly, socioeconomically disadvantaged, affected by armed conflict or deprived of their freedom.”
18. Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines establish a reservation to this language.
19. Jamaica, Paraguay and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines establish reservation to this language.