



HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
EUROPEAN UNION

FEMINICIDE: A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

**NEW FRAMEWORK FOR THE COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND LATIN AMERICA TO PROMOTE
GENDER EQUALITY AND ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND FEMINICIDE**

Implementation of chapter 7 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan



Heinrich Böll Stiftung

Published by the Heinrich-Böll Stiftung European Union, Brussels
Printed in Belgium, June, 2018

© the authors and the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union, Brussels reserves all the rights

Authors: Patsili Toledo and Ana Martínez Fernández

English proofreading: Anna Eberhardt

Translation: Oscar Smith and Martin Smith

Production: Micheline Gutman

Coordination and final editing: Patricia Jiménez

Thanks to the EU-LAT network, ex CIFCA & Grupo Sur and Anna Eberhardt for their contribution

Cover picture:  Cooperativa Ochomiltrescientos

This publication can be ordered at:

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union, Brussels - 15 Rue d'Arlon - B-1050 Brussels - Belgium

T + 32 (0)2 743 41 00 **F** +32 (0)2 743 41 09 **E** info@eu.boell.org

FEMINICIDE: A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

NEW FRAMEWORK FOR THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND LATIN AMERICA TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND FEMINICIDE

INDEX

| | |
|---|---|
| Executive Summary | 2 |
| Chapter 7 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan in the international context for the eradication of violence against women | 3 |
| Weaknesses in the implementation of Chapter 7 | 3 |
| Binding international instruments for bi-regional action with regard to Chapter 7 | 4 |
| Functioning of the monitoring mechanisms | 5 |
| The contribution of the follow-up mechanisms to the implementation of Chapter 7 | 5 |
| Identification of areas of concern and common priorities in both regions | 6 |
| ■ Resource allocation | 6 |
| ■ Restrictive definitions of VAW | 6 |
| ■ Statistical information and replies from the justice system | 6 |
| ■ Training and specialization of professionals | 6 |
| ■ Protection and support for victims, including those who suffer multiple forms of discrimination | 7 |
| Benefits of the participation of the follow-up mechanisms in the implementation of Chapter 7 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan | 7 |
| Financing | 8 |
| Conclusions | 8 |
| Areas of Future Work | 9 |

Executive Summary

The EU-CELAC summits¹ held in Santiago, Chile (2013) and Brussels (2015) included a chapter on gender in their Action Plans 2013-2015 and 2015-2017. This Chapter 7 is specifically oriented **to guaranteeing the equality of gender, the protection, enforcement and promotion of the rights of women** including, as one of its fundamental pillars, the eradication of all forms of violence which affect them.

Since the creation of the Chapter on gender, however, there have been few activities or measures carried out in this context, while those that have been developed have limited range and little continuity. Given the persistence of violence against women (VAW) and femicide,² the Heinrich Böll Foundation intends to propose **a new direction for the execution of Chapter 7 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan** with this study.

The European Council Convention on the Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (**Istanbul Convention**) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (**Belém do Pará Convention**), at regional level, together with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), at global level, establish the bases of the obligations of the States of the European Union (EU) and Latin America (LA) in regards to the eradication of VAW. These normative frameworks and their respective follow-up mechanisms, namely MESECVI,³ GREVIO,⁴ and the CEDAW Committee,⁵ therefore constitute the ideal framework from which to reflect on the measures to be implemented to combat VAW and femicide in both regions.

This report seeks to identify some of the issues highlighted by the follow-up mechanisms previously mentioned, as well as the possibilities of joint action and the advantages of participation in these mechanisms for the implementation of the gender Chapter of the Action Plan.

Priority and common issues to combat VAW in both regions were identified on the basis of the recommendations to the States sent by MESECVI, GREVIO and the CEDAW Committee, as well as the reports and the calls by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Recommendations issued by feminist organisations and civil society were also used.

The aim of this document is to introduce a dialogue on the implementation of Chapter 7 based on the common priority issues identified in this study, the cooperation of the follow-up mechanisms MESECVI and GREVIO in the implementation of Chapter 7, and the modalities of cooperation and actions to implement.

Apart from that, **the study proposes** to the European External Action Service (EEAS) the possibility of **converting the Chapter on gender of the EU-CELAC Action Plan into an area of bi-regional collaboration** with the aim of facilitating the implementation of the recommendations drawn up by the two regional mechanisms (GREVIO and MESECVI). The study therefore proposes programmes financed by the EU whose funds could be channelled to implement the gender Chapter with the collaboration of the above-mentioned regional mechanisms and the participation of other interested parties.

1 European Union – Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

2 The term femicide is used in this document as a synonym of femicide to allude to cases where women are killed for gender-based reasons.

3 Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention: <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/about.asp>

4 Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/grevio>

5 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Chapter 7 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan in the international context for the eradication of violence against women

Violence against women (VAW) and femicide⁶ continue to be worrying phenomena with a high prevalence. It is calculated that at a global level some 43,600 women were murdered in 2012 at the hands of their partners, ex-partners or family members.⁷ Both in Latin America (LA) and the European Union (EU) VAW is deeply embedded in society. In Europe, one in three women has suffered physical or sexual violence at least once in their adult lives, [...] one woman in every five (18%) has been the victim of persecution, one in twenty has been raped and more than one in ten has suffered sexual violence.⁸ In 2016, 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries registered a total of 1,831 murders of women, compared to 1,661 in 2015. These figures clearly show that LA does not only have the highest rate of femicides worldwide, but also an increase in femicides in the region during the last years. The femicide rate in countries such as Honduras is above 10 for every 100,000 of the population.⁹ VCM is one of the main causes of women's death, disability and disease. It therefore represents **a serious problem of public health but, above all, it is a serious democratic deficit, denying women fundamental rights such as the right to life and limiting their participation in public life.** In light of the current increasingly globalized world, **VAW is affected and often aggravated by transnational factors**, including the offshoring of company operations, relocation, militarization, the proliferation of weapons, armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, natural disasters and the destruction or degradation of natural resources – all factors that in turn contribute to human displacement, migration, etc.¹⁰ It is therefore necessary to adopt measures that take into account the impact of international relations on VAW– including commercial relations – such as the export of weapons.¹¹

Both in the **2013-2015 EU-CELAC Action Plan**¹² and the **2015-2017 Action Plan**, European and Latin American States have included a chapter on gender issues (Chapter 7), in which they confirm their common willingness to guarantee gender equality and the protection, validation and promotion of women's rights including, as one of its fundamental pillars, the **eradication of all forms of violence which affect them.** Furthermore, this chapter confirms the political willingness of both regions to make these issues **priority areas in bi-regional relations.**

Weaknesses in the implementation of Chapter 7

Despite a global trend to cooperate towards the goal of the eradication of VAW, the implementation of Chapter 7 in this area has been limited and inconsistent. While femicide and the eradication of VAW have been present in political discussions and dialogue on cooperation, the identified actions have been limited to the financing of **projects and ad-hoc meetings without continuity**, all of which shows a very limited level of implementation. And, even more alarming, it also displays the **absence of a joint bi-regional vision** to fight for the eradication of VAW and femicide.

Moreover, the few initiatives taken by some governments – such as the “Workshop on Femicide/Femicide and Violence against Women” organized by Argentina in 2013 and the “Workshop on the Prevention of Gender Violence: Policies of prevention and Education of Males” organized by Argentina and Chile in 2017, have not managed to place the main priorities of the VAW campaign on the agenda of the European External Action Service (EEAS). This reflects the clear gulf between the issues discussed by experts and the actions taken by the EU.

6 “Femicide or gender-related killings are not isolated incidents that arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but are rather the ultimate act of violence which is experienced in a continuum of violence” Rashida Manjoo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on VAW, its causes and consequences.

7 European Data Journalism Network: <https://www.europeandatajournalism.eu/fre/News/News-data/Femicide-en-Europe-une-comparaison-entre-differents-pays>

8 Violence against women: the EU's potential accession to the Istanbul Convention: <https://www.balkanicaucaso.org/eng/Areas/Europe/Violence-against-women-the-EU-s-potential-accession-to-the-Istanbul-Convention-179128>

9 Data mentioned in the presentation of “From Commitment to Action: Policies to End Violence against Women in Latin American and the Caribbean”: http://www.14ymedio.com/sociedad/America-Latina-Caribe-violencia-mujeres_0_2333766609.html

10 Paragraph 14, 31 c) and 35 of the general recommendation 35 (2017) by the CEDAW Committee.

11 For example, the Final Observations of the CEDAW Committee to France, 2016 and Germany, 2017.

12 Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Over the last 5 years, women's and civil society organisations and networks of both regions have contributed systematically with recommendations to authorities in regards to the implementation of Chapter 7.¹³

Similarly, the **Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly** (EuroLat) expressed *“their concern at the fact that Chapter 7 of both action plans has yet to be implemented. Urge the EU-CELAC Member States and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to work together and allocate the necessary institutional and economic resources to ensure fulfilment of the recommendations on the eradication of all forms of violence against women in both the public and the private sector”*.¹⁴

This lack of implementation of initiatives within the framework of Chapter 7 has become evident in the eval-

uation of the EU-CELAC Action Plan 2015-2017, in which the **Exterior Ministries of both regions** stated that *“it is essential to carry out additional result-oriented activities on outstanding issues and a stronger effort is needed to implement this chapter of the Action Plan”*.¹⁵

In light of these deficiencies, the final declaration of the **EU-CELAC Civil Society Forum** in 2017 called on the EU-CELAC Summit of the same year to *“extend their strong support to the Belém do Pará Convention, the Istanbul Convention and their respective follow-up mechanisms, to exercise a referential role in the implementation of the objectives referred to in the Action Plan in relation to the eradication of violence against women in both regions and make available the necessary economic, technical and institutional resources to achieve progress.”*¹⁶

Binding international instruments for bi-regional action with regard to Chapter 7

The *Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW),¹⁷ the *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women* (Belém do Pará Convention)¹⁸ and the *Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence* (Istanbul Convention),¹⁹ comprise a

binding normative international framework for tackling all forms of VAW in a strategic and effective way. These instruments have **monitoring mechanisms** – respectively the CEDAW Committee,²⁰ MESECVI,²¹ and GREVIO²² – **that monitor compliance** and implementation of the conventions and **periodically draw up recommendations** to States.

13 Among others, see: Conclusions and recommendations of civil society for the EU-CELAC summit on violence against women and femicide of the VIII Conference on Femicide/Femicide (10 June, 2015): https://eu.boell.org/sites/default/files/viii_conference_on_femicide_femicide-english.pdf (p. 15-17); CIFCA, Grupo Sur, “Proposal of Civil Society and women's organisations to guarantee gender equality and the protection, validation and promotion of the rights of women within the framework of the Gender Chapter of the EU-CELAC Action Plan”: http://www.gruposur.org/propuesta-de-la-sociedad-civil-y-organizaciones-de-mujeres-para-garantizar-la-igualdad-de-genero-y-la-proteccion-vigencia-y-fomento-de-los-derechos-de-las-mujeres-en-el-marco-de-la-implement/Heinrich_Böll_Foundation_, “Monitoring of Chapter 7 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan on Gender 2015-2017”, September 2016: https://eu.boell.org/sites/default/files/capitulo_7_eu_celac_2.pdf

EU-LAC FOUNDATION: The issue of Gender in relations between the EU and LAC: State of the art and Opportunities for bi-regional cooperation (2014), available at: <https://eulacfoundation.org/en/documents/issue-gender-relations-between-eu-and-lac-state-art-and-opportunities-bi-regional>

14 Montevideo Declaration by the Co-Presidents of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat) of 21 September 2016: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/eurolat/key_documents/declarations/montevideo_en.pdf

15 Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)-European Union (EU): Assessment of Programmes and Actions: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/24235/read-the-assessment-of-programmes-and-actions.pdf>

16 Declaration of the European, Latin American and Caribbean Civil Society – San Salvador, 7-8 September 2017: https://concordeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Declaracion-Foro-OSC_EN.pdf?1fdb40&1fdb40

17 Adopted in 1979, ratified by all Latin American and European countries.

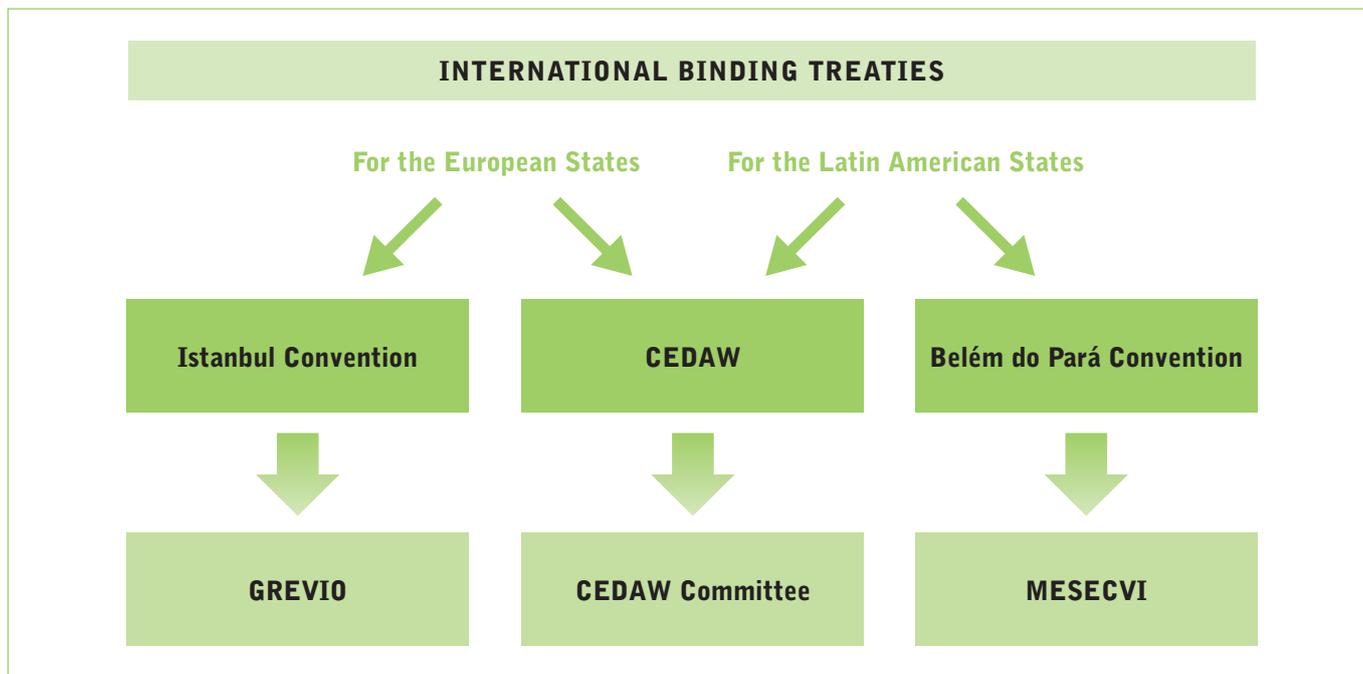
18 Adopted in 1994, ratified by all Latin-American states.

19 Adopted in 2011, ratified by all countries except Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Slovakia, and United Kingdom which are all signatory states but which have still not ratified the Convention, equally to the European Union itself (Ratifications to the date of 23 February 2018).

20 Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee): <http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx>

21 Follow-up mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI): <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/about.asp>

22 Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO): <http://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/grevio> writes follow-up reports and, based on them, the Committee of State Parties gives recommendations to States.



The recommendations of these monitoring mechanisms can contribute to the implementation of Chapter 7 of the Action Plan through the **identification of common priority areas** in the work against gender violence, which can guide the work at bi-regional level, and particularly the work of the EEAS as the responsible body for the implementation of the EU-CELAC Action Plan.

Although there are differences in the reality of VAW in Europe and LA, there are also similar challenges and **both regions can benefit from the experiences and good practices implemented on either side of the Atlantic**. This document, therefore, identifies issues that are relevant to the eradication of VAW in both regions as well as areas of possible cooperation.

Functioning of the monitoring mechanisms

One of the functions of the **CEDAW Committee**, established in 1982, is to evaluate periodic reports from all participating States and to formulate recommendations for them which assess whether the Convention has been adequately complied with. The committee also draws up recommendations of a general nature, applicable to all States, such as the recent General Recommendation 35 (2017) on Gender-based Violence against Women.²³

The Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention, MESECVI, established in 2004, has published national reports for 28 countries. In 2012, MESECVI

established progress indicators to harmonize the collection of data and the monitoring process to measure the implementation of previous recommendations. Indicators are useful for evaluating the situation in a country and identifying pending issues.

The Follow-up Mechanism of the Istanbul Convention is based on the reports of the **GREVIO** Group of Experts. Established in 2015, GREVIO functions in a similar way to the CEDAW Committee, periodically examining the compliance of participating States and compiling reports that evaluate the level of implementation of the Convention. To date, it has published reports on Austria, Monaco, Albania and Denmark and in 2018 reports on Turkey and Montenegro will follow.²⁴

The contribution of the follow-up mechanisms to the implementation of Chapter 7

For an effective implementation of Chapter 7 of the Action Plan it is necessary to **define a bi-regional vision on the basis of priorities** in the struggle for the eradication of VAW and femicide in LA and the EU, and then identify the **modalities of action and cooperation** between the two regions and/or between countries of both regions.

In fact, the main **problems, needs, and concerns** regarding VAW in LA and the EU **have already been identified by the follow-up mechanisms of the international treaties**, as widely ratified by EU and CELAC States.

²³ Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination: *General Recommendation No 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No 19.*: <http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhslDcrOIUTvLRFDjh6%2fx1pWAeqJn4T68N1uqnZjLbt-FuaxmiWrx1jUjN2YPr87ua2okE3WtRLrbfzNSeawgN93ZXARqomEiCHIoBw6%2f4bwzc0>

²⁴ Council of Europe Timetable: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/timetable>

Identification of areas of concern and common priorities in both regions

Based on the observations and recommendations of the follow-up mechanisms referred to, this study has identified various areas of concern and the respective priorities for action which are common to both regions with regard to the eradication of VAW. These are:

— Resource allocation

The allocation of **appropriate human and financial resources** is fundamental for an **effective implementation of measures to address the identified priorities** to combat all forms of gender-based violence towards women.

— Restrictive definitions of VAW

Even today many countries in both regions have regulatory frameworks that limit gender-based VAW solely to the one committed in a family setting or between couples. Forms of violence perpetrated outside the home, such as physical or sexual violence committed by unknown persons, sexual harassment in the workplace or education establishment, etc. is excluded. The follow-up mechanisms have been emphatic in calling for the countries of both regions to address **all forms of VAW**, including physical, psychological and sexual violence, **in all spheres**.²⁵

— Statistical information and replies from the justice system

The follow-up mechanisms have emphasized that European and Latin American countries should compile data on **all forms of gender-based violence**,²⁶ including gender-based killing of women or feminicides, echoing the call from the Special Rapporteur of the UN on Violence against Women to establish feminicide observatories in all countries.²⁷

The statistical information should include the number of **reported crimes, trials and sentences** in cases of gender-based violence, as well as **protection measures** for the victims. The data should be broken down by age, race/ethnicity, sex of victims and perpetrators, any relation between them, including cases involving lesbian women, bisexuals, transgender and intersexuals.²⁸

Reliable statistics permit not only the analysis and identification of the factors impinging on the violence and problems with response systems but can also be used to raise awareness and contribute to creating **appropriate public policies and effective laws**.

— Training and specialization of professionals

The follow-up mechanisms have also called for **sufficient training and specialization for all public officials dealing with VAW cases**, including the health sector and especially **those working in the legal sector**.²⁹

Training and regular capacity building for judges, prosecutors and police should guarantee strict adherence to the laws on VAW as well as the application of gender-sensitive procedures in dealing with victims, avoiding their revictimization and ensuring their right to **access to justice**. In all countries there are still many cases where authorities were aware of VAW but failed to take the necessary actions. There are cases where killings of women **could have been avoided if they had been taken seriously by the police, the courts and the judicial apparatus**. In all these cases, proper training of police officers and court officials could have made a significant impact in reducing the risk of more violence or more severe violence towards the women victims.

25 In this sense, for example, the Final Observations of the CEDW Committee to Jamaica, 2012; Chile, 2012; Cuba, 2013; Dominican Republic, 2013; Venezuela, 2014; Peru, 2014; Spain, 2015; Antigua and Barbuda, 2016; Iceland, 2016; Barbados, 2017; Romania, 2017; Montenegro, 2017 and Italy, 2017; the Second Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI, 2012), the Recommendation on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to Albania and Denmark (2018), and the General Recommendation 35 (2017) of the CEDAW Committee.

26 Final Observations of the CEDAW Committee to Guyana, 2012; México, 2012; Brazil, 2012; Jamaica, 2012; Cuba, 2013; Venezuela, 2014; Belgium, 2014; Denmark, 2015; Sweden, 2016; Spain, 2016; Romania, 2017; Barbados, 2017; Costa Rica, 2017; Italy, 2017 and Ireland, 2017; the Second Hemispheric report on the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI, 2012), the Recommendations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to Albania, Austria, Denmark and Monaco (2018) and the General Recommendation 35 (2017) of the CEDAW Committee.

27 Joint Call of the UN Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and All other Global and Regional Mechanisms to End Femicides and Gender Based Violence: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2016/172.asp

28 Final Observations of the CEDAW Committee to Guyana, 2012; Brazil, 2012; Jamaica, 2012; Chile, 2012; Cuba, 2013; Colombia, 2013; Venezuela, 2014; Belgium, 2014; Venezuela, 2014; Denmark, 2015; Bolivia, 2015; Ecuador, 2015; Sweden, 2016; Spain, 2016; Uruguay, 2016; Argentina, 2016; Honduras, 2016; Romania, 2017; Norway, 2017; Barbados, 2017; Costa Rica, 2017; Italy, 2017; Ireland, 2017 y Paraguay, 2017; as well as the General Recommendation 35 (2017) of the CEDAW Committee.

29 Final observations of the CEDAW Committee to Guyana, 2012; Brazil, 2012; Jamaica, 2012; Colombia, 2013; Peru, 2014; Spain, 2015; Bolivia, 2015; Ecuador, 2015; France, 2016; Sweden, 2016; Romania, 2017; Barbados, 2017; Italy, 2017; Germany, 2017 and Ireland, 2017; the Recommendations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to Albania, Austria, Denmark and Monaco (2018) and the General Recommendation 35 (2017) of the CEDAW Committee.

– Protection and support for victims, including those who suffer multiple forms of discrimination

All the follow-up mechanisms also agree on the need to put in place **protection measures and medical, psychological, social and legal assistance** to women who have been victims of any type of gender-based violence.³⁰ The protection measures, including restraining orders, can be vital in the prevention of new or worse episodes of violence.

The victim support services – including refuges, emergency telephone services, and specialized services on sex-

ual violence – must be available throughout the States' territories, and must be **accessible and adapted to the needs of women who suffer multiple and inter-related forms of discrimination**, such as migrant and undocumented women, refugees, indigenous women, afro-descendants, women from rural areas or belonging to ethnic or marginalized groups, women who live in poverty, women with disabilities, mental health problems or a history of substance abuse, women who have been arrested or are in prison, as well as lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersexual women.³¹

Benefits of the participation of the follow-up mechanisms in the implementation of Chapter 7 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan

Chapter 7 of the EU-CELAC Action – thanks to the experience of the follow-up mechanisms – could offer a solution to problems that have arisen in the past, namely the absence of a joint bi-regional vision for the eradication of VAW and femicide, the financing of projects and/or ad-hoc meetings without continuity and a limited level of implementation.

The follow-up mechanisms, for their part, would benefit from an exchange of experiences and learning, the joint definition of priorities, the development of projects involving the most skilled experts from both regions, the streamlining and the non-duplication of costs as well as an increase in the impact of the strategies against VAW in both regions.

The following paragraph, written jointly by the two mechanisms and addressed to the EU and CELAC heads of State, shows the importance that the mechanisms attach to this collaboration:

“We reaffirm the importance of the chapter on gender contained in the Action Plan and express our support to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), together with Inter-American Convention on Preventing, Punishing, and Eradicating Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention) to guide the implementation of this chapter towards the eradication of violence against women in accordance with the standards established by their follow-up mechanisms.”

Finally, those countries that participate in activities within the framework of Chapter 7 could benefit from the skills and experience of others and thus improve their responses regarding the prevention of acts of violence, their investigation when these have occurred, the trial and sentencing of the perpetrators as well as the offer of reparations and support to the victims.

Bi-regional cooperation can offer multiple opportunities such as the analysis of the causes of VAW and the forms it adopts in different contexts – some common to both regions – as well as identifying the failures in the European and Latin American protection systems.

Thanks to the recommendations already drawn up by GREVIO, MESECVI and CEDAW, **Chapter 7** will be consolidated as **an area of bi-regional collaboration and the EEAS will be able to renew its commitment and take on the role of leader and innovator in the struggle against VAW.**

Moreover, the idea of greater collaboration between the various international and regional organisations working on VAW is currently being requested by all of the parties and is the subject of discussions in many meetings. Furthermore, the EEAS could, with this initiative, strengthen the political will of the EU and CELAC States that made a commitment in 2013 to work towards gender equality.

30 As noted in the Final Observations of the CEDAW Committee to Jamaica, 2012; Belgium, 2014; Finland, 2014; Venezuela, 2014; Bolivia, 2015; Denmark, 2015; Iceland, 2016; France, 2016; Sweden, 2016; Uruguay, 2016; Romania, 2017; Barbados, 2017; Costa Rica, 2017; Montenegro, 2017; Paraguay 2017; Norway, 2017; the Second Hemispheric report on the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI, 2012), the Recommendations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to Albania, Austria, Denmark and Monaco (2018) and the General Recommendation 35 (2017) of the CEDAW Committee.

31 As noted in the Final Observations of the CEDAW Committee to Colombia, 2013; Peru, 2014; Belgium, 2014; Venezuela, 2014; Bolivia, 2015; Uruguay, 2016; Iceland, 2016; France, 2016; Sweden, 2016; Argentina, 2016; Guatemala, 2017; Norway, 2017; Romania, 2017; Montenegro, 2017 e Ireland, 2017 the Second Hemispheric report on the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI, 2012), the Recommendations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to Austria and Denmark a (2018) and the General Recommendation 35 (2017) of the CEDAW Committee.

Finally, it is necessary to stress that bi-regional cooperation is the ideal framework for tackling aspects of the eradication of VAW that require an international response, such

as, for example, those relating to access to the justice system and protection measures for women in migration situations, a very common scenario in the current global context.

Financing

As mentioned above, the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources to be able to combat all forms of VAW is fundamental. Two EU initiatives confirm its commitment in this regard as well as the political will of the EU to combat VAW wherever it occurs: the **EUROSociAL+** has a budget of 8.7 million euros for five years (2016-2021) with a remit of gender equality in LA, and the **Spotlight Initiative**, launched by the EU and the United Nations, which has an initial investment of 500 million euros. The initiative offers support at a global level for Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG's GOAL 5 for Gender Equality which includes in its objectives the elimination of all forms of VAW, both in public and private spheres.

It may be possible, therefore, to investigate the possibility of channelling some of this funding to the implementation of Chapter 7, according to the parameters set out in this study.

Conclusions

This study arose from the need to confront the lack of implementation of Chapter 7 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan, which has not achieved the expected results as far as VAW is concerned. Given that the two regions, LA and the EU, have binding conventions relating to VAW, the Belém do Pará Convention and the Istanbul Convention, with this document the Heinrich Böll Foundation aims to examine the feasibility, relevance and interest of the participation of MESECVI and GREVIO, mechanisms for the implementation of the mentioned Conventions, in the implementation of Chapter 7.

On the basis of an analysis of evaluation reports, the observations and recommendations sent by MESECVI, GREVIO and CEDAW to countries in LA and the EU, **common areas of concern for both regions were identified as well as the respective priorities for common action.** These points in common deserve the attention of all those who wish to intervene in the struggle for the eradication of VAW and femicide in LA and/or in the EU.

While these concerns are similar to those identified for some activities that, as mentioned above, were not followed-up on, the **priorities for common action** identified from recommendations by MESECVI, GREVIO and CEDAW do **offer new and indispensable elements about how to advance in the attainment of the objectives of Chapter 7** in relation to VAW. This demonstrates that the collaboration between MESECVI and GREVIO and potentially CEDAW within the framework of Chapter 7 will, very probably, be of great benefit in its implementation. In fact, the recommendations of these mechanisms as well as their experiences in the work with States will provide the best guidelines for the actions implemented within the framework of this Chapter.

Therefore, it is vital that **the work, the bi-regional cooperation of EU-CELAC and the activities of Chapter 7 are oriented on the basis of recommendations of the existing international mechanisms** in order to make progress towards achieving the objectives of Chapter 7 in relation to the eradication of VAW.

Areas of Future Work

The Heinrich Böll Foundation proposes the opening of a dialogue on the implementation of Chapter 7 based on common priority issues identified by this study and the cooperation of the follow-up mechanisms MESECVI and GREVIO in the implementation of Chapter 7. To that:

- The results of this study about the priority issues identified on the basis of recommendations of MESECVI, GREVIO and the CEDAW Committee as well as the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, must be analysed, commented on and discussed by the parties involved.

- The representatives of MESECVI and GREVIO and potentially CEDAW should engage to reflect on the forms and modalities of this cooperation and the EEAS should consider channelling funds to implement this collaboration within the framework of Chapter 7.

- The Heinrich Böll Foundation proposes to coordinate this consultation. The first step will be to identify the interested parties, send them this document and get their opinions and comments. In a second stage, a meeting will be organized in Brussels about the feasibility of the proposal as well as the modalities of cooperation.

■■■ HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
EUROPEAN UNION

15 Rue d'Arlon, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
T +32 (0)2 743 41 00 **F** +32 (0)2 743 41 09
E info@eu.boell.org **W** eu.boell.org



EU-LAT
Advocacy Network
Red de Incidencia

11 Rue de la Linière, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium
T +32(0)2 536 19 12 +32 (0) 25361 915
E info@eulatnetwork.org