

14th Meeting of the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform)

17 November 2022 in Strasbourg-hybrid (France)

14:30 – 18:00 (CET)

Participants / Experts	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>
Iris Luarasi	President of the EDVAW Platform and President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe (GREVIO)
Dorothy Estrada-Tanck	Chair of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls
Genoveva Tisheva	Chair of the Working Group on Violence against Women of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Janet R. Sallah Njie	Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa
Marcela Huaita	President of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention

Supporting Staff

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Federica Donati	OHCHR
Orlagh McCann	OHCHR/SRVAV
Rosa Kim	OHCHR/SRVAV
Meskerem Geset Techane	OHCHR/WGDAW
Bernadette Arditi	OHCHR/WGDAW
Eva Villarreal	MESECVI
Alejandra Negrete	MESECVI
Johanna Nelles	GREVIO
Valentine Josenhans	GREVIO
Louise Morlon	GREVIO
Antonio Garcia Cazorla	GREVIO
Adriana Arely Varela Baltier	IACHR

Meeting agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business
3. Updates since the 13th meeting of the EDVAW Platform
4. Adoption of the thematic paper on the Digital dimension of violence against women as addressed by the seven mechanisms of the EDVAW Platform
5. Adoption of joint statement for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November)
6. Expressions of interest for the upcoming Presidency of the EDVAW Platform and planning the handover
7. Dates for the next meeting
8. Other business

Meeting summary

3. Updates since the 13th meeting of the EDVAW Platform

- ✓ The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa announced that they have sponsored a [resolution](#) for the protection of women against digital violence. Several member states have taken measures to ensure that women are protected against digital violence. The Resolution call on states, amongst other things, to enact laws to protect women against digital violence, to collect statistics and relevant data to enable the successful implementation of laws and measures. The mechanism hopes to conduct an in-depth study on the subject, as part of its activities in 2023. The 73rd Ordinary Session of the Commission, the first ground, in person session, since the Covid 19 pandemic, was held from 20 October to 9 November 2022.
- ✓ The Chair of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls shared that, since the last meeting, the Committee has been working on the digital dimension of gender-based violence. The Group has produced a thematic paper on conflict-related sexual violence, and a thematic paper on violence in the context of so-called “honour” and harmful practices is being developed and will be published during the 16 days of activism. The Committee will focus on other thematic issues related to gender-based violence in the next years, including the digital dimension of gender-based violence.
- ✓ The President of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention announced their ongoing work on the fourth monitoring round of the Belém do Pará Convention. During its 19th meeting, in Argentina, the Committee of Experts of MESECVI approved notably its [General Recommendation n°4](#) on gender-violence against girls and women with disabilities, and a [thematic report](#) on violence against girls and women with disabilities, which contains a section on access to justice for women with disabilities. MESECVI has also paid attention to violence against Afro-descendant women in Latin America, concerns related to the use of the concept parental alienation in cases of violence against women, and violence against migrant women.
- ✓ The Chair of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls shared that, during its meeting held in July 2022, some sessions were devoted to women and girls’ poverty and inequality, including a focus on intersectional discrimination on the grounds of gender and socioeconomic level. Also, a country-visit to the Maldives was carried out and a country report will be published. The Group is working on a position paper on conscientious objectors in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights. It also released a position paper on [“men’s accountability for gender equality”](#).
- ✓ The President of GREVIO announced that a total of nine baseline evaluation reports will be launched by the end of 2022, seven of which will be published during the 16 days of activism. GREVIO has also been working on the next round of its monitoring procedure of the Istanbul Convention, by launching its first thematic questionnaire on the theme “Building trust by delivering support, protection and justice” that was adopted at the last GREVIO meeting in October 2022. The upcoming first thematic evaluation procedure will be launched shortly, starting by the submission of this questionnaire to the first monitored state parties.

4. Adoption of the thematic paper on the Digital dimension of violence against women as addressed by the seven mechanisms of the EDVAW Platform

The President of the EDVAW Platform recalled that, at the last EDVAW Platform meeting held in June 2022, a thematic discussion was held on online and technology-facilitated violence against women, and a statement was issued through which the Platform agreed to prepare a first-ever thematic paper outlining the different ways in which international and regional women’s rights mechanisms have

addressed this increasingly important issue. This initiative aimed to increase the potential for synergies and offer insight into commonalities in the respective approaches towards digital violence against women, and to foster further dialogue and co-operation among the members of the EDVAW Platform. A version of this thematic paper, entitled “*The digital dimension of violence against women as addressed by the seven mechanisms of the EDVAW Platform*”, has been prepared by two consultants, Clare McGlynn, Professor of Law at Durham University, and Carlotta Rigotti, PhD researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, with the support of the Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism to the Istanbul Convention. During the meeting, Clare McGlynn presented an overview of the thematic paper with a focus on the key themes: promising practices identified, challenges, and options for strengthening the synergies among the members of the Platform.

After some discussions and amendments to the thematic paper, the EDVAW Platform adopted the document. It was then decided that the thematic paper will be published during the 16 days of activism. On 29 November 2022, the first EDVAW Platform thematic paper on the digital dimension of violence against women as addressed by its seven mechanisms was made available in English and Spanish on the [Istanbul Convention website](#).

5. Adoption of joint statement for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November)

As proposed by MESECVI during the previous meeting, the EDVAW platform decided to focus its joint statement for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, on women’s access to justice. The adopted joint statement calls on States to bridge the gap of impunity for violence against women across the world. It also acknowledges with concern that prosecution and convictions for acts of violence against women, including their digital dimension, remain low, while women and girls around the world still face difficulties in accessing criminal and administrative justice, as well as support services. The statement highlights that international and regional women’s rights standards have set a solid basis for effective access to justice for women who suffer gender-based violence. They, thus, need to be implemented effectively to fulfil this purpose.

After several adjustments proposed by the members, the Platform adopted the statement. It will be jointly published on 25 November 2022.

6. Expressions of interest for the upcoming Presidency of the EDVAW Platform and planning the handover

The President of the EDVAW Platform recalled the achievements of GREVIO’s one-year Presidency lasting from 1 February 2022 to 30 January 2023, which focused on the digital dimension of violence against women and girls and invited members to express their interest in taking up the next presidency of the EDVAW Platform.

The members of the EDVAW Platform accepted the proposal of the Chair of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, Ms Dorothy Estrada-Tanck, to take over its next presidency starting on 1 February 2023.

7. Dates for the next meeting

The upcoming Presidency of the EDVAW Platform, taken over by the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, agreed to organise the next meeting of the of the EDVAW Platform, whose date will be communicated at a later stage.

8. Other business

A member of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights informed the Platform about the 73rd ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which also coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Addis Ababa Road Map. This anniversary thus gave a unique opportunity to reflect on common challenges and to strengthen cooperation between the UN and the ACHPR, as well as with other independent mechanisms such as the members of the Platform.