

Committee of Experts celebrates political will of Canada to be part of the Belém do Pará Convention

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) welcomes the statement of the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, that the country would begin the process to be a State Party to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention). Prime Minister Trudeau made the announcement in the framework of the VIII Summit of the Americas held on April 13th and 14th 2018 in Lima, Peru.

The Convention was adopted in Belém do Pará, Brazil, in 1994 and has been ratified by 32 of the 35 Members of the Organization of American States (OAS) – all of the countries of the region except Canada, Cuba and the United States. If this announcement becomes a reality, Canada would be part of the list of the countries that fully express their international commitment to preventing, punishing and eradicating violence against women.

Sylvia Mesa, President of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI highlights that “this Convention established for the first time mechanisms of protection and defense related to the prevention, punishment and eradication of physical, sexual and psychological violence, in both the public and private spheres.” If the Convention is ratified, Canada would also join the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), an evaluation and follow-up process established to support the effective implementation of the Convention, and analyze the advances and challenges in the State response to violence against women.

In this sense, the Committee salutes the political will of the government, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in harmonizing its national standards with the international *corpus juris* on the protection of the rights of women and girls. For this reason, the Committee makes itself available to Canada for any technical support that may be required in this process.

The [Committee of Experts](#) is the technical body of the MESECVI responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Belém do Pará Convention. It is composed of independent experts, appointed by each of the States Party from among its nationals, who exercise their functions in a personal capacity.