

Terms of Reference

Contributing to the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women and girls in the Americas

I. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women was adopted in 1994 in Belém do Pará, Brazil and 10 years later, in 2004, the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention on Violence against Women, MESECVI, was created to monitor its implementation. Since then, the MESECVI has created regional and global tools for the exchange and formulation of public policies and legislative frameworks, which have extended protection mechanisms from domestic violence to gender-based violence against women in the public sphere.

In 2024, the Convention is having its 30th anniversary, while the MESECVI will celebrate its 20th. Building-up on these historic milestones, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and MESECVI have been working to highlight the hemispheric achievements of these instruments, the persisting challenges, and the emerging issues. In this context, giving visibility to the problematic of technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women has become a turning point to assess lessons learned from the past, renew commitments to the future, as well as to the present. Throughout this process, MESECVI is highlighting the transition of violence from the offline to the online world, showing not only the tangible consequences of this violence but also underscoring its disproportionate impact on specific groups of women.

Moreover, the MESECVI, with the support of the Italian Republic, CICTE, Equality Now, and in alliance with UN Women, EUROsociAL, the Wilson Center, Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información, UNFPA, among others, initiated a broad process of analysis, study, and consultation with various sectors and strategic entities to draft a Comprehensive Model Law and its Protocol for Attention and Investigation that will provide tools for the regulation of such violence, based on the scope of the right of women to live a life free of digital violence and considering the Inter-American human rights standards.

Building upon previous efforts, the upcoming 2024 initiatives aim to enhance the strategic role of MESECVI by serving as a central focal point to address the lack of coordination among relevant actors and the absence of dialogue between women's organizations and political and legislative operators working on the issue, as well as with cybersecurity researchers lacking a gender perspective. The next goal is to ensure States Party to the Convention have comprehensive tools aligned with the international human rights framework, providing a holistic view of global

challenges, existing experiences, and lessons learned to secure lasting results despite the rapid pace of technology.

The consultant will help the Follow-Up Mechanism to identify strategic actors in the English-speaking Caribbean States-Parties, such as civil society organizations, States (cybernetic police, justice administration agents, and national women mechanisms), technology companies, social networks, women victims, and survivors of this type of violence by sector (journalists, human rights defenders, politicians, trade unionists, feminists, etc.).

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY

The consultancy aims to contribute to the strategy of strengthening the work of the MESECVI in the English-speaking Caribbean countries; to provide better technical support in these countries; to facilitate coordination mechanisms among relevant actors and institutions that work with the MESECVI; and to contribute to advancing the agenda on technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women and girls.

Activities and Products expected from the consultancy:

1. Collaborate with the country authorities and the OAS team, technical, administrative and communications specialist for dissemination and participate in meetings as requested
2. Facilitate communication in both English and Spanish, including translating documents and interpreting for relevant experts and stakeholders as needed.
3. Prepare, proofread, and edit documents, databases, and reports in both English and Spanish, ensuring accuracy.
4. Take minutes during meetings and provide summaries in both languages as required.
5. Coordinate travel logistics and itineraries for staff, experts and other stakeholders, including bookings and accommodations for an in-person meeting to advance the agenda on technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women and girls in the Caribbean

Required Skills and Experience

Education:

- Studies in social sciences or humanities

Experience:

- Excellent writing skills with demonstrated ability to proofread in English and fluent in Spanish;

- Experience working in equality/gender-based violence/violence against women and girls will be an asset;
- Experience in working in an international organization/ project will be an asset;
- Experience working with the OAS and knowledge about the Belem do Para Convention and the MESECVI process will be an asset.

Time, type and conditions of the Consultancy:

Start of Contracting: November 1st, 2024

End of Contracting: January 31st, 2025 (extendable)

The consultant/s will be responsible for:

1. Deliver the materials without spelling errors, with logical coherence and with grammatical revision, style and in a format that facilitates the dissemination and publication of the document. The products will be delivered in electronic copy in Microsoft Word/Excel to the relevant CIM official.
2. Incorporate into the written documents the observations and suggestions agreed with the staff of the CIM/OAS.
3. All the material resulting from this contract belongs to CIM/OAS. The consultant may only disclose the results and material resulting from this consultancy after obtaining the written authorization of the CIM/OAS.
4. The payment of the consultancy is the equivalent of US\$1,000 and will be delivered on the satisfactory presentation of the results listed above according to the schedule.