

**High-Level Side Event at the 70th Session
of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)**

**Regulation, Protection and Justice:
Responses to gender based digital violence against women**

**Wednesday 11 March 2026 / 13h15 – 14h45 / UNHQ Conference Room 6 (CR-6) / New
York, NY**

Proposer: Brazil – Ministry of Women

Co-sponsors: MESECVI – Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention, UN
Women, Mexico, Colombia

1. Context

Digital platforms have become extensions of public, political, professional, and personal life, reproducing – and often deepening – structural inequalities based on gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic status. Digital violence, which includes harassment, threats, stalking, defamation, the non-consensual exposure of intimate images, and coordinated attacks, has concrete impacts on women’s lives, such as silencing, harm to physical and mental health, exclusion from spaces of participation, and restrictions on the full exercise of citizenship and freedom of expression. Addressing this phenomenon requires recognizing that the digital environment is not neutral and that the absence of adequate institutional responses contributes to the normalization of such practices, undermining democracy, the diversity of voices in public debate, and women’s access to fundamental rights.

In this regard, discussing strategies for prevention, accountability, and protection in the digital context is inseparable from commitment to gender equality, human rights, and social justice. Based on this understanding, the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women – CEVI/MESECVI, meeting in Fortaleza, Brazil, in December 2025, reaffirmed that violence against women constitutes a violation of human rights and a historical manifestation of unequal power relations between women and men. The Committee further affirmed that all women, in all their diversity, have the right to a life free from violence in both physical spaces and digital environments, including online relational spaces as a new locus for the regulation of mechanisms to protect women’s rights.

The Committee of Experts concluded that responses to gender-based digital violence must involve all actors in society in a multidimensional manner: preventive, protective, punitive, and reparative. Such responses should include action protocols for public institutions, due diligence policies within the private sector, mechanisms for immediate attention and



psychosocial, legal, and community support for victims and survivors, as well as comprehensive reparation strategies that recognize the physical, psychological, emotional, reputational, political, economic, and community harms caused by this violence.

In light of these conclusions, the States Parties to MESECVI adopted the **Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women** as a normative, political, and pedagogical instrument, aimed at guiding legislative adaptation, public policy formulation, diligent action by justice systems, interstate cooperation, private sector co-responsibility, and the strengthening of community and feminist capacities to protect and guarantee the right of all women and girls to a life free from violence, including in digital environments. This mechanism serves as an inspiration to foster debate on responses to digital violence against women.

In this context, the participation of the Minister of Women of Brazil, in her capacity as President of MESECVI, reinforces the political and normative centrality of the Inter-American system in addressing gender-based digital violence against women.

2. Justification

Digital violence manifests in multiple ways, including threats, repeated harassment, hate campaigns and defamation, online sexual harassment, digital extortion, the acquisition, dissemination, or manipulation of intimate images without consent, abusive surveillance and monitoring, identity theft, the theft and publication of personal and sensitive data, coercive technological control, incitement to physical or sexual violence, coordinated attacks aimed at silencing women human rights defenders, racist and misogynistic attacks targeting Afro-descendant, Indigenous, migrant, young women, women with disabilities, trans women, as well as disinformation and defamation campaigns designed to push women out of public and political spaces. These manifestations of digital violence may be accompanied by other forms of gender-based violence outside the digital environment, demonstrating the continuity and cross-cutting nature of violence that transcends the boundaries between digital and non-digital spheres.

The **Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women** aims to prevent, address, protect against, investigate, punish, repair harm, and eradicate gender-based digital violence against women in both public and private spheres. This form of violence may be committed, instigated, mediated, or aggravated partially or entirely through the use of digital technologies and may be exacerbated by factors such as sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic-racial background, among other conditions of vulnerability. Disseminating, sharing, exchanging good practices, and debating this normative instrument within the framework of CSW70 is a way to encourage the development and adoption of similar mechanisms at the national level among its Member States, as well as internationally, and to promote cooperation to prevent, punish, and eradicate



this form of violence, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

3. Objectives

3.1. To promote the exchange of experiences and good practices on addressing gender-based digital violence against women;

3.2. To encourage the adoption of international strategies as a means of addressing gender-based digital violence against women;

3.3. To disseminate the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women, sharing its principles, guidelines, and the process through which the text was developed.

3.4 To highlight regional normative frameworks and accountability mechanisms, with a specific focus on access to justice for women in situations of heightened vulnerability, including girls, Indigenous women, women with disabilities, Afro-descendant and migrant women.

4. Panelists

- Minister Márcia Lopes – Minister of Women of Brazil
- Citlalli Hernández Mora – Secretary of Women of Mexico
- Támara Matea Ospina Poss - Vice Minister of Women of the Ministry of Equality and Equity of Colombia
- Ms. Miriam Roache – President of the Committee of Experts of MESECVI/CEVI
- Dr. Mónica Xavier – National Institute for Women of Uruguay
- Bibiana Aido – Regional Director of UN Women for the Americas and the Caribbean
- Moderator: Ambassador Vanessa Dolce de Faria – High Representative for Gender Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil

5. Expected Outcome

5.1. Identification of good practices and recommendations for legislative adaptation and the development of public policies to address gender-based digital violence against women;

5.2. Identification of areas for potential bilateral or regional technical cooperation within the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, aimed at promoting diligent action by justice systems, interstate administrative cooperation, private sector co-responsibility, and the strengthening of civil society to combat gender-based digital violence against women.

