



# The Commitment of the States: Plans and policies to eradicate violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean



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**Author:** Sebastián Essayag

**Coordination:** Ivonne Urriola Pérez and Isabel Miguel Emperador

**Concept and graphic design:** Plan B

**Cover photographs:** Paintings of Alicia Cittadini

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## Prologue

*Nineteen years have passed since the countries of the region signed the Inter-American Convention of Belém do Pará. Since then, efforts have been made by public institutions and civil society organizations to confront all forms of violence against women. In spite of the progress made, several analyses have demonstrated that many challenges still persist for the effective implementation of legislation and policies aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating violence against women, as well as for the creation of political-institutional frameworks that generate greater results in this field.*

*The proposal that we present in this report is born out of the need to examine multiple lessons in the region and to support their application through the implementation of plans and policies that address violence against women in 32 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. We hope that this knowledge will be shared and enriched among the same countries and contributes to form the basis of existing and future plans and policies.*

*The Regional Bureau of the UNDP for Latin America and the Caribbean, in coordination with the Regional Office for the Americas of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), have decided to promote this research as one of the initiatives of the Secretary-General's "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" campaign. This contribution has been possible through the regional project "Innovation, Knowledge and Gender Equality in Latin America", supported by the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund.*

*It is our hope that this regional comparative analysis called, The Commitment of the States: Plans and Policies to Eradicate Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, provides useful findings for the different countries, and therefore, it allows these plans to be improved in the different levels of implementation and contribute to the fulfillment of the international commitments signed by the countries of the region.*

**Moni Pizani**

Director

UN Women Regional Office for Latin America  
and the Caribbean

**Heraldo Muñoz**

Under-Secretary-General  
of the United Nations and Director  
Regional Bureau for  
Latin America and the Caribbean - UNDP



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**INTRODUCTION**



women. Since then, different agencies of the United Nations System have joined efforts to make progress in the implementation of the Secretary-General's campaign, which runs until 2015, coinciding with the year of the established term to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The adoption and implementation of national action plans against violence toward women is one of the five key results that the Secretary-General's campaign promotes in all countries, as a public instrument that can help the States to fulfill their obligations in terms of preventing, investigating and punishing violence against women.

By virtue of international human rights instruments, the States have the obligation to confront violence against women. The States are obliged to work with due diligence to prevent acts of violence against women; to investigate these actions, to prosecute and punish the assailants and to provide reparations and support for the victims. The requirement that national action plans aimed at confronting violence against women are approved and applied is expressed in most of the international and regional human rights instruments and policy documents<sup>2</sup>.

However, the Second Hemispheric Report prepared by the Follow-up Mechanism on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women published in 2012<sup>3</sup> recognizes that in spite of the progress done in the development of national plans and/or policies to eradicate violence against women and even the understanding that the majority of the States already has a national action plan, "(...) violence continues to be a daily reality for the women of the region: on the streets, in schools, at work and, even worse, but with greater frequency, in their own homes. Violence is routinely used to silence, oppress, control and kill women (...) it affects the realization of [their] rights (...)—their health, their economic potential, their participation in politics and their contribution to society in general - and it is an obstacle to human development, democracy and peace in the countries of the region." (MESECVI, 2012:9).

In our region, several States have recognized the importance of addressing the problem of violence against women in a coordinated, sustained, serious

and in-depth manner. The national action plans are an excellent effort in this sense to put an end to this problem. However, in spite of all the efforts being made, there is not much analysis of the experiences of implementing said plans. More in-depth knowledge is required in terms of the approaches that support them, their connection to the current legal framework, the lessons learned regarding inter-institutional coordination and their processes of monitoring and assessment. All this knowledge would allow other countries to learn from them and improve their practices.

For all of these reasons, and with the support of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, the UNDP and UN Women decided to start a research process with the objective to document the knowledge of national plans and policies that address violence against women in a sample of the region's countries to strengthen inter-institutional capacity and help to eradicate the problem. The research was implemented in two phases:

A first phase designed to identify, collect and document the information and knowledge on national plans and policies that address violence against women in a representative sample of countries of the region. To achieve that, the process of collecting and reviewing secondary information was initially started: legal instruments, public policy and/or national plans, assessments of policies and plans, reports by United Nations System agencies and other international cooperation organizations and national and regional research and studies, among other sources.

Later, in-depth interviews were carried out with key informants (public officials, technical teams of the institutions, specialists and representatives of civil society organizations) from each of the countries that form part of the study. To carry out the inter-

views, a semi-structured questionnaire was used, which was prepared ad hoc for this research. In addition to information already collected from secondary sources, the interviews allowed gain access to first-hand information.

All the information collected has resulted in a mapping of plans and policies aimed to eradicate violence against women. It contains a specific report for each country in a sample<sup>4</sup>, comprised of 32 countries of the region: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela<sup>5</sup>.

In a second phase, emphasis was made on the exchange of experiences and transfer of knowledge between the countries of the region, with the aim to validate and enrich the findings and lessons.

This second stage started with the First Regional Workshop: "National Plans that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Exchanging knowledge for Public Action", on November 20, 21 and 22 in Panama City. The workshop was attended by high-level governmental technical representatives in charge of the issue in fourteen States of the Latin America and Caribbean region, most of them staff members of the National Women's Machineries.

This opportunity for exchange was key to identifying innovative experiences, strengths, challenges and strategies to improve the implementation of the plans. The regional comparative analysis that we present below is the result of this process.

Violence against women is not a new or different phenomenon in the times we live in. However, its fierce growth, scale and cruelty confirm that we are facing a seriously relevant social problem that runs across borders, cultures and social and economic levels. And also, that it is the clearest possible example of discrimination and violation of women's human rights. The figures are alarming in our region: A recent study by the Pan American Health Organization indicates that between 17 to 53% of a representative sample of women from 12 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean who have been married or in a relationship before have reported suffering from physical or sexual violence from a close partner. The same study also indicates that 2 out of every 3 women are murdered in Central America simply for being women<sup>1</sup>.

In this context, in February 2008, the Secretary-General of the United Nations launched the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, to generate greater public awareness and promote the political determination of the States with the aim to prevent, respond to and -as a goal- eliminate violence against

1 - PAHO (2012): "Violence against Women in Latin America: A Comparative Analysis in 12 Countries".

2 - UN WOMEN (2012): Handbook for National Action Plans on Violence against Women.

3 - The Second Hemispheric Report of the Follow-up Mechanism on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women presents the results corresponding to the evaluation phase of the Second Multilateral Evaluation Round (II REM), started in April 2010.

4 - See Mapping of National Plans and/or Policies that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The questionnaire used to carry out the in-depth interviews is found in the annex of the referenced document. Available at: <http://www.americalatinagenera.org>  
5 - The mapping does not include the eight member countries of ECLAC, in which the agreed legal situation is not that of an independent state, namely: Anguilla, Aruba, the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the British Virgin Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Puerto Rico.

## - 2 - INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK



The Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the main convention on women's rights that establishes the legal obligations of the member states to prevent discrimination against women. The CEDAW was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979 and came into force in 1981. To date, the convention has been ratified by 187 States in the world with the aim to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to protect and promote their rights. Article 1 of the CEDAW defines discrimination against women as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field"<sup>6</sup>.

In the quoted definition, the CEDAW adopts the human rights approach, on the one hand, recognizing that women have the same rights and duties as men, and on the other hand, recognizing that social, political, economic and barriers persist, among others, which limit the full enjoyment of rights by women. The human rights approach seeks to "break" with development practices focused on the identification and satisfaction of "beneficiary" basic needs to progressively replace them with others based on

the recognition that every person is the bearer of inherent rights.

Eleven years later, in 1992, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was created, a body that supervises compliance with the CEDAW. On January 29 of that same year, in the 11th period of sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, "General Recommendation Number 19: Violence against Women" was adopted, in which violence against women is recognized as a form of discrimination that reflects the historical unequal power relations and subordination of women to men that reduce and violates their rights and fundamental freedoms. Here, the human rights approach is linked to the gender approach, since these power and subordination relations have been culturally built based on gender differences, these being the origin of violence against women. Therefore, adopting the gender approach in the adoption and implementation of public policy, on the one hand, allows the causes that prevent women from fully enjoying their rights to be identified and made visible and, on the other hand, it allows the design of intervention strategies to achieve gender quality and equality between men and women.

In 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights was held in Vienna. At this conference, the States ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the Vienna Declaration and Program for Action. The consensus that the States Parties reached was expressed in said documents, saying that women's human rights are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights and that violence against women (i.e., violence carried out against women just for being women) results in a violation of human rights. In this way, from now on, the eradication of violence against women is assumed by the States as a non-delegable goal, even when violence has been perpetrated by individuals in the private sphere (family, intra-family or domestic violence). Its positioning undoubtedly marks a turning point, a paradigm change regarding the obligations and "due diligence" of the State regarding violence against women.

The consensus reached, expressed in resolutions, conventions and world agreements on women's rights<sup>7</sup>, is adopted at regional level. In this context, in 1994, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women or Convention of Belém do Pará

6 - The 32 States that this regional research's study sample is comprised of have ratified the CEDAW without reservations.

7 - For a list of a conventions and world agreements on women's rights, please see Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice (2011-2012); Annex 6; pp. 142-143; UN Women (2011).

(Organization of American States) was signed. Coming into effect in 1995, the Convention of Belém do Pará has been a key tool representing the States' concern for the following reasons:

- i. It ratifies that violence against women is a human rights violation and it defines it as “any act or conduct based on gender, which causes death or physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women whether in the public or private sphere” (Chapter I, Article 1), thus recognizing the diversity of expressions of violence, perpetrators and spheres in which violence can be exercised against women, in the family, in the community and in public, including violence because of the action, neglect or inactivity of the State (Chapter I, Article 2)<sup>8</sup>.
- ii. It drives reform of the national regulatory frameworks in the region, the passing of specific laws, the formulation and implementation of public policy to combat violence against women and the amendment and updating of the civil and penal codes with the objective to criminalize and punish “new” expressions of violence against women and encourage the creation, strengthening and even the “redefinition of the nature and scope of gender’s institutionality”<sup>9</sup>.
- iii. It recognizes the other side of violence against women, which is their right to live a life free from violence, which encapsulates a series of basic rights, such as the right to life; to not be subject to abuse or to cruel, inhumane or degrading practices; to personal freedom and safety; to equality before the law; to the equality of roles in the domestic sphere (and outside of it); to access to psychophysical health, to justice, to education free from stereotypes and macho and patriarchal conduct; to equity in access to employment with fair payment for the tasks they carry out on an equal footing with men; and to be protected by the States in times of international or internal armed conflict; among others.
- iv. It encourages the States Parties to adopt poli-

cies aimed at the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women, by taking all the necessary measures and without delay (Chapter III, Article 8). And to achieve this goal, the States Parties agree to join efforts in the formulation of national plans and/or public policy to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women<sup>10</sup>.

In 1995, the Beijing World Platform for Action was passed at the VI World Conference on Women. This platform traces the international commitment to gender equality as well as of gender mainstreaming into the political processes and the formulation and implementation of public policy. In said instrument, it is ratified that violence against women violates and diminishes the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, hindering equality, development and world peace.

On December 10, 1999, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (OP-CEDAW). The protocol came into effect on December 27, 2000, and has been ratified by 104 States to date. This instrument recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to receive and consider the communications submitted by people or groups of people who are under the jurisdiction of the States Parties and that claim to be victims of the violation by that State of any of the rights outlined in the Convention, or in the name of those people or groups of people (Articles 1 and 2)<sup>11</sup>.

In turn, at the World Conference on Women held in 2000, known as Beijing +5, the need to create national bodies to mainstream gender into legislation, policies, programs, projects, etc. was reiterated, as part of the intervention strategies together with civil society and, if requested, with the technical and/or financial support of international cooperation. From then to date, a series of resolutions and declarations of the United Nations General Assembly call on the States to intensify their efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against

women and emphasize the obligation to exercise their “due diligence”<sup>12</sup>.

As a result of a significant number of regional and international conferences, conventions, statutes and treaties adhered to and ratified by the States of the region<sup>13</sup>, two regional conferences are worth mentioning: the 10th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, August 6 to 9, 2007) and the 11th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Brasilia, July 13 to 16, 2010). Out of both conferences come the Quito and Brasilia Consensuses, respectively, in which the need to adopt specific measures to confront all forms of violence against women is recognized. Additionally, in the Brasilia Consensus, the signatory States signed that Latin America and the Caribbean have joined the Secretary-General’s campaign. Similarly, these documents reaffirm the human rights approach of equality and equity between genders and the principle of non-discrimination, interculturality and diversity.

Finally, this research attempts to follow up on the following recommendations made in the Final Resolution of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Legal Status of Women (CSW), signed between March 4 and 13, 2013. Among other significant rec-

ommendations, the CSW calls on the States to use all the legislative, political, economic, social and administrative measures in their scope, at all levels, to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and to act with due diligence to prevent, investigate, try and punish the assailants and provide protection and care for the victims/survivors.

In the Final Resolution, the CSW reaffirms that violence against women, regardless of the expression it takes, of the type of connection between the assailant and the victim, and of the public or private sphere in which it is perpetrated, constitutes a form of discrimination against women and a human rights violation that not only causes harm to the victims/survivors, but also to the economic and social development of the nations. In this sense, the CSW calls on the States to make progress in the adoption of legislative agendas, prioritizing the passing of specific laws to respond to violence against women and to develop and put into effect comprehensive national plans and/or policies that are adapted to the needs of vulnerable women and focus on the central concepts of prevention, care, punishment and reparations.

8 - Violence against women may be perpetrated in two possible spheres: the private sphere (domestic, family or intra-family violence) or the public sphere (or in both). The private sphere commonly corresponds to the home where the victim/survivor lives or resides, while the public sphere involves the community, state, labor, educational and recreational spheres, the media, virtual media (for example, through the internet), the context of armed conflict or even border crossing, as in the case of human trafficking/smuggling.

9 - Guzmán, Virginia (2011). *The Institutionality of Gender in the State: New Analytical Perspectives*. ECLAC, Santiago de Chile.

10 - Other international instruments and resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly also urge the States to immediately develop and pass national plans to combat violence against women. For a list of the agreements and resolutions adopted, please see *Progress of the World’s Women: In Pursuit of Justice (2011-2012)*; UN Women (2011) and the Final Resolution of the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), signed between March 4 and 15, 2013, in which the ratified international commitments are listed.

11 - To date, the OP-CEDAW has been ratified by 16 of the 32 States of the Latin America and Caribbean region. The States that have not ratified it are: The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. In turn, Cuba, Chile and El Salvador have signed it but have not ratified it. (Source: *Progress of the World’s Women: In Pursuit of Justice (2011-2012)*; UN Women (2011).

12 - Human Rights Council resolution to accelerate efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in prevention (2010). We recommend reading: Human Rights Council Twenty-third Session - Promotion and Protection of all Human Rights, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the right to Development Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences on her mission to Solomon Islands (March 12 - 16, 2012) (A/HRC/23/49/Add.1).

13 - To date, the Member States of ECLAC have held 11 regional conferences on the incorporation of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean, which have been held in the following cities: Havana, Cuba (1977); Macuto, Venezuela (1979); Mexico City, Mexico (1983); Guatemala City, Guatemala (1988); Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles (1991); Mar del Plata, Argentina (1994); Santiago, Chile (1997); Lima, Peru (2000); Mexico City, Mexico (2004); Quito, Ecuador (2007) and Brasilia, Brazil (2010). The 12th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, from October 14 to 18, 2013.

- 3 -

**NATIONAL PLANS AND/OR  
POLICIES TO ADDRESS  
VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN**



**A national plan to address violence against women<sup>14</sup>** is a strategic program of long-term activities, with a comprehensive approach that is based on a multisectoral and interdisciplinary approach with the goal to eradicate all forms of violence against women. It is part of a diagnostic of the fundamental causes of this violence and designs an institutional response system that covers the central pillars of prevention, care, punishment and reparations of violence against women. The aim is to achieve substantial and lasting changes, allowing the accumulation and transfer of knowledge.

From the analysis of information obtained<sup>15</sup> through the review of documents and in-depth interviews in 32 countries of the region, seven groups of countries have been identified with different degrees of development of national plans and/or policies to address violence against women. Table 1 describes the type of national plan and/or policy; if it is specific to addressing violence against women; whether it is being implemented or still in the preparation

process and pending official approval (regardless of the degree of comprehensiveness); the number of countries in each group according to the aforementioned criteria and the percentage that results from the total number of countries analyzed for each criterion. It is worth clarifying that some countries may belong to more than one group at the same time (the categories are not mutually exclusive in all cases).

As can be deduced from the table, almost a third of the countries in the region (28%) already have a specific national plan to address violence against women. Furthermore, out of the nine countries that make up this percentage, three of them, Brazil, Honduras and Mexico, are already preparing their second national plan. If the 13% that is designing its first national plan with the same approach of violence against women is added to this, the short-term forecast will exceed 40% of countries with a specific national plan to address violence against women. This trend is an indication that the States are showing some encouraging signs in terms of the fulfillment of regional and international commitments on this subject, although there is still a lot of work to be done.

As can be seen, although 28% of the countries have started specific national plans and/or policies to address violence against women, a similar percentage (31%) has prepared a national plan to address gender-based violence and/or domestic, family/intra-family violence in accordance with the first-generation laws, representing a total of ten countries. Out of these, five, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Panama and Uruguay, already have or are in the process of preparing and/or approving their second national plan with the same approach. Likewise, 13% (four countries) is in the preparation phase of its first national plan to address gender-based violence or similar expressions of violence and a quarter (25%) addresses violence against women in the framework of equal opportunity or gender equality and equity plans (19%) or incorporated into other “macro” public policy (6%), thus, in this unspecific way, becoming the approach to such a complex problem as violence against women.

Therefore, a glance at the group allows the conclusion to be drawn that out of the total countries, 78% of the cases (25 out of 32 countries), i.e., more than

14 - The analysis presented herein complements the progress made by the States after incorporating the agreements ratified in the framework of the Convention of Belém do Pará, especially that regarding Chapter III, Articles 7, 8 and 9.

15 - We recommend reading the Handbook for National Action Plans on Violence Against Women (UN Women, 2012), especially directed at policy-makers for the design of national plans to address violence against women and the Handbook for Legislation on Violence against Women (UN Women, 2011) which provides information on the methodology for creating legal instruments to effectively address violence against women.



three quarters of the region's countries, are already implementing national plans and/or policies, regardless of whether they specifically address violence against women. Furthermore, the three countries that still do not have a policy and/or national plan,

whether specific or not, to address violence against women, are all from the Caribbean Anglophone region, comprising almost 10% of the total countries of the region.

**Table 1: Type of national plan and/or policy to address violence against women, according to the country, number and percentage**

Type of Policy	Countries <sup>16</sup>	No. of Countries and Percentage (n = 32)
Countries that have adopted a specific national plan to address violence against women, which has been officially approved and is being implemented (regardless of its degree of comprehensiveness).	Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru <sup>17</sup>	9 countries (28%)
Countries that are in the process of preparing or pending approval of their first specific national plan to address violence against women (regardless of its degree of comprehensiveness).	Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador and Venezuela	4 countries (13%)
Countries that have adopted a national plan to address gender-based violence and/or domestic, family/intra-family violence, which is not specific to addressing violence against women and that has been officially approved and is being implemented (regardless of its degree of comprehensiveness).	Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Uruguay <sup>18</sup>	10 countries (31%)
Countries that are in the process of preparing their first national plan to address gender-based violence and/or domestic, family/intra-family violence (which is not specific to addressing violence against women).	Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Lucia	4 countries (13%)
Countries that do not have a national plan to address violence against women, but where this is a strategic central area of an Equal Opportunities Plan between Men and Women or a Gender Equality/Equity Plan.	Bolivia, Dominica, Jamaica, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago	6 countries (19%)
Countries that do not have a specific national plan to address violence against women, but where this is a strategic central area of another public policy.	Barbados and Suriname	2 countries (6%)
Countries that do not have a public policy to address violence against women	San Vicente and the Grenadines	1 countries (3%)

Source: own elaboration.

16 - For a list of the official names adopted by the national plans and/or policies and their implementation status, see Table A3 in the annex.  
 17 - Brazil, Honduras and Mexico are in the process of preparing their second national action plan to address violence against women.  
 18 - Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Panama and Uruguay already have a second national plan of the same approach approved or in the preparation and/or approval process.

### 3.1) Comprehensiveness of National Plans and/or Policies on Violence against Women

In the context of this research, the comprehensiveness of the content of the national plans and/or policies that address violence against women is analyzed according to the following criteria:

- a. Diversification of the forms of violence against women criminalized in the legal instruments and the coherence<sup>19</sup> of these with the national plans and/or policies.
  - b. The (public and/or private) fields considered in the definition of violence against women in the legal instruments and coherence with the national plans and/or policies.
  - c. Features connected to the diversity of the social group of women considered in the national plans and/or policies.
  - d. Multidimensionality of the institutional response system to violence against women focused on the central concepts of prevention, care, punishment and reparations of violence against women or other forms and/or expressions of violence.
- A. Diversification of the Expressions of Violence against Women Criminalized in Legal Instruments and the Coherence of these with National Plans and/or Policies**

If we consider the definition of violence against women used in the Convention of Belém do Pará and other regional and international instruments, we can identify that although the legal instruments, national plans and/or policies analyzed refer to violence against women in the singular, the concept synthesizes a very heterogeneous group of expres-

sions. Out of these, it is worth pointing out physical, sexual<sup>20</sup>, psychological or emotional, economic, patrimonial or financial, obstetric, political or symbolic violence, violence that is exercised through the use of technology (internet), violence which is perpetrated against reproductive freedom, human trafficking and smuggling and femicide, among others.

It is important to note that the majority of these or other expressions of violence against women is not new, but they have gained greater visibility due to the increased civil society activism<sup>21</sup>, media coverage, awareness and social awareness of their consequences and an increased number of reports<sup>22</sup>. However, an increase in violence against women is also perceived, not just in terms of its scale, but also in terms of its seriousness and cruelty, thus perpetuating the now ancestral unequal power relations between men and women and forging violent and harmful connections and environments.

These different expressions of violence against women can also adopt the form of a "threat", or more than one, and even be sustained over time, or they can be connected to "harmful and damaging practices"<sup>23</sup>. This is the result of the influence of customs, taboos, social mandates, cultural or religious values, etc., which form the "basis of legitimization" used by the perpetrators for exercising discrimination and violence against women in specific societies and that, by action or omission, result in being the same justification that is used by formal, parallel or common law. There are multiple examples of harmful or damaging practices in the region and in the world, such as female genital mutilation or circumcision, the so-called "honor crimes", forced marriage or child marriage, prenatal sex selection, widow abuse or "witch hunts", to name just a few. The States' obligation to punish and promulgate specific legislation to combat "harmful and damaging practices" is contained in the regional and international human

19 - "Coherence" is understood as the consistency or equivalence existing between the content of the legal instruments and public policy to address violence against women. That is, the relationship that exists in terms of compatibility between the obligations ordered by the laws and the response provided by public policy, being formulated and implemented to effectively comply with the regulations. Considering coherence in the framework of this study therefore results in an inquiry into the degree of correlation that exists between the expressions of violence that are contained in some instruments, the spheres in which violence is exercised against women which both cover, and the intervention strategies that some propose, among other aspects.  
 20 - Sexual violence includes expressions of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape, rape in marriage, incest, the sex trade and sex tourism, etc.  
 21 - Especially women's organizations, feminist groups or movements, human rights organizations and organizations of men that fight against violence toward women.

22 - *Nuevas expresiones de criminalidad contra las mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe: un desafío del Sistema de Justicia en el Siglo XXI [New Forms of Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Challenge of the Justice System in the 21st Century]*. (Secretariat for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign), April 2012. Panama  
 23 - For further information on harmful practices as a form of discrimination and the exercise of violence against women, we suggest you consult the Handbook for Legislation on Violence against Women, available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-handbook.htm> (UN Women, United Nations, 2010) and the Supplement to the Handbook for Legislation on Violence against Women: "Harmful Practices" against Women (Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs, UN Women, United Nations, 2011). We also suggest visiting the Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls - Key Elements for Legislation on Harmful Practices: <http://www.endvawnow.org>

rights instruments and in those instruments to fight against gender violence is expressed in a significant number of national plans and/or policies.

Table 2 lists five criminalized expressions of violence against women with greater frequency in the national regulatory frameworks<sup>24</sup> in our region (except femicide), the number of countries with criminalization in its legislation for each one of the expressions of violence of the total countries (N = 32), the percentage and number of countries that have incorporated such expressions into the national plans and/or policies of the total with criminalization (N = x) and the percentage.

As can be observed, in 100% of the countries in the sample, physical and sexual violence is criminalized, following psychological violence in decreasing order

in nine out of every ten countries and patrimonial, financial or economic violence in almost 8 out of every 10 countries. The coherence between the legal instruments that criminalize the first three expressions mentioned is very high since little more than 9 out of every 10 national plans and/or policies correlate with the criminalization of these expressions in the penal legislation of the 32 countries analyzed. In the case of patrimonial, financial or economic violence, the coherence is lower between both types of instruments. Although the table only mentions some expressions of violence (consistent with those that are adopted in the definition of the Convention of Belém do Pará), the analysis allows us to confirm that in some States of the region, “second-generation laws”<sup>33</sup> coexist with national plans and/or policies that address domestic or intra-family violence.

**Table 2: Some expressions of violence against women that are criminalized in national legislation and their inclusion in the national plans and/or policies (regardless of the public or private sphere they are exercised in)**

Expressions of violence against women (regardless of the public or private sphere they are exercised in)	No. of countries with criminalization in the legislation (n = 32)	%	No. of countries that include each expression of violence against women in the national plan and/or policy <sup>25</sup>	%
Sexual <sup>26</sup>	32	100%	30 out of 32 countries	94%
Physical	32	100%	30 out of 32 countries	94%
Psychological or emotional	30 <sup>27</sup>	93%	28 out of 30 countries <sup>28</sup>	93%
Patrimonial, financial or economic	25 <sup>29</sup>	78%	18 out of 25 countries <sup>30</sup>	72%
Femicide	9 <sup>31</sup>	25%	7 out of 9 countries <sup>32</sup>	78%

Source: own elaboration.

24.- For further information on the legislation for each country, please see the Mapping of National Plans and/or Policies that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

25 - The analysis is based on 30 of the 32 countries (93%). In the cases of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, the official documentation has not been accessed and it has not been possible to arrange interviews with key officials to ratify or rectify information from secondary sources. In 7 of the 30 countries (Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, the Bahamas, Jamaica and Saint Lucia), it has been confirmed that they are currently preparing the national plans and/or policies to address violence against women and, for these cases, the data comes from an analysis of the content of the preliminary versions we had access to and the testimonies collected in in-depth interviews with the key informants of each country.

26 - The different expressions of sexual violence indicated ut supra are included. Sexual violence in marriage or domestic partnership is criminalized in the penal legislation of 22 out of the 32 countries (69%) (excluding Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bolivia, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vicente and the Grenadines) and only in 3 out of the 22 countries (14%) (Argentina, Costa Rica and Venezuela) such expression will be (Argentina) or is incorporated (Venezuela and Costa Rica) into the national plans and/policies.

27 - Excluding Haiti and Jamaica.

28 - The national plans of Barbados and the Dominican Republic are not mentioned.

29 - Excluding Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti, Jamaica, Paraguay and Saint Lucia.

30 - It is not mentioned in the national plans and/or policies of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

31 - Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras (Art. 118 of the Penal Code), Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru have passed laws against femicide or feminicide violence.

32 - The national plans and/or policies of Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru address femicide or feminicide violence. Official information has not been accessed to confirm that the crime of femicide has been included in the National Operative Plan for the Care and Prevention of Intra-Family Violence against Women (Costa Rica) or in the National Policy for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence (El Salvador).

The case of femicide merits a special mention. This fatal expression of violence against women is still an outstanding subject in 75% of the countries of the region, if we consider that in only 9 of the 32 countries studied, legislation addressing murder of women for being women has been passed. However, among the few countries that have criminalized femicide, the coherence between legal instruments and national plans and/or policies to address violence against women is high. Seven out of the nine countries includes femicide into these policies in an effort to provide concrete and specific measures to prevent, provide care (in the case of frustrated femicide or for the children and family members of the murdered women), punish and provide reparations for this serious crime.

Among the countries that have criminalized femicide, the national plans and/or policies that incorporate this crime are specific to addressing violence against women. The exception is Chile, where Law 20,480 “Amends the Penal Code and Law 20,066

on Intra-Family Violence, establishing femicide, increasing the sentences applicable to this crime and reforming regulations on parricide” against femicide<sup>34</sup>, Specific and effective actions have been implemented in terms of support and care and protocols for the care of frustrated femicide has been established. However, its national plan strictly addresses intra-family violence and not violence against women

### B. Public and/or Private Spheres in the Definition of Violence against Women in the Legal Instruments and Coherence with National Plans and/or Policies.

The public policy and legal instruments refer to two possible spheres in which violence against women can be perpetrated: the private sphere (domestic, family or intra-family violence) exclusively, or even in the private and public spheres (state, recreational, work and educational violence, etc.). Table 3 indicates the possible (solely private or public, or

**Table 3: Spheres of the exercise of violence against women legally protected by the state and their inclusion in the national plans and/or policies**

Sphere of the exercise of violence against Women	No. of countries according to legislation (n = 31) <sup>35</sup>	%	No. of countries that include the sphere in the national plan and/or policy (n = 27) <sup>36</sup>	%
Private	20 <sup>37</sup>	64	4 <sup>38</sup>	15
Public	0	0	0	0
Public and private	11 <sup>39</sup>	36	23 <sup>40</sup>	85
Right to a life free from violence or a culture of peace	8 <sup>41</sup>	26	17 <sup>42</sup>	63

Source: own elaboration.

33 - The so-called “second-generation laws” criminalize different expressions of violence with a comprehensive approach and include the State’s due diligence to intervene in cases of violence against women perpetrated in both the public and private spheres.

34 - Law 20,480: “Amends the Penal Code and Law 20,066 on Intra-Family Violence, establishing femicide, increasing the sentences applicable to this crime and reforming regulations on parricide.”

35 - No data available for Haiti.

36 - The spheres of the exercise of violence against women in the national plans of Barbados, Haiti, Saint Lucia and Suriname are not mentioned. No data is available for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The subsample is comprised of 27 countries (84%) which mention the sphere(s) protected by the State.

37 - Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (a comprehensive law is being studied in the Plurinational Assembly of Bolivia, which will guarantee women the right to a dignified life free from violence. To date, the only sphere protected by legislation is the family sphere), Chile, Costa Rica, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. No data for Haiti.

38 - Chile, Dominica, Guyana and Panama.

39 - Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

40 - Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

41 - Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

42 - Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

public and private) spheres legally protected by the State of the exercise of violence against women and additionally, the number of countries that include the right to a life free from violence or a culture of peace in the legislation and/or public policy in terms of the total number of countries analyzed.

Although with variations in the subtotals for each criterion based on access to reliable information, the regional analysis confirms that in 20 out of the 31 countries (64%) that make up the subsample for this criterion, legislation persists on the family, intra-family or domestic spheres as a single sphere of state protection against gender violence. A lower number of cases, 11 out of 31 countries (11%), extended the protection of the State to the public and private spheres. However, low coherence is observed between the legal instruments and public policy, since a greater number of cases, 23 out of 27 countries (85%), recognize both the public and private spheres as part of the definition of violence against women in the national plans and/or policies; and in four cases (15%), they only address the private sphere in the national plans and/or policies analyzed.

This weakness in the level of coherence between legislation and public policy regarding the spheres of intervention of the State in cases of violence against women indicates that in the countries of the region, “first-generation” legal instruments “coexist” with public policy that have made a qualitative leap regarding the State’s due diligence. This is also partly confirmed if we observe the large number of national plans and/or policies regarding the number of legal instruments that have incorporated women’s right to a life free from violence and a culture of peace, a principle that indicates the protection of the State regarding the exercise of violence against women in any sphere in which it is perpetrated. Only a little more than a quarter (26%) of the legislation in the regional sphere has included this principle, while it has been incorporated in 63% of the national plans and/or policies analyzed.

Some expressions of violence against women in the public sphere are indicated below, as well as the number of countries that have criminalized each one of them in the legislation and the response in the national plans and/or policies.

**Table 4: Some expressions of violence against women perpetrated in the public sphere criminalized in national legislation and their inclusion in the national plans and/or policies**

Expression of violence against women in the public sphere	No. of countries with criminalization in the legislation (n = 32)	%	No. of countries with a response in the policy	%
Human trafficking/smuggling	28 <sup>43</sup>	87%	18 out of 28	64% <sup>44</sup>
Forced prostitution	28 <sup>45</sup>	87%	11 out of 28	39% <sup>46</sup>
Institutional or state violence	15 <sup>47</sup>	47%	9 out of 15	60% <sup>48</sup>
Violence in armed conflict	6 <sup>49</sup>	19%	3 out of 6	50% <sup>50</sup>

Source: own elaboration.

43 - Excluding Dominica, Grenada, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago.

44 - Human trafficking/smuggling is not mentioned in the national plans of Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Panama and Saint Lucia.

45 - Forced prostitution is not criminalized in the legislation of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada and Haiti. Out of the indicated countries, it indicates those where forced prostitution (or similar expressions of violence) has been criminalized in the Penal Code and/or in the specific laws on the human trafficking/smuggling and also in those in which this expression of violence is applied through penal legislation only for the cases of children and adolescents (Ecuador).

46 - Forced prostitution is not mentioned in the national plans and/or policies of Argentina, Belize, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay and Venezuela.

47 - Institutional or state violence or violence perpetrated by public officials or agents of the state sphere is criminalized in the legislation of Argentina, Bolivia (Art. 1141 of the National Constitution), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica (with reservations), Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru (as aggravated rape if the perpetrator belongs to the Armed Forces, Police Force or other security forces (Article 170, Penal Code), Uruguay, Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago.

48 - Argentina, Belize, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Venezuela.

49 - Colombia, Chile, Ecuador (Article 602.44 of the Penal Code), Jamaica (Sexual Offenses Act, 2009) and Paraguay and Peru.

50 - The national plans and/or policies of Colombia, Guatemala and Paraguay address (sexual) violence perpetrated in the framework of armed conflict.

The analysis confirms that the national laws of 28 out of 32 countries have criminalized human trafficking/smuggling, and the same number has passed laws to punish forced prostitution (87% in both cases), whether it is incorporated into the legislation on violence against women (or other expressions of violence) or into specific legal instruments. Forced prostitution is usually incorporated into the laws on human trafficking/smuggling or is criminalized in specific laws or in the penal codes. Coherence with the national plans and/or policies to address violence against women is moderately high for the case of human trafficking/smuggling (64%), i.e., little more than 6 out of every 10 policies incorporate this legal crime, although it is low for the case of forced prostitution as only 4 out of every 10 policies include it.

Violence exercised by the State or its agents, called institutional or state violence, is criminalized in a little less than half of the laws of the region’s countries, although the degree of coherence is moderately high if you take into account that 6 out of every 10 national plans and/or policies that address violence against women include said expression of violence when it is in penal legislation.

Likewise, a global view of the set of instruments analyzed invites us to think that a weak degree of recognition still persists of the “new contexts of criminality”<sup>51</sup> which occur outside of the domestic sphere and contribute to the exacerbation of violence against women in the public sphere. An example of this is violence against women in the context of armed conflict (mostly sexual violence). This is only criminalized in six countries of the region, while its impact on the national plans and/or policies to address violence against women in the countries which recognize this crime is 50%. It is worth mentioning the following elements, because of their impact on the region: drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism, the internationalization of criminal organizations, transnational organizations of criminal youth gangs (such as the maras in Central America), civil conflict, migratory phenomena, among other “new

contexts of criminality”, which, in turn, mark out “new territories” that are the “target” of the new expressions of violence against women and that affect women’s psychophysical, emotional and economic integrity and limit their capacity for growth and personal development and their participation in the development of the nations.

### C. The Diversity of the Social Group of Women in National Plans and/or Policies.

Violence does not affect all women equally. Some groups of women are more vulnerable to violence due to certain specific features, such as belonging to an ethnic group, to a socioeconomic level, their political ideology or opinion, their sexual orientation, their national or social origin, their age group (girls, adolescent girls, adult women, female senior citizens), their level of education and place of residence (women who live in urban or rural areas), among others. But also in a more vulnerable situation are women deprived of freedom; women who carry out prostitution; those who live with human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) or who have any physical or mental disability<sup>52</sup>, women who live in a context of armed conflict; women who are subject to slavery, forced labor (or similar practices); or women who are members of groups related to criminal activities (small-scale drug dealing, youth gangs, organized crime, among others), often against their own will.

In this sense, a comprehensive approach of the national plans and/or policies must recognize the different individual characteristics and specific nature, needs and realities of each group of women with the aim to design and adapt focused strategies from an inter-cultural and inclusive perspective. Table 5 identifies a series of criteria that describe the diversity of the social group of women, their most prominent features and the number of countries and percentage of the total analyzed that include these features as part of the definition of violence against women that they adopt in their national plans and/

51 - The new contexts of criminality and the factors that allow them to become more visible show us different expressions of violence, some ancestral and other kinds unique to current times: a. “sexual violence: prostitution, sexual violence, smuggling for the sex trade, the industry of women’s bodies, express kidnapping with sexual violence; b. economic violence: the feminization of poverty, sale of organs, illegal adoption, protection of territories, “use” of their bodies as a means for transporting drugs and assets; c. cultural violence: expropriation of ancestral goods such as water and land as a result of mining and hydrological exploitation, genital circumcision, arranged marriages; d. physical violence: dismemberment, acid attacks; d. technological violence: harassment via the internet or cell phone, attraction through social networks for prostitution; e. connected or related crimes: violence is exercised against women’s children to punish the women and make them suffer.” In: Nuevas expresiones de criminalidad contra las mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe: un desafío del Sistema de Justicia en el Siglo XXI [New Forms of Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Challenge for the Justice System in the 21st Century]. Prepared by the Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. April 2012. Panama City, Panama.

52 - In October 2012, the Special Rapporteur submitted her second report to the General Assembly (A/67/227). Violence against disabled women is addressed in the report. The document proposes that the States must seek the empowerment of disabled women. This is a social model of disability, in comparison to an approach with an emphasis on vulnerability (A/HRC/23/49) or a hegemonic medical model or model based on charity.

or policies and/or as part of the strategies they implement to address these factors of inequality and discrimination that women suffer from and that exacerbate violence.

Out of a total of 29 countries on which reliable information was accessed, the national plans and/or policies recognize, to a greater or lesser extent, the specific needs of different social groups of women with the objective to provide a focused response of prevention, care, punishment and reparations of violence. More than half of the national plans and/or policies (62%) recognize the need to provide a differentiated institutional response to generational diversity, regarding violence that is exercised against girls, adolescent girls, adult women and female senior citizens. In turn, almost half of the national plans and/or policies (48%) recognize racial or ethnic diversity (above all, indigenous women and/or afro-descendent women) and another part recog-

nizes geographical diversity (women farmers who live in rural areas and in areas very far from the urban centers, etc.).

In 13 out of the 29 national plans and/or policies analyzed (44%), the cultural and economic barriers are indicated related to access support services (health, access to the justice system, preventative actions, etc.) and a lower percentage also refers to linguistic (38%) and religious (10%) diversity. In turn, in 44% of the national plans and/or policies, i.e., nearly half of the cases, specific strategies are formulated to combat violence against women with some kind of disability (physical and/or mental) and in 34% of the national plans and/or policies, sexual orientation is also explicitly recognized as a factor that contributes to the exacerbation of violence against women.

In terms of the intersection between violence against women and HIV/AIDS, and in spite of the

**Table 5: Diversity criteria of the social group of women identified in the national plans and/or policies, features, number of countries and percentage**

Diversity criteria identified in the national plans and/or policies	No. of countries (n = 29) <sup>53</sup>	%
Ethnic	14 <sup>54</sup>	48%
Geographical	14 <sup>55</sup>	48%
Cultural	13 <sup>56</sup>	44%
Economic level	13 <sup>57</sup>	44%
Linguistic	11 <sup>58</sup>	38%
Sexual orientation	10 <sup>59</sup>	34%
Women with HIV/AIDS	7 <sup>60</sup>	24%
Generational	18 <sup>61</sup>	62%
Disabilities	13 <sup>62</sup>	44%
Other	12 <sup>63</sup>	41%

Source: own elaboration.

53 - There is no information on the cases of Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.  
 54 - Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.  
 55 - Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.  
 56 - Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.  
 57 - Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.  
 58 - Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago.  
 59 - Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru.  
 60 - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Brazil, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Peru.  
 61 - Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.  
 62 - The Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago.  
 63 - Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Uruguay and Venezuela.

feminization of the incidence of HIV/AIDS in the region, only in 7 out of 29 countries (24%) national plans and/or policies to address violence against women do formulate specific actions on prevention and care or strategies focused on women with HIV

Finally, 41% of the national plans and/or policies (twelve cases) refer to other situations that are a source of discrimination, privation and possible violence against women. Out of these situations, it is worth pointing out the violence experienced by women migrants and refugees, sex workers, women drug consumers (identified in the national plans of Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados) and women in captivity (as in the case of Brazil's national plan), among others. This group also includes those national plans and/or policies that generically identify the experience of "women who are members of vulnerable groups" (Jamaica), "women in violent situations" (the Dominican Republic) or that simply mention "women" without indicating particular characteristics of specific groups, despite recognizing the plural nature of the social group from an inclusive perspective.

**D. Multi-dimensionality of the Institutional Response System to Violence against Women with a Focus on the Central Pillars of Prevention, Care, Punishment and Reparations.**

The multi-dimensionality of the institutional response to address violence against women refers to the group of objectives, strategies and activities formulated in the national plans and/or policies regarding the central concepts of prevention, care, punishment and reparations<sup>64</sup>. In the group of national plans and/or policies analyzed, variable degrees of development are observed for each one of the central concepts mentioned, having national plans and/or policies in which one central concept is favored over another.

Table 6 shows the countries that have created objectives, lines of action and/or specific actions for the central concepts of prevention, care, punishment and reparations of violence against women in their national plans and/or policies.

**Table 6: Actions for the central pillars of prevention, care, punishment and reparations addressed in the national plans and/or policies**

Central pillars	No. of countries (n = 31) <sup>65</sup>	%
Prevention	31	100%
Care	31	100%
Punishment	18 <sup>66</sup>	58%
Reparations	12 <sup>67</sup>	39%

Source: own elaboration.

As can be seen, all of the national plans and/or policies analyzed formulate specific objectives and strategies to address the central dimensions of prevention and care (100%). In little more than half of the cases, the instruments address the central concept of punishment (58%), while lines of action to address the central concept of reparations are included in practically 40% of the cases. The latter indicates that doubts still persist for the States in terms of managing to forecast the measures aimed at economic empowerment, social reintegration, access to stable housing and employment, the strengthening of the capacity of victims/survivors and of their emotional strength to make autonomous decisions, among others. The initiatives implemented and the results obtained for each one of the central concepts are addressed in greater depth in the section on "Implementation of the National Plans and/or Policies".

Regarding the central concept of prevention, the main strategies are aimed at:

- Changing the sociocultural, economic and political patterns to prevent violence against women through campaigns on prevention, education, communication, training, awareness and/or encouragement of positive attitudes, values and practices of respect for human rights<sup>68</sup> and a life free from violence<sup>69</sup>.
- Creating "safe institutional concepts" and transforming the organizational practices to establish environments of zero tolerance of violence against women within public institutions as well

64 - For more information about the "fundamental elements of a primary prevention strategy and of the response system to violence against women, see the Handbook for National Action Plans on Violence against Women (UN Women, 2012). We also recommend visiting the Virtual Knowledge Centre on Violence against Women <http://www.endvawnow.org>  
 65 - There is no information on the central concepts formulated by the national plans and/or policies of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.  
 66 - Argentina, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.  
 67 - Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay and Venezuela.

as in the private sector (work sphere in the public and private sector and military, religious, recreational and sports institutions, etc.).

- Creating networks between social<sup>70</sup> and political-institutional actors and involving young men, men and boys (for example, through positive masculinity programs) so that they act as allies of social transformation and the changing of cultural patterns that exacerbate violence against women.
- Enhancing community advocacy through the participation of grassroots social organizations and the local authorities to implement actions for prevention in the territorial sphere.
- Identifying those “related problems” that exacerbate violence against women (for example, the consumption of alcohol and drugs, access to firearms, etc.) and to create multisectoral agendas to ensure complementarity between the policies.
- Designing and implementing early intervention programs aimed at children who have witnessed violence in the family environment or who have suffered from situations of violence, particularly sexual abuse and/or physical violence.
- Designing and implementing initiatives related to the Safe Cities and Communities program<sup>71</sup>.
- Forging “safe school environments” which include the review and adaptation of teaching material and texts that are used in all levels of teaching and the adaptation of curriculums to include violence against women as part of course planning.
- Designing and implementing initiatives that promote “positive and non-violent upbringing” through prevention programs directed at families; among the main strategies.

Regarding the central concept of care, the main strategies aim to:

- Create areas to provide comprehensive care (medical and psychological care, emotional support, legal advice and reporting), accommodation (temporary shelters, refuges, etc.), translation and interpreting services, etc., and care focused on the victims/survivors to prevent revictimization.
- Develop employment and assisted housing programs (long-term empowerment).
- Ensure access to services for initial care and crisis care (emergency).
- Create multisectoral comprehensive care protocols.
- Provide comprehensive care to the children of victims/survivors.
- Activate the operation of free telephone care lines in the national sphere, open 24 hours a day, every day, providing advice, information, guidance and support to the victims/survivors.
- Create multisectoral support networks.

Regarding the central concept of punishment, the main strategies are aimed at:

- Creating multisectoral work agendas for the review and harmonization of the regulatory frameworks to amend and/or revoke provisions that are discriminatory toward women.
- Incorporating gender mainstreaming into policies.
- Adopting measures to ensure legal protection for victims/survivors.
- Promoting making the punishments for attackers more severe.
- Modifying the vocabulary used in the formulation of laws with the aim to eradicate sexist bias.
- Creating and/or strengthening specialist police

units to respond to violence against women (not replacing all the police units or the work of district attorneys’ offices) and specialist court systems or specialized legal processes.

- Developing the capacity of justice workers and officials of the judiciary system.
- Coordinating the work of the police and of the public prosecutor teams to respond to violence against women in a coordinated and effective way (for example, through the preparation of intersectoral action protocols).
- Ensuring the availability of effective protection orders for the victims/survivors and legal processes.
- Implementing “intervention” programs for assailants, for example, programs that promote the modification of the behavior of assailants as part of the sentence and not as an alternative to the legal process.

Regarding the reparations central concept, the main strategies are aimed at:

- Designing and implementing initiatives for reparations for the infringed rights and moral damages of the victims/survivors.
- Designing and implementing intersectoral measures that achieve the economic empowerment of the victims/survivors (for example, by granting microloans).
- Providing psychological, legal, social and economic assistance to victims/survivors.
- Prioritizing the immediate access of victims/survivors to housing, medication and other medical supplies or specific requirements.
- Designing and implementing measures aimed at social and labor reintegration through employment, training and professional programs, etc.

68 - To find out more about practical strategies that guide the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a national campaign to end violence against women, we recommend visiting the Virtual Knowledge Centre on Violence against Women (UN Women) <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/modules/view/3-campanas.html>

69 - For further information on how to develop formative research (or needs assessment) prior to the design of a campaign to prevent violence against women, we recommend visiting the Virtual Knowledge Centre on Violence against Women (UN Women): <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/334-situation-analyses-needs-assessments-formative-research-.html>

70 - Out of these, it is worth highlighting the social organizations (women’s, feminist and human rights defense groups, movements and organizations; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual groups, etc.), journalists and other media professionals, religious or traditional leaders, sportspeople, actors/actresses, singers or other famous personalities with the capacity to influence so that they act as “ambassadors” of the prevention of violence against women in the regional, national and/or territorial sphere.

71 - For further information regarding the initiatives implemented in the framework of the Safe Cities and Communities program, we recommend visiting the following link [http://www.americalatinagenera.org/es/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=295&Itemid=170](http://www.americalatinagenera.org/es/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=295&Itemid=170)

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## MAJOR PROGRESS AND CRITICAL ISSUES: A LOOK ACROSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PLANS AND/OR POLICIES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



In the current regional context, most of the countries are making important efforts to create new comprehensive and integrated, participatory and intersectoral policies, to address violence against women. In some States of the region, these advances have even operated in the framework of larger state reform and modernization processes. These reforms have the aim to redefine relations with civil society, create or strengthen gender interinstitutional processes, open new debates, coordinate new demands and formulate new agendas.

Renewed regulatory frameworks, public policy and national plans are observed in the region. They include new expressions of violence as well as the implementation of specific programs to respond to gender issues and violence against women, and progressively are providing an increasingly comprehensive response to the victims and survivors. Progress has also been made in the strengthening of gender interinstitutional processes and the institutionalization of new and more inclusive and participatory best practices that have an impact on the development of the national plans and/or gender equality policies and the fight against violence toward women.

However, although many countries are taking key steps for complying with the Convention of Belém do Pará and important advances have been made on this subject, there are still some critical issues in terms of the formulation, implementation, monitor-

ing and evaluation of policies and plans that hinder better results from being achieved in the prevention of and response to violence against women. These challenges arise throughout the life cycle of public policy and in at least five inter-related dimensions:

- **Political-institutional dimension:** The decision-making process, the actors and their resources (capacity); the governance structures created for the development of the policies and the creation of alliances to make an impact in decision-making areas.
- **Regulatory dimension:** The set of (first and second-generation) legal instruments to address violence against women and the strategies adopted to encourage legislative reform.
- **Distributive dimension:** The management of economic resources in order to achieve the objectives formulated in the national plans, policies and strategies to allocate greater budgetary resources to address violence against women.
- **Organizational dimension:** The organizations' capacity to manage, economic, information, knowledge, material and human resources, etc., the structure the organizations adopt, the partnerships they create to strengthen themselves and their strategies to ensure the sustainability of the policies.
- **Cultural dimension:** The set of values, meanings, practices, interpretations of reality and forms of social networking that naturalize violence against women and the strategies to promote cultural transformation from the State and civil society.

Public policy arises to respond to problems or situations that demand attention and its content guides and establishes the path of public action to achieve satisfactory solutions and responses for society. Therefore, public policy represents and contains: a) The principles, regulations and objectives (or objective proposals); b) which express a decision or set of decisions issued by the political system; c) which indicate a course of action regarding the problem or issue, about behavior of action or inaction in respect to this issue; d) which are explicitly formulated and approved by the State, and e) in order to guide the behavior of a specific sector of development and citizen life<sup>72</sup>.

72 - UNDP (2011): Equality, equity and gender mainstreaming policies. What are we talking about?: Conceptual framework.

Generally, it is proposed that the lifecycle stages of public policy are formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. However, there are several intermediary steps and a fundamental previous step regarding the inclusion of a topic into the public agenda.

Therefore, the first step in the process of formulating public policy is ensuring that the issue or problem that should be the focal point of the objective is included in the public agenda. This may occur as an initiative of institutional agents: political parties, government, etc., or of other social actors such as civil society organizations.

Regarding violence against women, the resistance of some conservative social groups creates barriers for

building agendas, passing and/or regulating laws, reforming legal frameworks and for the approval of national plans. In turn, these actors establish a discourse that strengthens the naturalization of violence against women and hinders the proposal of consensus in the definition of the problem and necessary intervention.

That is why it is essential that public management has the leadership and political power to achieve the necessary consensus between social and political-institutional actors, often with different interests. The objective is to drive changes inside the State and to provide a more efficient institutional response according to social demands. In this sense, to be able to face the growing diverse expressions of violence against women, its scale and cruelty, the

government institutions that govern public policy require strong leadership, with the capacity to drive, negotiate, advocate and adapt to change.

#### A. THE FORMULATION OF NATIONAL PLANS AND/OR POLICIES

The dimensions of analysis of the process of formulation of national plans and/or policies to address violence against women need research on the following issues: i) the actors (social, political, institutional actors as well as international cooperation) which participate in this stage of the process, and ii) the strategies used by the actors involved in the formulation of the national plans and/or policies.

##### a. THE ACTORS<sup>73</sup> IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING NATIONAL PLANS AND/OR POLICIES

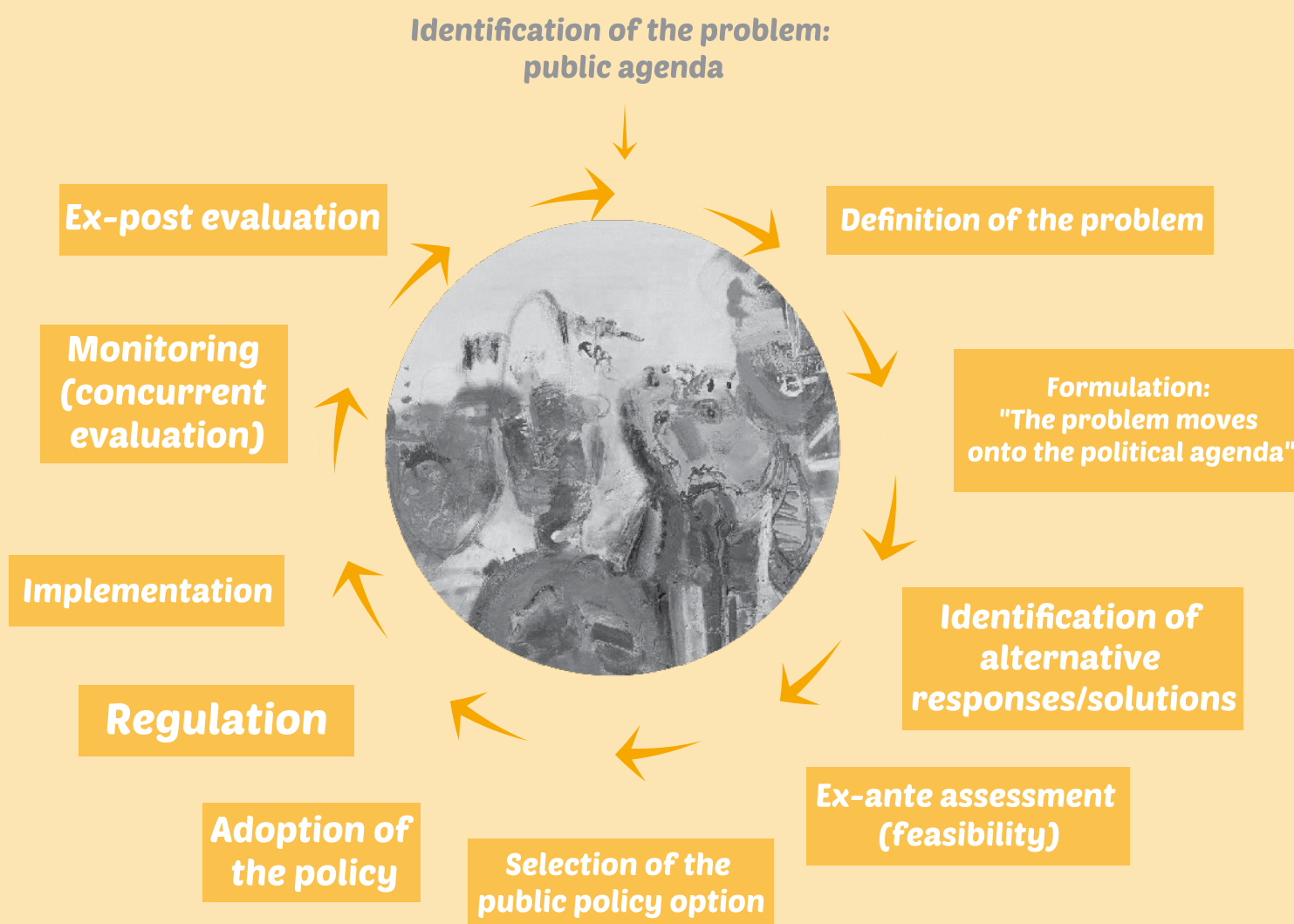
According to the analysis of available information, at least three types of actors are identified with different levels and profiles of participation in the process of formulating national plans and/or policies to address violence against women: i) political-institutional actors; ii) social actors and iii) international cooperation.

Regarding the political-institutional actors in Latin America and the Caribbean, a trend is identified towards the active participation of institutions in the national and subnational spheres. Under the coord-

ination of the government organizations (in many cases, the national women's institutes or ministries) or the interinstitutional coordination mechanisms created for the formulation and/or implementation of national plans and/or policies, the different sectors – with names and hierarchical levels that vary among the States – which have had the greatest impact have been the institutions that form part of the following areas: Justice; Human Rights; Health; Education; Social Development; Women; Childhood; Family; Adolescence and Youth; Economy; Work; Housing; National Security or Public Security; Culture; Planning; the police bodies; statistics institutes and offices; the National Ombudsmen's Offices; Offices of the Women's Ombudsman; Offices of the Indigenous Women's Ombudsman (and other traditionally excluded groups), the committees for the prevention or fight against violence in the government and/or legislative spheres, and academia, among others.

National contributions of different social actors also stand out, especially those of the organizations or movements in defense of women's rights and/or feminist organizations or movements; human rights organizations; organizations in defense of indigenous, rural, Afro-descendant or other women; social organizations that fight against HIV/AIDS; the victims/survivors of violence; community grassroots organizations represented by directors or com-

### Lifecycle Stages of Public Policy



#### Critical Issue: Weak Political Support and Decision-Making

Through this research, it has been demonstrated that in several states of the region, national plans to address violence against women have still not been approved, or these plans are still in the formulation process, even after having signed and ratified the regional and international instruments on the subject. Although the causes may be different in nature -and studying this matter in depth is not the objective of this research - an initial working hypothesis would indicate that, on the one hand, a certain weakness is observed in this group of States in terms of the political resources held by the government institutions in charge of public policy to address violence against women, in terms of having the necessary political support for the formulation, reformulation and approval of national plans and/or policies and to make progress in their implementation.

Furthermore, in some countries, scarce political resolve is observed among the organization involved in the implementation of the policies and/or plans. Both matters create tension in the horizontal sphere (between sectors) as well as in the vertical sphere (between jurisdictions) would appear to still not be solved, especially if the ever-growing scale of violence against women in the region is taken into account.

73 - In the framework of this research, actors are understood as "those individuals or groups that occupy a strategic position in the decision system and that in the process of formulating policies are responsible for the functions of coordination in the cognitive field and the field of power. Meanwhile, mediators are those who define the topics of public and political agendas, and the framework in which the negotiations, alliances and conflicts that the decision-making is based on are implemented." (Belmartino, 1998:2-3 in Acuña y Repetto, 2001:18)..

munal leaders; experts on the subject of gender or violence against women; and representatives of religious groups, of the private sector and the media; among the most representative social groups.

Regarding the degree of participation, the study confirms that the region is going from a vertical and sectoral state model of action, with scarce social participation, in which the social actors are simply informed about the decisions that are made “from the top” and without participation in the decision-making process, to a decentralized model in the territorial and local level, which proposes expanding capacity, building networks and opening “more horizontal” channels of participation for a plural definition and joint implementation of the national plans and/or policies with shared responsi-

bilities and functions between the State and civil society. In this sense, the new regional scenario shows us two realities.

On the one hand, a group of countries where the moderate participation of social actors prevails, which are invited by the institutions to provide information for the preparation of diagnostics prior to the design of national plans and/or policies and/or for the collective scheduling of activities. On the other hand, a group of countries in which there is significant participation of the social actors<sup>74</sup>, which participate through consultation and/or validations managed through the institutions (even adopting untraditional methods, like in the case of Peru or Guyana, through online media, forums, surveys or participation in research studies). In this case social

**TABLE 7: Government institutions leading the formulation of National Plans and/or policies to address violence against women and the level of participation of civil society.**

State	Governing government institution	Participation of civil society and level (moderate or significant)
Antigua and Barbuda	Directorate of Gender Affairs	Significant
Argentina	Consejo Nacional de las Mujeres (National Women’s Council) under the control of the Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales (National Council for Coordination of Social Policies), under the control of the Presidency of Argentina	Moderate
Barbados	The National Plan against HIV/AIDS 2008-2013 has been formulated under the strategic management of the National HIV/AIDS Commission’s Secretariat together with the National Strategic Plan, NSP, Steering Committee).	Significant
Bahamas	Ministry of Labor and Social Development	n/d
Belize	Women’s Department under the control of the Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation	Moderate
Brazil	Conselho Nacional dos Direitos da Mulher (National Council of Women’s Rights) under the control of which are the Secretaria Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres (Special Secretariat of Policies for Women) and the Secretaria de Enfrentamento a Violência contra a Mulher (Secretariat for Confronting Violence against Women) operate.	Significant
Chile	Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (National Women’s Service)	Moderate
Colombia	Alta Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer (Presidential Council for Women’s Equity)	Significant

74 - The cases of the following countries stand out, Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

Dominica	Bureau of Gender Affairs under the control of the Ministry of Social Services, Community Development and Gender Affairs	n/d
Ecuador	Comisión de Transición Hacia el Consejo de las Mujeres y la Igualdad de Género (Transition Commission for the National Council for Women and Gender Equality) (Executive Decree 1733/2009)	Moderate
El Salvador	Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women)	Moderate
Guyana	Women Affairs Bureau under the control of the Ministry of Labor, Human Services and Social Security.	Significant
Grenada	Bureau of Gender Affairs of the Ministry of Social Development Housing and Community Development	Significant
Honduras	Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (National Women’s Institute)	Moderate
Jamaica	Bureau of Women’s Affairs under the control of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture	Significant
Paraguay	Ministerio de la Mujer (Ministry of Women)	Significant
Peru	Ministerio de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables (Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Population Groups)	Significant
Dominican Republic	Ministerio de la Mujer (Ministry of Women)	Moderate
Saint Lucia	Division of Gender Relations under the control of the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations	Moderate
Trinidad and Tobago	Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs	Significant

N/d: no data.

actors give feedback on the design of national plans and/or policies through strategic planning that is aware of the political resolve to “listen to all the voices”.

Finally, the research confirms the outstanding role of the United Nations System agencies, bilateral or multilateral cooperation agencies and multilateral financial institutions, among others, in terms of the formulation of national plans and/or policies through technical and/or economic support. This trend is greater among the countries of the Caribbean and Central America region.

#### b. FORMULATION STRATEGIES

At least two strategies are identified to be adopted by the countries for the formulation of national plans and/or policies to address violence against women:

1. Coordination of the formulation process by the government institution governing public policy to address violence against women.

2. Creation of an interinstitutional (intersectoral) coordination mechanism under the coordination of the institution governing the national plans and/or policies to address violence against women.

The regional analysis enabled the identification of 20 out of 31 countries<sup>75</sup> (65%) in which the government institutions in charge of women’s or gender equality issues are the drivers of the formulation processes of the national plans and/or policies in each country. Although an interinstitutional coordination mechanism is not created, other state-owned organizations from different sectors and international cooperation agencies participate in the formulation process<sup>76</sup>. In some cases, the formulation process has also been decentralized (as will be-

75 - Insufficient data to confirm Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

76 - Like, for example, the national plans and/or policies elaborated in the framework of the Strengthen State Accountability and Community Action project, supported by UN Women.



**TABLE 8: Interinstitutional coordination mechanisms responsible for formulating national plans and/or policies to address violence against women and the level of participation of civil society**

State	Mechanism of interinstitutional coordination <sup>77</sup>	Level of participation of civil society (moderate or significant)
Bolivia	National System to Prevent, Attend to, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women coordinated by the Viceministerio de Igualdad de Oportunidades (Vice-ministry of Equal Opportunities), Ministerio de Justicia (Ministry of Justice).	Significant
Costa Rica	National System for the Care and Prevention of Violence against Women and Intra-family Violence coordinated by the National Women's Institute.	Significant
Guatemala	Coordinadora Nacional para la Prevención de la Violencia Intrafamiliar y contra las Mujeres (National Coordinator for the Prevention of Intra-family Violence and Violence against Women), coordinated by the Secretaría Presidencial de la Mujer (Presidential Secretariat for Women).	Significant
Haiti	<i>Concertation Nationale contre les Violences spécifiques faites aux femmes (National Agreement against Violence against Women) coordinated by Ministère à la Condition féminine et aux droits des femmes (Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights)</i>	Moderate
Mexico	Sistema Nacional de Prevención, Atención, Sanción y Erradicación de la Violencia contra las Mujeres (National System for the Prevention, Care, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women), an official organization led by the Secretaría de Gobernación (Secretariat of the Interior) and of which the Secretaría Ejecutiva (Executive Secretariat) is under the Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (National Women's Institute).	Significant
Nicaragua	Comisión Nacional de Lucha contra la Violencia hacia la Mujer, Niñez y Adolescencia (National Commission for the Fight against Violence toward Women, Children and Adolescents), coordinated by the Ministerio de Familia, Adolescencia y Niñez (Ministry of Family, Childhood and Adolescence)	Significant
Panama	Comisión Nacional para la Elaboración del Plan Nacional Contra la Violencia Doméstica y Políticas de Convivencia Ciudadana (National Commission for the Elaboration of the National Plan Against Domestic Violence and Citizen Coexistence Policies) coordinated by the Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (National Women's Institute)-Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (Ministry of Social Development)	Significant
Saint Kitts and Nevis	<i>Steering Committee for Ending Gender-Based Violence coordinated by the Department of Gender Affairs</i>	Significant
Suriname	Comité Monitor del Plan de Acción Integral de Género (Monitoring Committee of the Comprehensive Gender Action Plan) coordinated by the Ministerio del Interior (Interior Ministry)	Moderate
Uruguay	Consejo Nacional Consultivo de Lucha contra la Violencia Doméstica (National Advisory Council on the Fight against Domestic Violence) led by the Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (National Women's Institute) under the control of the Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (Ministry of Social Development)	Significant
Venezuela	Comisión Intersectorial de Alto Nivel (High-Level Intersectoral Committee) made up of the ministers of all the institutions related to the implementation of the plan coordinated by the Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Mujer y la Igualdad de Género (Ministry of People's Power for Women and Gender Equality)	Moderate

Source: Own elaboration.

come clear further on), involving representatives of subnational and/or local institutions with different levels of participation of civil society.

Interinstitutional and intersectoral mechanisms to formulate national plans and/or policies to address violence against women have been created in 11 of the 31 countries (35%) through a specific regulation that governs its mandate and its composition. The same mechanisms are integrated by different institutions in the national and subnational spheres and even, in some cases, by civil society organizations and coordinated by a collegial body or institution. Interinstitutionality is a distinctive feature that translates into opportunities for agreements whereby responsibilities are assigned according to the fields of skills of each organization and those to which resources are granted through the central budget or the budget of each institution according to the interinstitutional agreements reached. These resources may be committed later in the subsequent implementation phase of the national plans and/or policies.

Table 8 indicates the countries where the government institutions governing the subject of gender have promoted the creation of interinstitutional coordination mechanisms for the formulation national plans and/or policies and the level of social participation, whether it is moderate or significant, according to the criteria established in the previous section.

Adopting one strategy or another, a trend is observed in the region toward the participation of institutions of subnational levels (states, provinces, territories, regions, municipalities, departments, etc.) in the process of formulating the national plans and/or policies in coordination with the centralized institutions. This coordination between jurisdictions responds, on the one hand, to the need to adopt an approach that captures regional and local attention and identifies the specific needs of each territory and, at the same time, allows information to be spread and signed commitments to be translated into agreements or conventions between the different jurisdictional levels of government. The interjurisdictional coordination also obeys the legal mandate of subnational entities to formulate their own plans or policies in coordination with the national plans. Like in the case of El Salvador, where the Special Comprehensive Law for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence includes the coordination of

the National Policy with the municipalities through the creation of municipal councils responsible for the formulation of the Municipal Plans for the Prevention of Violence against Women every three years in coordination with civil society.

Interjurisdictional coordination is of vital importance from a political and administrative perspective in the federal countries (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela), because of the necessary coordination that must exist between the State and the subnational jurisdictions. In Argentina, for example, Law 26,485, , and its Regulatory Decree 1011/2010, provide that the formulation of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Support and Eradication of Violence against Women is carried out in coordination between the three levels of government: national, provincial and municipal (Law 26,485, Art. 9., inc. b). In turn, in Brazil, the Pacto Nacional pelo Enfrentamento à Violência contra a Mulher (National Agreement to Counter Violence against Women) (2008-2011), which was ratified by 24 of the 26 States, was the result of the agreement between the Federal Government through the Secretaría Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres (Special Secretariat of Policies for Women), together with the states and municipalities. And in Mexico, the Sistema Nacional de Prevención, Atención, Sanción y Erradicación de la Violencia contra las Mujeres (National System for the Prevention, Care, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women) formulated the Comprehensive Program to Prevent, Attend to, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women (2010-2012) in coordination with the governments of the federal entities, the 32 Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in the State and the 9 federal institutions.

However, this interjurisdictional coordination strategy is not unique to the federal States. In the rest of the countries, progress has also been made in promoting the participation of subnational institutions and decentralized entities on gender issues from the central level. Table 9 identifies the countries in which coordination is observed between the jurisdictions for the formulation of national plans and/or policies.

#### B. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PLANS AND/OR POLICIES

The strategies adopted and the governance structures created for the implementation of the national plans and/or policies coincide with those established in the formulation phase<sup>78</sup>, with the exception

77 - For a list of the civil society organizations and bodies that comprise the interinstitutional coordination mechanisms, please see the Mapping of National Plans and/or Policies that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

78 - For a list of governance structures and the institutional framework created for the implementation of the national plans and/or policies collectively with the States analyzed, please see the Mapping of National Plans and/or Policies that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**TABLE 9: Decentralization strategy according to the country**

State	Decentralization strategy
<b>Argentina</b>	Law 26,485 and its Regulatory Decree 1011/2010 stipulate that the formulation of the national plan is carried out in coordination with the three levels of government (national, provincial and municipal) with the participation of the academia, trade union, business and religious spheres and organizations that defend women's rights and other competent civil society organizations on the subject
<b>Brazil</b>	The Pacto Nacional pelo Enfrentamento à Violência contra a Mulher (National Agreement to Counter Violence against Women) (2008-2011) was the result of an agreement between the Federal Government through the Secretaria Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres (Special Secretariat of Policies for Women), together with the states and municipalities.
<b>Chile</b>	The three levels of the State (central, regional and local) have participated in the design of the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Intra-family Violence (2011-2012).
<b>Colombia</b>	The Comprehensive Plan to Ensure a Life Free from Violence for Women (2012-2022) included a process of regional and sectoral consultations and talks together with the participation and political advocacy of the national women's platforms.
<b>Costa Rica</b>	The National Operational Plan for the Care and Prevention of Intra-family Violence and the National Operational Plan for the Care and Prevention of Intra-family Violence against Women are characterized by an interinstitutional and intersectoral approach under the coordination of the Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (National Women's Institute) and in a decentralized way through the Municipal Women's Offices.
<b>El Salvador</b>	The Special Comprehensive Law for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence stipulates the coordination of national policy with the municipalities through the creation of municipal councils responsible for the formulation of Municipal Plans for the Prevention of violence against Women every three years in coordination with civil society.
<b>Guatemala</b>	The National Operational Plan for the Care and Prevention of Intra-family Violence went through three consultation and validation phases in which the national institutions participated in coordination with the regional, departmental, municipal and community levels under the technical coordination of the National Coordinator for the Prevention of Intra-family Violence and Violence against Women.
<b>Guyana</b>	The National Domestic Violence Act (1996) and the National Policy on Domestic Violence (2008-2013) are the result of respective discussion, debate and reflection processes between the national, regional and local institutions.
<b>Mexico</b>	The Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (National Women's Institute) has formulated the Comprehensive Program to Prevent, Attend to, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women (2010-2012) together with the participation of the governments of the federal entities, the 32 Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in the State and the 9 federal institutions.
<b>Peru</b>	The National Plan against Violence Against Women (2009-2015) is the result of the dialog between national, regional and local institutions for the review, generation of comments and validation before its approval
<b>Uruguay</b>	The formulation of the National Plan to Fight Against Domestic Violence (2004-2010) has been the result of coordinated work between the institutions at the national sphere and the authorities of the state administrations through subnational meetings to validate the information contained in the plan and assess the feasibility of the implementation at the departmental level.

Source: own elaboration.

**Critical Issue: Insufficient Allocation of Financial Resources**

The access to information regarding the allocation of economic resources for the application of laws (when these are regulated) and for the formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the national plans and/or policies to address violence against women has been limited, and in some cases it is out of date.

There is a gap in the information regarding the percentage of the national budget assigned each year to planned actions to prevention, care, punishment and/or reparations. And although in some cases there is information on general budgets, there is no chance for knowing the percentage of the national budget allocated and executed by the institutions, because they do not have a specific budget for this type of program, i.e., no information is provided that breaks down the items according to the type of expense.

However, according to the official sources consulted, it can be concluded that the majority of the countries does not have specific budgetary items for the implementation of national plans and/or policies, and cases have even been identified in which they are exclusively financed by international cooperation resources or donations. This reduces the possibility of ensuring the sustainability of the policies.

Added to this, it is worth pointing out the low budget allocation to finance government institutions in charge of the issue and for the implementation of the national plans and/or policies.

of Panama, which also set up the Comisión Nacional para la Elaboración del Plan Nacional Contra la Violencia Doméstica y Políticas de Convivencia Ciudadana (National Commission for the Elaboration of the National Plan against Domestic Violence and Citizen Coexistence Policies) (2004-2014), a body with specific functions for the design of the National Plan against Domestic Violence and Citizen Coexistence Policies (2004-2014). This continuity could be considered to be a suitable strategy that would ensure the sustainability of the continuum formulation-implementation-monitoring-evaluation. By having the installed capacity, it will introduce a priori certain coherence in establishing a public policy resulting from accumulated knowledge.

Not all the national plans and/or policies analyzed establish a term or a period of time measured in years for the implementation of the activities and the achievement of the planned results. In some cases, the law provides a specific term for the implementation of the national plan and/or policy. When they establish terms of execution, 24 out of 32 countries (75%), the average is 5.4 years (having policies which have established terms of execution of one year in the lower limit and there is one case with a term of eleven years in the upper limit). Although it cannot be established a parameter that allows the effectiveness of the policies to be established in terms of the period of execution, the experience of medium and long-term policies reveals that these policies allow the following: a vision of the future to be built, a more efficient interinstitutional coordination, the opportunity to learn from good practices

and the medium-term evaluations and to gradually make adjustments with a larger degree of flexibility. In the longer term, the sustainability and viability of the policies and the political commitment to have an impact on a greater allocation of budgetary resources seems to be greater, at the same time as the long-term policies allow greater visibility, accountability and disclosure, etc.

Although the great majority of the States that make up the sample of this study have national plans and/or policies to address violence against women, few of them allocate a specific budget item for their implementation. And even when the committed resources exist, the testimonials collected confirm that there are delays in securing these resources in time. This situation is aggravated by several factors, out of which, it is worth indicating an also meager allocation of budget resources for government institutions in charge of addressing violence against women; weakness in the administration of scarce resources; lack of criteria to establish priorities in coordination with civil servants and technical staff in order to define strategically how economic resources should be used; administrative-bureaucratic regulations and procedures that slow down the successful operations of the Administration; weakness or lack of implementation of accountability mechanisms between the political level and the Administration, between the different levels within public administration (horizontal accountability) and to citizenship (vertical accountability) ; among the main causes.

With the objective to effectively implement the national plans and/or policies to address violence against women, the States have created governance structures or coordination mechanisms (composition and hierarchical level in the administrative structure of the State) that vary between one and another, namely:

- a. Political coordination mechanisms;
- b. Interinstitutional coordination or organization mechanisms;
- c. Interinstitutional technical coordination mechanisms, and
- d. Operational coordination mechanisms.

#### a. POLITICAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Following the classification of the Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) based on national legislation, which defines the decision-making levels and legal situation through laws, decrees and other official agreements, three groups of countries can be identified regarding the hierarchical level of the government institutions governing public policy to address violence against women (largely the Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women -MAWs-)

The first group is comprised of 12 out of the 32 States<sup>79</sup> (37.5%). In these States, the process of implementing the national plans and/or policies to address violence against women is led by a government organization of a high hierarchical level (ministry or ministerial rank) in the administrative structure of the State (ECLAC)<sup>80</sup>. Their holders have political leadership and the capacity of negotiation and influence on the decision-making processes in the national cabinets and in the parliamentary commissions on budget and women's rights and gender equality (or their similar names).

The second group is comprised of 5 out of the 32 States<sup>81</sup> (16%). In these States, the process of implementing national plans and/or policies to

address violence against women is led by a government organization with an intermediate hierarchical level, being an "entity assigned to the Presidency or Mechanism where the holder is directly responsible to the Presidency" (ECLAC). Their holders have less political resources and capacity for negotiation and influence in the decision-making processes than the first group.

The third group is comprised of 15 out of the 23 States<sup>82</sup> (47%), representing the majority of the cases analyzed. In these States, the process of implementing the national plans and/or policies to address violence against women is led by a government organization that holds a third-level hierarchical position of influence in the decision-making areas. These are "entities under the control of a ministry (vice-ministries, subsecretariats, institutes, councils and other entities).

#### b. INTERINSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION OR ORGANIZATION MECHANISMS

In 22 out of the 32 States<sup>83</sup> (69%) of the region, i.e., in the majority of the cases, systems have been created for the management of the national plans and/or policies or interinstitutional coordination or organization mechanisms (or their similar names)<sup>84</sup>. These mechanisms are created by legal mandate and the officials in charge of the organizations make political and strategic decisions for the execution of the national plans and/or policies. Despite the fact that their name and composition varies from one State to another, a trend is observed toward the participation of officials who are in senior public management positions at the national and subnational levels (ministries, vice-ministries, secretariats, subsecretariats and national management, or their similar names). However, no partnering is observed between the hierarchical level of the MAWs and the creation of interinstitutional coordination or organization mechanisms.

In those countries in which interinstitutional coordination mechanisms have been created, the regional

analysis confirms progress in the development of national plans and/or policies to address violence against women: the national plans and/or policies have been approved more quickly; a second plan has been formulated or approved (or it is in the formulation process); intersectoral actions have been implemented to address the central concepts of prevention, care, punishment and reparations of violence against women; interinstitutional systems have been created for information and monitoring and evaluation of the national plans and/or policies (and even, in some cases, the first plans have been evaluated); the gender equality governing institutions have achieved more political and technical support from the other institutions and civil society organizations; the gender equality institutional setup has been created and/or strengthened; the regulatory frameworks have been strengthened incorporating "second-generation" laws; policies to address violence against women have been coordinated with other social policies (health, education, citizen security, social development, housing, justice, etc.); more intersectoral care protocols have been created; decentralization in the territorial sphere has been strengthened -which has allowed an inclusive perspective of the social group of women to be adopted in the legislation and policies- and more dialog channels have been opened with civil society.

#### c. INTERINSTITUTIONAL TECHNICAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Cases have been identified in which interinstitutional technical coordination mechanisms have been created made up of people with technical skills for the execution of the policies and/or plans from different institutions. These entities, whether it is the interinstitutional coordination mechanisms or the MAWs directly, are controlled by the government institutions governing public policy to address violence against women. Their main function is to provide technical advice and propose adjustments in the implementation of the policies. These mechanisms constitute "communication vessels" between the political coordination mechanism and the political and technical entities that are created in the territorial sphere for the decentralization of the implementation actions.

#### d. OPERATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Cases have been identified in which operational en-

tities have been created acting as a connection to the implementation entities in the subnational level to ensure a more efficient decentralization process. In Costa Rica, for example, operational, political and technical coordination has been developed, as part of the National System for the Care and Prevention of Violence against Women and Intra-family Violence. It is comprised of the Local Care and Prevention Networks of Violence against Women and Intra-family Violence, representatives of local institutions and civil society organizations. In Brazil and Mexico, operational coordination entities have been created to have an impact on the central pillars of prevention, care, punishment and reparations.

#### DECENTRALIZATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS AT THE STATE, REGIONAL, DEPARTMENTAL AND LOCAL/MUNICIPAL LEVEL

In 19 out of the 32 States (70%)<sup>85</sup> progress has been made in a decentralization process or the development of the national plans and/or policies is planned at the local level. When there are regions or territories with individual needs or requirements and their own sociocultural features and history, with gender diversity and specific problems, the implementation of policies at a subnational or local level from an interculturality, diversity and territorial approach becomes critical. In the countries that have made progress in this direction, entities have been created at local level comprised of representatives of different public institutions in said environment as well as local social organizations that respond to the political decisions made at the central level. It is worth highlighting that decentralization is critical in the Federal States, but, as commented for the formulation process, it does not adhere to these since decentralization shows a functional nature and not just a political-administrative or fiscal nature.

Cases have been identified in which the implementation process has been decentralized through the creation of specialized units or focal points inside the organizations. This strategy has been effective for ensuring the follow-up of the implementation process and these decentralized units constitute a political and technical connection body with the MAW, as well as reinforcing gender mainstreaming and the transfer of information and specific knowledge, like for example, through capacity development on the subject of violence against women. Among the cases studied, decentralization has been adopted in Peru through the creation of intersectoral round ta-

79 - The Bahamas, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

80 - It is this way, despite the fact that the official name of the government organizations governing public policy to address violence against women cannot be ministry as occurs in the States indicated above, except in the cases of Peru and the Dominican Republic. See Table A1 in the annex to this document. It is worth pointing out that there are names between the MAWs that are common to the three hierarchical levels categorized by ECLAC, but their powers, ranks of the holders and capacity for influence in decision-making areas are variable in each national context.

81 - Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay.

82 - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Dominica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

83 - Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

84 - Or their creation is planned in the cases of the national plans and/or policies that have still not been officially approved and that were mentioned ut supra. To find out the official names adopted by the mechanisms, please see the Mapping of National Plans and/or Policies that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

85 - Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

### Critical Issue: Weak Interinstitutional, Intersectoral and Interjurisdictional Coordination

The multidimensional nature of the institutional response that requires the comprehensive care of violence against women requires the creation of interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination mechanisms. It is necessary for these mechanisms to have the legitimacy and capacity to act in a complex institutional framework.

Twenty-two out of the 32 countries have developed interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination mechanisms through a specific regulation that regulates their operation and composition.

However, on the one hand, the regional analysis identifies certain weaknesses in its operation, translated into management and coordination problems. It is due to the fact that the leading institutions have their own bureaucratic configurations, institutional logic, organizational structures, management styles and times, among other factors that are not always compatible.

On the other hand, there are still some States in which said mechanisms continue to be an outstanding issue due to the lack of political resolve and effective political-institutional support to promote its creation; due to the scarcity of economic resources; due to the lack of awareness among political leaders of the scale, seriousness and social and economic relevance of violence against women and due to the lack of strategic planning that defines clear lines of action and priorities.

This issue has a negative impact on the agenda setting process, the design of programs, the formulation of plans and policies, the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the actions and reduced number of implementation entities (gender equality institutions at subnational levels: regional, provincial and local), and the lack of coordination mechanisms limits the possibilities of establishing dialogues, “speaking the same language”, between the different sectors and levels of the State and of designing actions according to subnational and national needs. Additionally, there is a large amount of plans of the different jurisdictional levels which “overlap”, but do not unify.

bles made up of representatives of Line Agencies, Programs or Projects with the aim to follow up the sectoral commitments regarding the implementation of the National Plan against Violence toward Women (2009-2015). In Antigua and Barbuda, gender focal points have been set up in the ministries, and in the Dominican Republic, Gender Equity and Development Offices have been established in the Ministerio de Trabajo (Ministry of Labor), Ministerio Público (Public Ministry) and the Poder Judicial (Justice Department).

#### PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The participation of civil society in the implementation processes of national plans and/or policies is confirmed in the 32 countries that comprise the sample. Their level and composition is variable<sup>86</sup>, being more significant in those countries in which intersectoral coordination mechanisms have been created and in the technical or operational entities in which decisions are made together with the political-institutional actors. Social participation has been significant in the prevention campaigns carried out in coordination with institutions in the national, subnational and local levels, or independently, and in the provision of comprehensive care services to

the victims/survivors, especially regarding emotional and psychological support. In fact, in some of the cases studied, the community has well defined functions for joint administrative management and in the mobilization and control of resources (Peru). The participation of civil society is critical in the decision-making processes at political and technical levels due to the fact that it allows knowledge to be exchanged resulting from its experience in direct contact with the victims/survivors.

#### C. IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

As well as an analysis of the legal instruments, national plans and/or policies, the study has also inquired about effectively implemented actions to address the four central pillars (prevention, care, punishment and reparation) and specific results, information that has been reported by the countries through official documents and in the in-depth interviews and also included in the mapping cited above. The information described below quantitatively reflects the progress made through the implementation of the main strategies for each one of the four pillars and that correspond to the multidimensionality of the institutional response system to violence against women indicated above.

86 - Among the main social actors, the following stand out: women victims/survivors; organizations defending women's rights; feminist organizations, groups or movements; local and/or grassroots organizations that fight in defense of women's rights in the community sphere; women's and men's organizations that represent emerging groups (indigenous, Afro-descendant, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual, etc.); media representatives; organizations that fight against HIV/AIDS; the private sector; and international cooperation; among others.

### Critical Issue: Changes in Management and High Rates of Rotation

The high rate of rotation of officials in charge in the government institutions involved in the implementation of public policies to address violence against women is an issue that causes a lack of continuity and sustainability for programs.. In this context, the technical teams - which depend on the decisions made in the political sphere to make progress in the implementation processes of public policy - get often the feeling of always “starting from scratch” with the negative impact that this fact has on costs in learning, and the accumulation of knowledge. Furthermore, as a result of the high rate of political rotation, management models and work styles are established and removed in the institutions and the staff has to adapt to a situation of constant change, increasing their stress and lack of motivation. Likewise, the changes in management and lack of continuity of the positions have a negative impact on the coherence between the instruments which gradually overlap or accumulate in an uncoordinated manner.

#### a. PREVENTION

The 32 countries (100%) have implemented campaigns on prevention, awareness, promotion and spreading and/or encouragement of attitudes, values and practices of respect for human rights and a life free from violence against women. In 24 of the 32 countries (75%)<sup>87</sup> the campaigns maintain certain regularity throughout the year, and in the 8 remaining countries (25%)<sup>88</sup>, all from the Anglophone region of the Caribbean, they are exclusively carried out on special dates, with a more focused impact, like for example, the campaigns that are carried out as part of International Women's Day (March 8) and/or the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25). Some campaigns are centralized just in the capitals or large urban centers and others also cover the rural areas or those areas further from the cities and they are spread through different media: television,

87 - Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

88 - Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

89 - For a list of the main campaigns against violence against women implemented in each State, please see the Mapping of National Plans and/or Policies that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

90 - Second Multilateral Evaluation Round questionnaire (approved by the Committee of Experts on March 20, 2010).

91 - The campaigns are also an opportunity for the development of other activities such as forums, meetings for talks, seminars, workshops, cultural expressions in theater, cinema, entertainment programs, carnival, musical groups and the distribution of informative material, among others. One of the notable experiences is the *En tu piel* (In Your Skin) play performed by the *Mujeres de Negro* organization in Uruguay or the competition that was carried out in Colombia in 2012, in which the best T-shirt design for promoting the *Say No, UNITE to End Violence against Women* campaign organized by the Interagency Gender Group of the United Nations System in Colombia, the *Alta Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer* (Presidential Council for Women's Equity) and the *Asociación de Egresados de la Universidad de los Andes* (Association of Graduates of the Universidad de los Andes) - *Alianza Social*; etc.

92 - Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

radio, images and through the internet and social networks<sup>89</sup>. Initiatives of campaigns that aim to prevent sexual abuse of indigenous women in Paraguay under the slogan “I am the same as you”<sup>90</sup> have also been collected.

Six countries (19%) have been identified in which campaigns for the prevention of specific expressions of violence against women have been launched, such as campaigns against domestic or intra-family violence; against human trafficking/smuggling; against gender violence and/or violence and discrimination against women in the work place; against sexual violence or harassment; against sexual violence in the school; against violence exercised in the context of dating; against femicide; against sexist stereotypes; supporting the promotion of cultural and ethnic diversity and sexual and reproductive health; and promoting comprehensive care for the displaced population; among others.

In the design and implementation of campaigns on violence against women, the participation of different actors is observed, mainly led by gender equality institutions at the national and/or subnational levels and in the commendable work of the civil society organizations. The following actors in the private sector have also been key: publicity agencies; the media; academia; United Nations agencies in the framework of the Secretary-General's campaign; the “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence” campaign in the context of numerous events and activities sponsored by UN Women in the region; the “End Violence against Women” campaign or the White Ribbon campaigns, or those addressed to youth<sup>91</sup>.

In 26 of the 32 countries (81%)<sup>92</sup> telephone care centers and help lines have been set up to provide legal, psychological and emotional support and even in some cases, branches were established for emergency or crisis situations. These services are free in most of the countries and they are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Hot lines have also been set up

for specific cases of violence, for example, for cases of sexual abuse or violence against children, events that put women's sexual and reproductive health at risk and cases of human trafficking. These lines are operated and managed either by the State or exclusively by civil society, like in the case of Jamaica, which has a line operated exclusively by the Woman Inc. social organization with public funds.

Although capacity development is a cross-cutting component that affects the four central concepts, the testimonials collected and/or documents analyzed indicate that in 30 out of the 32 countries (94%), specific actions are implemented in training for the primary prevention or early detection of cases of violence against women. The training activities are carried out in different modalities (in person and online) addressed to different audiences (education, health, security forces, the police, etc.) and implemented through the institutions and/or civil society organizations, which have broad experience in the field of preventing violence against women.

Other notable initiatives regarding the central concept of prevention are linked to the implementation of programs addressed to specific audiences like, for example, young people in Chile through the Program for Care of Dating Violence and positive masculinity programs in educational, sports, recreational and cultural environments for the prevention of violence against women.

### b. CARE

The 32 countries (100%) have created areas to provide medical and psychological care and emotional and economic stability. These services are offered exclusively by the State under the coordination of the MAWs or other entities and are funded with their own resources, as occurs in the large majority of the cases observed, or in coordination with other sectors at the national and/or subnational levels and jointly financed with resources from the budgetary items of each sector. In many cases, care services are provided by the State and civil society, with variable degrees of participation. The testimonials collected highlight the role of the women's organizations, which have been "pioneers" in providing care

services to the victims/survivors in the region and continue to fulfill a critical role, especially, although not exclusively, in the countries of the Caribbean region. The services that they provide independently and autonomously often have scarce economic and/or resources and, occasionally, they receive some kind of financing through grants or economic and/or technical support from governments.

At least four kinds of methods for the provision of the services are identified. 1. Comprehensive care centers that provide medical and psychological services, legal advice, accommodation, food, childcare for children of the victims/survivors, etc. in 15 of the 32 countries (47%)<sup>93</sup>, out of which, 13 of the 15 centers (87%)<sup>94</sup> have specialized and trained personnel; 2. mobile care centers in 16 of the 32 countries (50%)<sup>95</sup>; 3. safe homes or shelters (or their similar names) where the victims/survivors and their children stay for the night or for more days in 25 of the 32 countries (78%)<sup>96</sup>, and 4. emergency or crisis centers<sup>97</sup> which respond to emergency situations in 8 of the 32 countries (25%)<sup>98</sup>.

In 10 of the 32 countries (31%)<sup>99</sup>, the victims/survivors of violence and their children are attended by multidisciplinary teams and/or through branch networks (also called reference and counter-reference systems). Each sector provides specific services according to its areas of expertise. Among some of the highlighted initiatives it is worth mentioning the Crisis Center in Antigua and Barbuda that collaborates with the HIV/AIDS coordination clinic for medical care for the victims of sexual violence. They are provided with prophylactic treatment with antiretroviral medication. In Ecuador, specialized care is provided to victims of sexual violence in the 11 Comisariías de la Mujer y la Familia (Commissioner for Women and Families) and in the Salas de Primera Acogida (Drop-in Wards) in Guayaquil (Hospital Abel Gilbert) and Quito (Hospital Enrique Garcés). Another notable initiative is that of Costa Rica, where in 2009, Offices for the Care and Protection of Victims of Crime were created, where the victims/survivors of violence receive care and protection through the work of interdisciplinary teams that provide psychological care, social support, legal advice and crime care and that work in San José, Heredia, Cartago,

Alajuela, San Carlos, Pérez Zeledón, Ciudad Neilly, Puntarenas, Liberia, Santa Cruz, Limón and Guápiles.

In 15 of the 32 countries (47%)<sup>100</sup>, i.e., in almost half of the cases, the study identified centers to provide comprehensive services to highly vulnerable women victims/survivors (indigenous women, Afro-descendant women, girls, etc.) or special units for the care of specific expressions of violence against women which require special treatment such as sexual abuse of children, victims of human trafficking, etc., through institutions and with the support of civil society organizations, etc. Among the notable initiatives, it is worth mentioning the Casas de la Mujer Indígena (Indigenous Women Homes in Mexico): shelter homes for child victims/survivors of domestic violence in Costa Rica, Colombia, Grenada and Nicaragua; the care centers for children and their mothers in Uruguay, where a special unit has also been created for adolescents; the care centers for victims/survivors of intra-family and sexual violence in Chile, and special care units for victims of human trafficking in Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Paraguay. In Chile and the Dominican Republic, refuges have also been created for male perpetrators, and in Chile, multidisciplinary teams provide psychological and educational care - not legal care- in the 15 regions of the State with the support of civil society, consulting and specialist organizations for establishing them.

### c. PUNISHMENT

One notable initiative of the first kind of comprehensive care center is Ciudad Mujer in El Salvador that operates under the control of the Secretaría de Inclusión Social (Social Inclusion Secretariat) under the Presidency of the country, which has the objective of ensuring the fundamental rights of Salvadoran women through

specialized services. Ciudad Mujer has a childcare area, crisis care, legal advice, psychological care and emotional support and talks are organized in the communities for the prevention of gender violence and violence against women, self-help and self-care groups are created, training workshops are provided and branches of health centers are set up, among other services. This is the only program that complies with the criteria defined by the Special Comprehensive Law for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence as an Institutional Unit for Specialized Care for Women in the national sphere, according to the mapping elaborated by the Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women) in 2012<sup>101</sup>.

Actions under the punishment central concept are related to the protection of the victims/survivors, effective and free access to justice and punishment of the perpetrators. In the 32 countries (100%), protection orders and measures are applied for the victims/survivors.

In 28 of the 32 countries<sup>102</sup> (87.5%), there are specialist units that provide legal advice at the national or territorial levels<sup>103</sup>. In 26 of the 28 countries (93%), the services are free<sup>104</sup>, although only in 6 of the 28 cases (21%)<sup>105</sup>, the support services are provided by specialized or educated personnel, for which the development of the capacity of administrators in the areas of justice continues to be an outstanding subject in the region. The entities created for these purposes adopt names that vary from one State to another, but have similar functions<sup>106</sup>.

Specialized police units have been created in 22 of the 32 countries (69%)<sup>107</sup> These units channel the

100 - Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.

101 - For further information about Ciudad Mujer, visit the website: <http://www.ciudadmujer.gob.sv/>

102 - Except for Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Haiti and Saint Lucia.

103 - In countries such as Bolivia, the provision of legal support services is decentralized through the Municipal Comprehensive Legal Support Services in the municipal framework in coordinated work between the municipalities and the Ministry of Justice, thus ensuring access to justice for all women in all the geographical areas. By constitutional mandate (Article 120 II), every person has the right to be tried in their language in the country and, exceptionally, it is mandatory that the person is assisted by a translator or interpreter. In turn, in Panama, the victims/survivors can report the crimes in the corregidurías (town councils) and personerías (attorneys' offices) created especially for reports in the rural sphere and in the Dirección de Investigación Judicial (Judicial Investigation Department), family attorneys and hospitals in the urban area. The Departamento de Acceso a la Justicia de los Pueblos Indígenas del Órgano Judicial (Access to Justice Department of the Indigenous People of the Judicial Body) provides interpreting services in indigenous languages. However, in the great majority of the countries analyzed, especially those with greater ethnic and linguistic heterogeneity, translation and/or interpreting continues to be an outstanding topic.

104 - Except for Belize and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, free services are only provided through the Human Rights Association.

105 - Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

106 - Specialist Ombudsmen's Offices for women in Brazil; National Ombudsmen's Offices in Ecuador; offices in the Ministries of Justice in Jamaica, Panama, Belize and Suriname or Domestic Violence Offices created in the sphere of the National Supreme Court and the General National Ombudsman's Office in Argentina; courts and/or attorneys' offices specialized in domestic and/or family violence in Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala, Uruguay, Panama and Ecuador or special units for family crimes that are the responsibility of the police forces with specialized staff for the care of domestic, family or intra-family violence in the cases of Chile, Panama and Suriname or for violence against women like in the cases of Brazil, Honduras, Mexico and Guatemala; Family Court and Legal Support Centers in Belize (with subsidized fees) and the Legal Aid Clinic and police in Guyana.

93 - Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

94 - There is no information available for Grenada and Venezuela.

95 - Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

96 - Except for Antigua and Barbuda, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

97 - Like the case of the Crisis Center in Suriname that provides psychological and emotional support to the victims/survivors, to give an example.

98 - Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, El Salvador, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uruguay.

99 - Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.

reports as a path of access to justice. In 8 of these 22 cases (36%), the existence of specialized staff could be identified and in only 3 police units (14%), the facilities have been equipped to ensure an area of absolute privacy and confidentiality of the identity of the victims/survivors at the time the reports are made.

Attorneys' offices, tribunals, courts and/or specialized courts have been created in 13 of the 32 countries (41%)<sup>108</sup>. Out of these 13 countries, only four countries (31%)<sup>109</sup>, have administrators of justice that have specialized training to be able to identify the time and form when it is a crime of violence against women (or other expressions of violence) and when it is not. This enables the identification of risks, notice of protective orders, and timely arrest and progress in the legal processes and in intersectoral coordination to support the victims/survivors quickly and effectively.

There are also specialized units in the justice sphere to respond to specific expressions of violence such as those created for the care of victims of human trafficking in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Paraguay; sex crimes in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and the cases of femicide or frustrated femicide in Costa Rica, Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru. In turn, in Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Peru and Uruguay, measures have been adopted to facilitate access to justice, and in Argentina, Bolivia, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Peru, similar measures have been implemented, but that are especially addressed to indigenous and Afro-descendant women. It is worth pointing out two notable initiatives: one in Argentina, where a traveling justice system has been created, and another in Guatemala where mobile courts have been implemented to ensure universal access to the justice system for women who live in rural or remote areas.

The regulatory adaptation or harmonization is also part of the group of actions linked to the punishment central pillar. In 9 of the 32 countries<sup>110</sup>, initiatives have been identified started by the institutions or promoted by civil society organizations for advocacy in the formulation of new procedural laws to criminalize new expressions of violence against women, reform of existing regulatory frameworks and penal codes, the modification of the vocabulary used in laws to prevent sexist bias or the mainstreaming of the gender approach. An example of this is the Strategic Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (2010-2015) of Antigua and Barbuda that sets out working in coordination between the State and civil society in the review, adoption and implementation of laws and public policy that promote a comprehensive protection of victims/survivors.

In 6 of the 32 countries (19%)<sup>111</sup>, intervention programs have been implemented for male perpetrators (for example, programs that promote changing the behavior of perpetrators as part of the sentence and not as an alternative to the legal process), and in two cases, protection programs for the victims/survivors and witnesses have been started (Colombia and Ecuador, in the latter case, through a system with national scope).

#### d. REPARATION

In 13 of the 32 countries (41%), specific programs or actions have been implemented for the reparation of the rights of the victims/survivors and their children<sup>112</sup>. The initiatives are aimed at economic empowerment by, for example, granting microloans, labor reintegration; training or capacity development programs for independent income generation; emotional recovery programs; economic support programs for single mothers in a situation of violence, preferential access to social housing or grants to rent, among others. Although these actions fall under the reparation central concept, they also

form part of the care strategies with the objective of preventing women survivors face new situations of violence through greater empowerment and autonomy for decision-making in the full exercise of their rights.

#### D. CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

##### Critical Issue: More Comprehensiveness is Needed in the Institutional Response

The analysis of the compiled information shows that while 100% of the plans and policies of the 32 countries studied defines objectives and strategies to address the central pillars of prevention and care, it is done to a lesser degree than the central concepts of punishment (58%) and reparations (39%). Some plans focus on offering care services to the survivors, but they do not include other important interventions to break the cycle of violence against women, such as primary prevention (preventing this violence before it occurs) and punishment and reparations for these crimes of violence against women.

Cross-cutting action actions are those horizontal interventions common to the group of implementation actions formulated in the national plan and/or policy.

##### a. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

In the 32 countries (100%), training and educational actions are implemented with a more marked trend toward the care and punishment central concepts. The contents and categories vary from State to State, with the sessions, seminars, courses, national and international forums on violence against women and other coordinated expressions of violence standing out, whether they are organized by the government institutions, in the large majority, or by the interinstitutional coordination mechanisms in which civil society organizations also play significant role. The majority of the training programs are in person, but distance-learning initiatives or blended learning courses have also been identified, like, for example, in Brazil, where the Ministério da Ed-

ucação (Ministry of Education) in coordination with the Secretaria de Igualdade Racial (Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality) has implemented a distance-learning education program on gender and diversity at school, and one of the components it addresses is violence against women.

The offer and scope of the training and education programs is very wide among the States. Training and education programs have been identified directed at multiple audiences<sup>113</sup>, especially at workers and technical bodies of the education, health, security and justice sectors. The content varies according to the sector and, in general, they respond to a prior identification of the training needs carried out by the human resources departments in each sector, highlighting those linked to procedures for the provision of services. Training activities addressed to highly vulnerable women have also been implemented, like for example, in Guatemala where, as part of the implementation of the 2008-2023 Equal Opportunities Plan, 495 Maya, Garífuna and Xinka indigenous women leaders that belong to 17 linguistic communities have been trained through the Rights and Citizenship of Indigenous Women Course, according to the women's demands and needs.

In the educational area, the training and education program content in the cases analyzed has the objective of preventing, responding to and eradicating stereotypical behavior that allows, encourages and tolerates violence against women. Curricular reform is another one of the key initiatives on the subject of capacity development in coordination with gender equality institutions and the education sector with the aim to include violence against women or other expressions of violence in the curriculum content at primary, secondary, tertiary and undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Some of the noted initiatives are the State Program to Train Education on Preventing Violence against Women implemented in a significant number of federal entities in Mexico; the Safe School Program: The Gender Awareness Safe School Program in Belize, which incorporates training and awareness-raising activities on the subject of gender violence; the Gender Violence Course by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma of Honduras; the Postgraduate Course on Specialization and

107 - Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

108 - Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the Dominican Republic.

109 - Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama.

110 - Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Some notable initiatives: the Joint Select Committee was created in Jamaica in which, in the parliamentary sphere, regulations on the subject of violence against women, sexual abuse, sexual violence and domestic violence are reviewed, among other expressions, and legislative reform projects are proposed. In Honduras, the Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (National Women's Institute), together with the participation of social organizations and feminist movements, is reviewing national legislation to promote the mainstreaming of the gender approach in the Corpus Juris of Honduras and its possible application. In Grenada, the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development have created a special subcommittee to carry out auditing and consultations in the national sphere for the formulation of specific legislation to make opportunities for men and women more equal and to propose reforms to the existing regulations to incorporate the gender approach and to respond to matters related to the rehabilitation of the attackers -once their sentences have been completed- and to punish rape within marriage. In turn, Bolivia has created a legislative reform agenda for the mainstreaming of the gender approach in draft bills and this includes legislative initiatives in terms of violence against women.

111 - Chile, Costa Rica, Guyana, Honduras, Paraguay and Uruguay.

112 - Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Uruguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago (Women's Second Chances Program) and Uruguay.

113 - In terms of the attendants, in the justice sphere, the training and education programs are essentially addressed to judges, prosecutors, administrators of justice; in the security sphere, at the police bodies and the military forces; in the health sphere, at medical staff, paramedics and non-medical staff; in the development, promotion and social integration sphere, at the social workers, social promoters or other agents with similar titles; in the education sphere, at teachers, educators, governors, and students and their parents; in the community environment, at the community leaders, representatives of civil society organizations, women's networks against violence, men's organizations that fight against violence against women, grassroots community representatives, religious and/or denominational organizations; and in the penitentiary sphere, at incarcerated women and the workers. Also, in the institutional sphere, capacity development is addressed to operators and implementers of national plans and/or policies in different sectors and jurisdictions with the aim to make their implementation more efficient.

Care for Intra-family Violence with a Gender Approach (1999) and the Masters on Intra-family Violence with a Gender Approach (2005) provided by the Universidad de Panamá; the blended learning course on Updating and Specialization on Femicide and Other Forms of Violence against Women in the Framework of Human Rights in Guatemala, or the Gender, Justice and Human Rights Course directed at administrators of justice, judges, attorneys, ombudsmen and the National Police in Ecuador.

In the health area, important coverage of the violence against women issue is also observed in the training programs addressed to medical and non-medical staff with the aim to give a more efficient provision of the care services and to increase interinstitutional coordination. In this sector, capacity development is strongly aimed at training related to the action protocols in order to the specific procedures for responding to cases of violence against women be known by in-house staff and technical teams. For example, it is worth highlighting the important economic investment that Mexico has been made for the training of medical and non-medical staff in the 32 state programs during the 2009-2010 periods. The existing Guidelines and Protocols for the Psychological Care of Women in a Situation of Violence applied in all the units of the national health system are taken as an example. To ensure their correct application throughout the health sector, more than 20 regional training courses were carried out for psychology staff of specialized services. The initiative resulted in more than 400 psychology professionals trained for the 2011-2012 period according to the official sources revealed.

In turn, in the security area, capacity development is also extended among the countries of the region analyzed, especially those programs designed for the police staff. Training and education programs have been identified in Brazil on specific expressions of violence against women such as human trafficking/smuggling, under the control of the Ministry of Justice; the National Secretariat of Public Security has started up training programs on smuggling addressed to municipal police and security forces of the National Distance Learning Network. In Argentina, the Women's Office, under the control of the National Supreme Justice Court has developed a training plan aimed at administrators of justice, judges and in-house and hired staff called Training for trainers on gender and human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation with the objective

of achieving the commitment of the security forces to combat the crime of human trafficking and defeat cultural resistance that prevents it from being adequately addressed. Likewise, the Federal Police of Argentina have included issues such as violence against women in the training curriculum.

#### **b. CREATION OF (INTER)INSTITUTIONAL PROTOCOLS**

##### **Critical Issue: Weak Technical Skills and Traditional Institutional Culture.**

Although the group of States analyzed has implemented actions related to the capacity development of officials and technical frameworks on the central concepts of prevention, care, punishment and reparations of violence against women, weakness is still observed in the capacity development component. This main causes of this weakness include the scarcity of resources; the lack of continuity of the training programs, resulting in short-term strategies; the weak connection to the long-term career development needs; the lack of adjustment of content to the social reality and to organizational needs; the lack of evaluations of the training sessions provided and the lack of assessment of the training needs. Therefore, an evaluation of institutional capacity is key for identifying the needs for the design of institutional strengthening programs.

On the other hand, in our societies, patriarchal and discriminatory sociocultural patterns toward women still exist, which naturalize violence against women. State institutions are not unaffected by them. This hinders the incorporation of this issue as a priority in legislative and political agendas and in the response of public officials to the survivors of violence to avoid their revictimization. In this sense, an in-depth debate is needed from the States in agreement with civil society regarding the need for social transformation to seriously address violence against women and its relation to the universality of rights and non-discrimination.

According to the information that has been accessed, in 30 of the 32 countries (94%)<sup>114</sup>, action protocols have been created to be applied in different institutions. In spite of the high percentage of countries that report having developed protocols, notable differences are observed regarding their level of development, coverage (national or subnational) and diversification of the expressions of violence. It is worth adding that in not all of the cases, these systems of understanding that promote collective work models and interinstitutional coordination and organization are expressed in protocols. They also adopt the form of guides for procedures, maps or critical paths, etc. to address violence against women or other expressions of violence. Some cases have been reported, especially in the Caribbean countries, in which the procedures applied respond to institutional practices, customs and forms of management inside the organizations, but there are no documents that explicitly show this knowledge<sup>115</sup>.

#### **c. DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH STUDIES**

In 14 of the 32 countries (44%)<sup>116</sup>, there is evidence of the development of studies and research on violence against women. The studies on the topic are promoted by the State or in coordinated work with the civil society organizations, academia and, in some cases, with the support of international cooperation. However, there are differences between the countries in terms of the level of development. It is also important to point out that research on the issue has gained momentum through funding and grants to civil society. Without a doubt, research studies allow knowledge to be generated to and from the State to improve the formulation and implementation of the national plans and/or policies and they are a critical asset for designing training programs and programs for prevention, care and reparations of the victims/survivors more efficient. Research is the basis for the support and rationale of the formulation of legal instruments and the situational diagnostics prior to the preparation of the national plans and/or policies. It useful for the processes of monitoring and evaluation of policies as

it provides statistical information at national and regional levels as well as qualitative information, among other topics.

The research results on violence against women are notable in Mexico. According to data from the MESECVI (2012) for 2009, 374 research projects were accounted for with funds from the Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (National Women's Institute), which can be accessed online through the its Documentation Center. Different research and studies have also been carried out on violence against women in Chile through the Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (National Women's Service) on intra-family violence, violence in partner relationships, violence among young people and the cost of violence against women, among other topics. The Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (National Women's Service) has the budgetary resources to carry out research on violence against women, and together with state and university institutions, it sponsors civil society initiatives<sup>117</sup>.

#### **d. DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

The study has confirmed the creation of information systems in 20 of the 32 countries with indicators for measuring violence against women or other expressions of violence. This includes specific surveys, modules on violence against women in general population or demographic surveys, databases inside the institutions (health, police, justice, etc.) etc. The administration of the information systems comes under the sectors involved in the implementation of national plans and/or policies or in the government institutions governing public policy to address violence against women, which, in coordination with the statistics offices or institutes -which usually have greater technological infrastructure and development of technical capacity among its human resources- operate said systems, or in civil society organizations. The information systems have very high technical value for the preparation of the records of cases<sup>118</sup>.

In the region, 12 out of 32 countries (37.5%) have

115 - In addition to the table presented in the annex, please see the Mapping of National Plans and/or Policies that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

116 - Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Santa Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. For a list of these, please see the Mapping of National Plans and/or Policies that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

117- For a list of the experiences at the regional level, please see the Mapping of National Plans and/or Policies that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the "Development of Research Studies" section (or others) for the transfer of knowledge from/toward public institutions in coordination with civil society, academia or other actors" in each one of the country reports.

118 - Databases have also been created on gender violence for which the sources of information come from national surveys that include a component on violence against women in Suriname, Grenada and Barbados.

114 - Please see the annexes for a table with the list of protocols prepared by country and sector.

been identified<sup>119</sup> in which observatories have been created on gender issues and/or violence against women or other expressions of violence under the control of the State or civil society. The purpose of these observatories is to reveal, record, process, analyze, publish and spread information on violence against women, regularly and systematically, and that is diachronically and synchronically comparable. They have not only a technical and scientific nature, but also a political nature, in the understanding that the information that arises from them becomes a critical asset for the decision-making processes and the formulation and reformulation of public policy. They are also an invaluable source for the identification of good practices and for knowledge development.<sup>120</sup>

#### e. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF NATIONAL PLANS AND/OR POLICIES

When referring to monitoring and evaluation of the national plans and/or policies, the analysis comes to the systems and processes planned for these purposes in their formulation.

The regional analysis identifies two groups of countries out of a total of 20 of the regional sample (62.5%)<sup>121</sup> on which there is reliable information. The first group is made up of 12 of the 20 countries (60%)<sup>122</sup> with national plans and/or policies to address violence against women that includes an interinstitutional coordination mechanism or system responsible for the monitoring and evaluation, although said instruments do not declare the objec-

tive goals in the short, medium and long term, or a reference to the methodological approach<sup>123</sup>.

The second group is made up of 8 of the 20 countries (40%)<sup>124</sup> with national plans and/or policies with monitoring and evaluation system with identification of the objectives, indicators for measuring the compliance of each activity, data collection instruments; data verification sources and respon-

sible institutions<sup>125</sup>. In this second group, civil society participates in the monitoring and evaluation, whether by expressing its satisfaction with the services or programs that it receives (Ecuador, Belize and Jamaica), or through consultations for the continuation, readjustment or suspension of services or activities (Colombia, Peru, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic).

#### Critical Issue: Weakness in the Development of Information Systems on Violence against Women

In spite of this progress, it is detected that the development of information systems on violence against women is still scarce and the lack of up-to-date, relevant and timely information acts as a real bottleneck for the decision-making processes, especially in the countries of the Caribbean.

This is partly due to the deficiency of economic resources, weakness in the development of technology platforms and the lack of technical skills for its administration. The scarcity of up-to-date and quality information becomes a great difficulty for decision making. Without sufficient economic resources, it is not possible to develop an adequate technological infrastructure for making progress in the creation of information systems, and without these, it is unlikely that the State can have reliable information to nourish the decision-making processes, improve the implementation process of the national plans and/or decision-making process and give feedback on the newly formulated plans and policies or carry out evaluations.

119 - Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

120 - Some notable initiatives that are worth indicating are the Gender and Health Observatory in Uruguay; the National Observatory on Violence against Women, the "Adriana Marisel Zambrano" Femicide Observatory which the Casa del Encuentro (Meeting House) coordinates and the Observatory on Media Violence created by the Consejo Nacional de las Mujeres (National Women's Council) and the Universidad Nacional de Quilmes in the Province of Buenos Aires, the three in Argentina; the Maria da Penha Law Observatory in Brazil; the Gender Affairs Observatory that manages information on sexual and intra-family violence crimes in Colombia; the Observatory on Gender Violence against Women in El Salvador; the Observatory on Human Trafficking in Honduras; the National Citizen Femicide Observatory and the other Social Violence and Gender Observatories in Mexico; the Observatory against Gender Violence in the scope of the Office of the Attorney-General in Panama where the Panamanian Observatory of Gender Violence was also created; the Venezuelan Observatory on Human Rights of Women and the Gender Equality Observatory in Jamaica, among others.

121 - Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bahamas, Chile (only mentions that "(...) the national plan must be subject to follow-up and continuous evaluation to ensure its compliance and assess how it adjusts to the reality of the violent phenomenon to combat (...)") but without further detail), Haiti, Dominica, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela do not provide information on the planned mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of the national plans and/or policies (implemented or in the process of formulation), or it has not been possible to access reliable information.

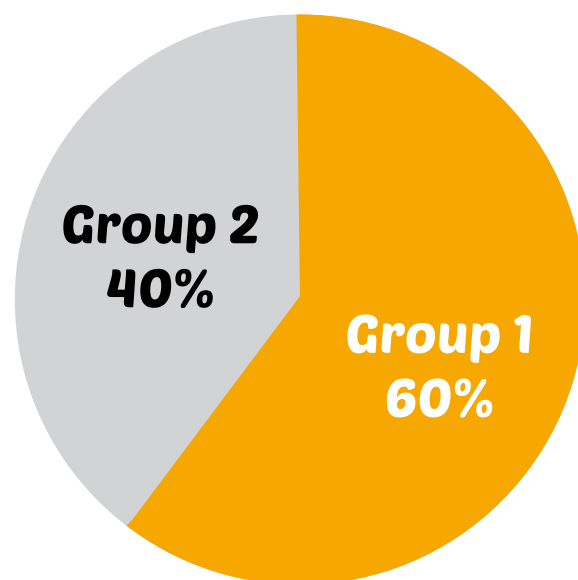
122 - Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador (Special Law), Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Uruguay.

123 - The Steering Committee on Gender Violence is the interinstitutional mechanism responsible for monitoring and evaluating the National Plan in Antigua and Barbuda; the Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (National Women's Service in Chile); the Consejo Nacional Consultivo de Lucha contra la Violencia (National Advisory Council on the Fight against Domestic Violence) in Uruguay; the Viceministerio de Igualdad de Oportunidades (Vice-ministry of Equal Opportunities in Bolivia); the Comisión Técnica (Technical Committee) of the National Plan against Violence toward Women (2013-2022) in coordination with the institutions and the private sector and with the support of international cooperation in Honduras; the National Committee of Supervision of Domestic Violence in Guyana; the Comité Especializado para Prevenir la Violencia contra las Mujeres (Specialized Committee to Prevent Violence against Women), with the support of the Government Mechanisms Network, the Consejo Nacional de la Mujer (National Women's Council), the Journalist Network and civil society in Panama; the Comisión de Seguimiento del Sistema Nacional para la Atención y Prevención de la Violencia contra las Mujeres y Violencia Intrafamiliar (Follow-up Commission of the National System for the Prevention of Violence against Women and Intra-family Violence in Costa Rica); the Committee for Monitoring the Activities of the Comprehensive Gender Action Plan 2006-2010 in Suriname; the Advisory Body in the framework of the Ministry of Social Development in Grenada; the Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública (Ministry of Justice and Public Security) together with the Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women) in El Salvador; the Comisión Nacional Interinstitucional contra la Violencia Hacia la Mujer (National Interinstitutional Committee against Violence against Women) in charge of the formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the State Policy against Violence toward Women, Children and Adolescents in Nicaragua and the Sistema Nacional de Prevención, Atención, Sanción y Erradicación de la Violencia contra las Mujeres (National System for the Prevention, Care, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women) in Mexico.

124 - Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Belize, Peru, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

125 - In Colombia, the Departamento Nacional de Planeación (National Planning Department), the Procuraduría General de la Nación (Office of the Inspector General of Colombia) and the Alta Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer (Presidential Council for Women's Equity). In Ecuador, an inter-ministerial committee was created and a technical secretariat comprised of representatives of each one of the institutions that participate in the implementation of the national plan. In Belize, the Statistical Institute of Belize is the entity responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the National Plan with the Support of the Women's Department, through the establishment of focus points on critical areas, of the Women's Issues Network of Belize (WIN-Belize). In Peru, the Ministerio de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables (Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Population Groups) has created a Monitoring and Evaluation System that allows the impact and results of the National Plan to be evaluated and to generate information that facilitates the corresponding adjustments to the intervention strategies and to observe the level of progress of the implementation of the National Plan regarding the Annual Operational Plans establishing the fulfillment of the program goals. The National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence in Jamaica stipulates that the Bureau of Women's Affairs and Steering Committee of the National Action Plan are the entities responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the National Plan and the Jamaica Injury Surveillance System is the organization responsible for collecting and documenting information and statistics on violence against women on the island and providing it to the rest of the institutions and civil society. In Guatemala, the National Coordinator for the Prevention of Intra-family Violence and Violence against Women has followed up the actions implemented by the National Operational Plan for the Care and Prevention of Intra-family Violence in the framework of strong interinstitutional coordination. In the Dominican Republic, and PLANEG (National Plan of Gender Equality and Equity) II establishes that the Ministerio de la Mujer (Women's Ministry), in coordination with the government entities responsible for generating information, will be in charge of the monitoring and evaluation of the actions.





### Group 1:

Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador (Special Law), Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Uruguay

Institutional coordination mechanism responsible for the M&E.

### Group 2:

Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Belize, Peru, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

Institutional coordination mechanism responsible for the M&E

Objectives, goals, quantifiable results, indicators, sources of data verification and data collection instruments

Methodological approach.

#### Critical Issue: Incipient State of Evaluations on the Results of the Plans and Public Policy

In our region, there is an incipient culture of evaluating the results of public policy. A first general finding confirms that in the set of national plans and/or policies analyzed, certain weakness is observed in the development of a monitoring and evaluation system that supports the effective, efficient and economic implementation of the activities. Only eight countries of the sample studied plan the creation of this kind of system, identifying goals and indicators and assigning responsible institutions for follow-up.

One of the consequences of this weak “evaluation culture” is the generation of a context of limited institutional learning on the one hand, and a lack of continuity of public policy on this subject, raising the risk of little consistency between them. On some occasions, public policy is designed according to the political ups and downs and these gradually overlap or “accumulate” in a disjointed fashion.



# - 5 -

## INSTITUTIONAL CONDITIONS TO PROVIDE “ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS” FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS OR POLICIES: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

# - 5 -

### » IDENTIFY POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Identifying the opportunities to include violence against women in the political agendas becomes key. These “windows of opportunity” are open particularly during the management of more progressive governments or during the reform or modernization processes of the State. It is then when the reformist agendas can be pushed in favor of the fight against violence toward women. In countries where a first national plan has already been implemented, it is essential to use the institutional mechanisms created for this purpose, since they leave installed capacity (knowledge, human resources and institutionality) which facilitates new formulation and implementation processes.

### » FORGE TECHNICAL-POLITICAL ALLIANCES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER ACTORS

A suggested starting point is to create a map of actors which enables the identification of:

1. The officials with decision-making positions in the government and legislation areas;
2. The social and political-institutional actors close to decision-makers;
3. The actors with the capacity to influence public opinion (journalists, representatives of women’s organizations, feminist movements and human rights organizations, popular artists, etc.).

Once the actors are identified, it is recommended to open dialogue channels to create networks and alliances that enable the promotion of collaborative work. To achieve this objective, the following steps are proposed:

1. Raise awareness among identified actors on the scope and social relevance of violence against women;
2. Identify the economic, human and technological resources as well as resources of information, knowledge, control, etc., to be allocated to each institution or sector;
3. Identify the potential political beneficiaries resulting from strategic partnerships with the aim to establish a win-win situation for all the actors;

According to the critical issues or challenges analyzed in the previous section, the report identified the following organizational, institutional, political, cultural, economic conditions, that provide enabling environments for the development of national plans and/or policies in the regional context.

The strategies to respond to the issues are formulated in terms of recommendations. It is worth pointing out that not all of them need the same type of response. There are issues that are more difficult to resolve than others, such as those that respond to the cultural dimension. Cultural transformations are slower and more difficult to understand in the short term. In this sense, the recommendations that are made below should be interpreted in light of the maturity “times” that each one of the critical issues imposes in each context to adjust the strategies to each individual case (actors, institutional logic, social contexts, etc.). Likewise, it is worth pointing out that the recommendations “cross” the five dimensions indicated above.

The proposal of UNDP and UN Women in the framework of the Secretary-General’s campaign is to promote the elaboration and implementation of specific national plans and/or policies with a comprehensive approach, with objectives focused on the central pillars of prevention, care, punishment and reparations for violence against women. To make this possible, the following is required:

4. Define a strategy for the creation of alliances among social, political and institutional actors, like, for example, through mutual collaboration agreements or letters of commitment;
5. Replicate partnerships at the territorial level previously creating the political-institutional and social conditions to facilitate the decentralization of the implementation of national plans and/or policies and to promote vertical coordination.

#### » FROM GOVERNMENT POLICY TO STATE POLICY

The lack of continuity of the national plans and/or policies deserves an in-depth debate to be started as soon as possible. It is necessary to achieve the necessary consensus among the political forces for the fight against gender violence not to be only a variable policy according to the political fluctuations, but transformed into an authentic state policy. Violence against women must have solid inter-institutional and sectoral coordination structures that give the national plans sustainability and send a message of zero tolerance of the state of law toward violence against women.

#### » MORE COSTING EXERCISES ON THE INTERVENTIONS

To have an influence on key actors for increased allocation of financial resources, especially on those that are members of the interinstitutional coordination mechanisms that provide services in the Ministries of Economy or Finance or of the parliamentary budget commissions, it is required not only political leadership, but also a negotiation strategy based on solid and convincing arguments. An advocacy tool that it is considered convenient to use, because of its power and conviction, is that of costing exercises of violence. Such an exercise enables greater clarity of the necessary resources to carry out the intervention actions proposed in the plan or policy. Costing exercise can also be done to know the implications of the absence of policies regarding violence against women and its negative impact on the country's economic and production structure.

#### » MORE BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS

The lack of gender and sufficient budgetary items

should be a concern for the national authorities of the region. It is necessary that all the institutions involved in the response system and responsible for implementing the national plans and/or policies annually allocate more financial resources to their budgets. It is recommended that the States allocate the necessary resources for the institutions to be able to fulfill the responsibilities bestowed upon them by law, as well as including gender specific contributions in the budgets with the aim to ensure that all the institutions and/or interinstitutional mechanisms can achieve the objectives proposed in the national plans and policies.

#### » STRENGTHEN INTERINSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In order to strengthen interinstitutional, intersectoral and interjurisdictional coordination mechanisms, it is necessary to identify the causes perceived by the officials who form part of these mechanisms. These officials can also identify the weaknesses in their operations as well as the various needs or requirements, thereby providing first-hand information that can be used to assess alternative solutions. The institutional strengthening programs aim to provide a response to improve the management, institutional coordination and organization and to avoid the dispersal and/or superposition of resources, both human resources and economic resources, and the strengthening of areas for dialog, organization and coordination of institutional logic and interests.

#### » STRENGTHEN GENDER EQUALITY GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS

In those States in which the government institutions governing public policies to address violence against women do not occupy a first-level position in the State's administrative structure, it is recommended that the interinstitutional coordination mechanisms created under their control are incorporated into institutions with employees who occupy high-level positions. In this way, it will be possible to mobilize interests, reach agreements and have a greater impact on resource allocation.

It is also considered appropriate to strengthen the resources and necessary political support of the government institutions governing public policy to address violence against women to have an impact

on the institutions that participate - or potentially would participate- in the formulation and implementation of the policies in both the government and legislation spheres.

#### » POLITICAL DETERMINATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Change is not possible without political determination and the active participation of the relevant group of institutions. In this sense, not only is it recommended that the scale and impact of violence against women should be made visible to the general public in campaigns, but it should also be made clear exactly which institutions should be responding to this grave issue. It is equally important to create financial auditing mechanisms that can audit the performance of all the institutions within the framework of the action protocols that are developed in order to assign functions and responsibilities.

#### » PROMOTE THE HARMONIZATION OF LEGISLATION

It is essential to align the current regulatory frameworks to the regional and international instruments ratified by the States. For that reason, it is recommended to include as one of the strategic objectives in the formulation of the national plans and/or policies, the following: i) the review and legislative harmonization as well as the adjustment of the legal organization to the already established protection mechanisms (civil codes, family codes, etc.) ii) to pass second-generation laws. For that reason, it is recommended to create a commission for legislative reform on violence against women with the aim to carry out a rigorous examination in legislation that includes at least the following functions:

1. Identify the legal gaps on the subject of violence against women (expressions of violence and areas not covered by current national legislation);
2. Analyze the coherence between the national regulatory frameworks and the regional and international legal instruments that the States have signed and ratified;
3. Identify and develop explicit knowledge on the good practices and initiatives highlighted on the

126 -Out of the most notable content, the following is recommended: The design and implementation of training programs for the formulation of second-generation laws (in coordination with the legislation spheres) and for the design, implementation and evaluation of national plans and/or policies to address violence against women; training programs on research methodology for the costing exercise of violence against women; the development

subject of legislation in the region, and

4. Forge a relationship of complementarity between the regulatory frameworks and the national plans and/or policies that address violence against women, especially when the progress in legislation is aligned with the foundations and principles that support the second-generation laws with the aim to make the institutional response more efficient.

#### » ASSESS AND STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Assessing the institutional capacity allows institutions to identify the organizational weaknesses in three dimensions: i) financial management; ii) political-institutional management and iii) organizational management. These three dimensions are operationalized through the development of indicators that allow their measurement and provide a critical mass of qualitative-quantitative information to assess the extent of the weaknesses of the institutions' own capacity. In this sense, it is recommended to assess the capacity of all the institutions involved in the implementation of plans and policies.

#### » CREATE A CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

In turn, the training programs aim to develop the technical, social, institutional, personal or attitudinal skills, among others, and to provide specific knowledge regarding an established topic with the aim to improve the individual and group performance.

It is recommended to create a permanent awareness-raising and national training system to comprehensively address violence against women, with the following main functions:

1. 1. Identify the awareness-raising and/or training needs of the employees and technical teams.
2. 2. Design the awareness-raising and/or training programs in function of the needs detected (Training Plan<sup>126</sup>).
3. 3. Design and implement the Training Plan for all the levels of the organization.

4. Design a loan system that becomes a positive-selective incentive to ensure the sustainability of the programs.
5. Define the mechanisms and strategies for the follow-up and evaluation of the awareness-raising and training programs (trainers and receivers).

Awarding grants for training courses is recommended at the national, regional and international level through agreements with national and international academic institutions and institutions with that responds to the detected needs.

#### » CREATE OR STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The creation of a coordination mechanism for the information system on violence against women is recommended in the national sphere. It should be made up of technical teams and staff of governance structures created for the implementation of the national plans and/or policies.

It is recommended that the coordination mechanism of the information system on violence against women at the national level fulfills the following functions:

1. Elaborate an assessment of the existing information systems with a gender approach at the governmental and civil society level.
2. Create an accessible system so that it becomes a permanent source of information to be used by the State and civil society.
3. Sign interinstitutional agreements and agreements with civil society organizations to consolidate a unified system that allows the flow of information.
4. Ensure funds for their permanent use.
5. Ensure transparency in information management.
6. Coordinate the administration of information.
7. Establish the technical and methodological criteria.
8. Develop the technology platform to ensure the adequate operation of the system.

#### » IMPLEMENT AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS

Starting consciousness and awareness-raising campaigns is recommended at the community level in general, as well as the creation of social and community participation areas for the promotion of values based on equality, and at the same time calling into question norms, practices, mandates and customs that also contribute to the naturalization of violence against women. To achieve this objective, it is necessary to have political support and create networks of different actors such as specialized civil society organizations and mass media, as some of the main key actors for the promotion and spreading of values based on a life free from violence.

#### » INSTITUTION-BUILDING AS A GENERATOR OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Institutions should create incentives for the establishment of multidisciplinary teams comprised of technical and political staff, for further discussions on culture and tradition from a women's rights perspective to generate far-reaching transformations in the same institutions. This will be reflected in the definition of new gender agendas and in the design and implementation of a more transforming and appropriate public policy according to context.

#### » INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY OR SOCIAL AUDITING OF THE PLANNED RESOURCES

The institutions in charge of the implementation of national plans and/or policies must be accountable to the internal auditing units, institutions (government and legislative bodies) and to civil society about allocated resources for the four central pillars, their management and results. To achieve this, institutional mechanisms based on results-oriented management must be created, which allow the achievements made and resources invested to be measured, broken them down according to the policy components to assess the quality of management and to ensure transparency.

#### » EVALUATE POLICIES TO ENSURE ITS SUSTAINABILITY

It is recommended that government institutions governing public policy to address violence against women make regular assessments of the national

plans and/or policies before, during and after their implementation. The evaluation of policies is a key source of information and knowledge to learn from experience and nourish the decision-making processes. The aim of the assessment is to provide greater quality for the processes and to obtain better results and impact. Thanks to the evaluations, it is possible to verify the fulfillment of the objectives, following the values of effectiveness, efficiency, economy and quality. This enables the identification of good practices, notable initiatives, lessons

learned, errors or deviations, for this model to be replicated. It also enables to critically adapt the skills to the new contexts and to address the challenges, problems or critical issues, examining those strategies to have an impact on the future. It is recommended that the evaluations are carried out by external entities to ensure greater objectiveness in the process and to incorporate the plural perspective of civil society through inquiries and/or validations such as those implemented in some of the analyzed cases<sup>127</sup>.

127 - See the Mapping of National Plans and/or Policies that Address Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of this regional research.

# - 6 -

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### SOURCES CONSULTED

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- Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls of UN Women. Available at: <http://www.endvawnow.org> (“Legislation Module” and “Leading Initiatives” sections).
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**Tabla 1.** Type of national plan and/or policy to address violence against women, according to the country, number and percentage (16)

**Tabla 2.** Some expressions of violence against women that are criminalized in national legislation and their inclusion in the national plans and/or policies (regardless of the public or private sphere they are exercised in) (18)

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# ANNEXES

**Table A1. Gender equality institutions according to the country, main legal instruments and background of public policy on violence against women (or other expressions of violence)**

	Country	Gender Equality Governing Institution	Main Legal Instruments and Background of Public Policy
1	Antigua and Barbuda	Directorate of Gender Affairs	National Constitution Domestic Violence Act (1999) Sexual Offences Act (1995) and Amendment Act (2004)
2	Argentina	Consejo Nacional de las Mujeres (National Women's Council) under the control of the Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales (National Council for Coordination of Social Policies)  Presidency of Argentina	Ley 26.485 De protección integral para prevenir, sancionar y erradicar la violencia contra las mujeres en los ámbitos en que desarrollen sus relaciones interpersonales [Law 26,485 of Comprehensive Protection to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women in the Spheres in which They Develop Their Interpersonal Relations]
3	Bahamas	Bureau of Women's Affairs  Ministry of Social Services and Community Development	Domestic Violence Act (Protection Orders) (2007) Penal Process Code Ch. 91 (2006) Penal Code Ch. 84 (2006) Evidence Act Ch. 65 (1996) Trafficking in Persons Prevention and Suppression Act (2008) Sexual Offences Act (2008) Child Protection Act (2007) Penal Code (1924)
4	Barbados	Bureau of Gender Affairs - Ministry of Social Transformation	National Constitution Domestic Violence Act (1993) Sexual Offences Act (1992)
5	Belize	Women's Department - Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation	National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action (2007-2009) National Gender Policy (2002) National Plan of Action (2008-2010) Domestic Violence Acts (1991/2000/2007)
6	Bolivia	Viceministerio de Igualdad de Oportunidades (Vice-ministry of Equal Opportunities). Ministerio de Justicia (Ministry of Justice)  Sistema Nacional para Prevenir, Atender, Sancionar y Erradicar la Violencia contra las Mujeres (National Plan to Prevent, Attend to, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women)	National Plan for the Prevention and Care for Violence (2004-2007) National Gender and Violence Program (2004-2007) National Plan of Public Policy for the Full Exercise of Women's Rights (2003-2007) Gender-Violence Laws (1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2005)

7	Brazil	Secretaría Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres (Special Secretariat of Policies for Women), Secretaria de Enfrentamento à Violência contra as Mulheres (Secretariat to Counter Violence Against Women)	Law 11,340 or “Maria da Penha” Law (2006) National Policy to Fight against Violence Toward Women (2007)
8	Chile	Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (National Women’s Service)	Ley 20.066 de Violencia Intrafamiliar [Law 20,066 of Intra-family Violence] (2005) Law 20,480: “Amends the Penal Code and Law 20,066 on Intra-family Violence, establishing femicide, increasing the sentences applicable to this crime and reforming regulations on parricide.”
9	Colombia	Alta Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer (Presidential Council for Women’s Equity)	National Development Plan (2010-2014) “Prosperidad para Todos” (Prosperity for All) National Gender Equity Public Policy Comprehensive Program against Gender-Based Violence (2008-2011)
10	Costa Rica	Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (National Women’s Institute) Sistema Nacional para la Atención y Prevención de la Violencia contra las Mujeres y Violencia Intrafamiliar (National System for the Care and Prevention of Violence against Women and Intra-family Violence)	National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity 2007-2017 (PIEG in its Spanish acronym) National Operational Plan for the Care and Prevention of Intra-family Violence (1996)
11	Dominica	Bureau of Gender Affairs Ministry of Social Services, Community Development and Gender Affairs Dominica National Council for Women	Protection against Domestic Violence Act (2001) Sexual Offences Act (1998) Offences against the Person Act (1990) Marriage Act (1973)
12	Dominican Republic	Ministerio de la Mujer (Ministry of Women) Comisión Nacional de Prevención y Lucha contra la Violencia (National Commission for the Prevention and Fight against Violence)	Law 24-97 punishes intra-family violence and violence against women and amends the Penal Code regarding discrimination against women Decree 423-98: creates the National Commission for the Prevention and Fight against Violence Law 88-03 creates and regulates the refuge shelters for abused women and their children. National Plan of Gender Equity for the 2000-2004 period (PLANEG I in its Spanish acronym)
13	Ecuador	Comisión de Transición Hacia el Consejo de las Mujeres y la Igualdad de Género (Transition Commission for the National Council for Women and Gender Equality) (Executive Decree 1733/2009)	Executive Decree No. 620 The National Government decrees the eradication of gender violence toward children, adolescents and women as State Policy.

14	El Salvador	Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women) Comisión Técnica Especializada (Specialized Technical Committee) with an intersectoral composition under the control of the Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women)	Ley Especial Integral para una Vida Libre de Violencia para las Mujeres (Special Comprehensive Law for a Life Free from Violence for Women). Legislative Decree No. 520 (2010) Ley de Igualdad, Equidad y Erradicación de la Discriminación contra las Mujeres (Law of Equality, Equity and Eradication of Discrimination against Women) (2010)
15	Grenada	Ministry of Social Development Permanent Secretariat for the implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence in Grenada	National Constitution (1973) Domestic Violence Act (2010) Penal Code Ch. 1 (1990) Employment Act (1999) Child Protection and Adoption Act (2010)
16	Guatemala	Secretaría Presidencial de la Mujer (Presidential Secretariat for Women) Coordinadora Nacional para la Prevención de la Violencia Intrafamiliar y contra las Mujeres (National Coordinator for the Prevention of Intra-Family Violence and Violence against Women)	National Policy for the Promotion and Comprehensive Development of Women and the Equal Opportunities Plan (2008-2023)
17	Guyana	Women Affairs Bureau - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.	Domestic Violence Act (1996) Sexual Offences Act (2010) Prevention of Discrimination Act (1997) Combating Trafficking of Persons Act (2005) National Health Sector Strategy (2008-2012) that includes violence against women as part of an inter-program health assistance approach
18	Haiti	Ministère à la Condition féminine et aux droits des femmes (Ministry for the Status of Women and Women’s Rights) Concertation Nationale contre les Violences spécifiques faites aux femmes (National Agreement against Violence against Women)	Penal Code (2005 Amendment that modifies Article 278)



19	Honduras	Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (National Women's Institute)	National Policy for Women (2002-2004) First Equal Opportunities Plan (2002-2007) Second Gender Equality and Equity Plan of Honduras (II PIEGH in its Spanish acronym, 2010-2022)
20	Jamaica	Bureau of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture	National Policy for Gender Equality (2011-2015) National Development Plan - Gender Sector Plan (2009-2030)
21	Mexico	Sistema Nacional de Prevención, Atención, Sanción y Erradicación de la Violencia contra las Mujeres (National System for the Prevention, Care, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women), an official organization led by the Secretaría de Gobernación (Secretariat of the Interior) and of which the Secretaría Ejecutiva (Executive Secretariat) is the Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (National Women's Institute).	Ley General de Acceso de las Mujeres a una Vida Libre de Violencia [General Law for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence] (2007) National Development Plan (2007-2012) National Program for Equality between Men and Women (2009-2012) National Human Rights Program (2008-2012)
22	Nicaragua	Ministerio de Familia, Adolescencia y Niñez (Ministry of Family, Childhood and Adolescence) Comisión Nacional de Lucha contra la Violencia hacia la Mujer, Niñez y Adolescencia (National Commission for the Fight against Violence toward Women, Children and Adolescents)	Law 779: "Ley Integral Contra la Violencia hacia las Mujeres y de Reformas a la Ley N.º 641 del Código Penal" [Comprehensive Law against Violence against Women and Reforms to Law No. 641 of the Penal Code] (2012) National Plan for the Prevention of Intra-family Violence and Violence against Women

23	Panama	Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (National Women's Institute) under the control of the Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (Ministry of Social Development) Comisión Nacional para la Elaboración del Plan Nacional Contra la Violencia Doméstica y Políticas de Convivencia Ciudadana (National Commission for the Elaboration of the National Plan Against Domestic Violence and Citizen Coexistence Policies) (2004-2014)	Ley 38 sobre Violencia Doméstica y Maltrato al Niño, Niña y Adolescente [Law 38 on Domestic Violence and Abuse of Children and Adolescents] (2001) Ley 17 sobre el Protocolo Facultativo de la Convención sobre la Eliminación de todas las formas de Discriminación contra la mujer [Law 17 on the Optional Protocol of the Convention to Eliminate all Forms of Discrimination against Women] (2001) Law 4 by which equal opportunities are established for women (1999) Ley 31 de Protección a la Víctimas del Delito [Law 31 of the Protection of Victims of Crime] (established the victims' rights) (2008) Equal Opportunities for Women Plan (PIOM II in its Spanish acronym) 2002-2006 Local plans for the prevention and care of domestic violence (Soná and San Miguelito districts)
24	Paraguay	Ministerio de la Mujer (Ministry of Women)	Law 1160: "Código penal de la República del Paraguay" [Penal Code of the Republic of Paraguay](1997) Ley 1600 Contra la Violencia Doméstica [Law 1600 Against Domestic Violence] (2000) Ley 4628 sobre Violencia Familiar [Law 4628 on Family Violence] (2012) "Paraguay para Todos y Todas: Propuesta de Política Pública para el Desarrollo Social" [Paraguay for All: Public Policy Proposals for Social Development] (2010-2020) National Sexual and Reproductive Health Plan (2009-2013) National Program for the Prevention and Comprehensive Care of Women, Children and Adolescents in a Situation of Gender-Based, Domestic and Intra-family Violence (2010-2015)

25	Peru	Ministerio de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables (Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Population Groups)	National Plan against Violence toward Women (2002-2007). Ley 28.983 De Igualdad de Oportunidades entre Varones y Mujeres [Law 28,983 of Equal Opportunities between Men and Women] (2007) National Plan for Equal Opportunities between Men and Women (2006-2010) National Plan for Gender Equality (2012)
26	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ministry of Gender Affairs	National Gender and Development Program (1996-2000) National Constitution (1983) Domestic Violence Act (2000) and its Amendment Act in 2005 Offences against the Person Act (2002) Criminal Offences Act (2002)
27	San Vicente and the Grenadines	Gender Affairs Division Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth	Penal Code Ch. 124 (1990) Domestic Violence Act (1995)
28	Saint Lucia	Division of Gender Relations Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations	Domestic Violence Act (1994) Equality of Opportunity and Treatment in Employment and Occupation Act (2001) Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (2010) Amendment to the Penal Code Domestic Violence Act (2009)
29	Suriname	Ministry of Home Affairs Gender Management System National Bureau for Gender Policy and General Bureau for Statistics	Sector Legal Protection and Security Plan (2006-2010) Integral Gender Action Plan (2006-2010) Moral Law (2009) Trafficking in Persons Act (2003)

**Table A2. National plans and/or policies to address violence against women (or other expressions of violence), according to the type and implementation status by country**

Type of Public Policy	National action plan to address violence against women		Plan to address gender-based violence, domestic violence or violence (Not specific to addressing violence against women)		Violence against women is part of the Equal Opportunities Plan	Violence against women is part of another public policy	It does not have a national plan to address violence against women or another expression of violence
	Approved and being implemented	In the formulation process	Approved and being implemented	In the formulation process			
Implementation status	Approved and being implemented	In the formulation process	Approved and being implemented	In the formulation process	Approved and being implemented	Approved and being implemented	N/A
Antigua and Barbuda			X				
Argentina		X					
Bahamas				X			
Barbados						X	
Belize			X				
Bolivia			X		X		
Brazil	X	X					
Chile			X	X			
Colombia		X					
Costa Rica	X						
Dominica					X		
Dominican Republic					X		
Ecuador	X						
El Salvador		X					
Grenada				X			
Guatemala	X						
Guyana			X				
Haiti	X						
Honduras	X	X					
Jamaica				X	X		
Mexico	X	X					

Type of Public Policy	National action plan to address violence against women		Plan to address gender-based violence, domestic violence or violence (Not specific to addressing violence against women)		Violence against women is part of the Equal Opportunities Plan	Violence against women is part of another public policy	It does not have a national plan to address violence against women or another expression of violence
	Approved and being implemented	In the formulation process	Approved and being implemented	In the formulation process			
Implementation status	Approved and being implemented	In the formulation process	Approved and being implemented	In the formulation process	Approved and being implemented	Approved and being implemented	N/A
Nicaragua	X						
Panama			X	X			
Paraguay			X		X		
Peru	X						
Saint Kitts and Nevis			X				
San Vicente and the Grenadines							X
Saint Lucia				X			
Suriname			X			X	
Trinidad and Tobago					X		
Uruguay			X	X			
Venezuela		X					

### Documents referenced at Table A2

#### Antigua and Barbuda

Strategic Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence (2010-2015).

#### Argentina

National Action Plan for the Prevention, Support and Eradication of Violence against Women.

#### Bahamas

National Strategic Plan for the Management, Prevention and Elimination of Family Violence.

#### Barbados

National Action Plan Against HIV/AIDS 2008-2013.

#### Belize

The National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action (2010-2013) (2)

#### Bolivia

National Program of the Fight against Violence because of Gender (2009-2020) (2)

National Plan for Equal Opportunities: "Mujeres Construyendo la nueva Bolivia para Vivir Bien" (Women Building a New Bolivia to Live Well) (2009-2020)

#### Brazil

The First National Agreement to Counter Violence against Women (2008-2011) (1)

The Second National Agreement to Counter Violence against Women (2012-2015) (2)

#### Chile

National Action Plan for the Prevention of Intra-family Violence (2011-2012) (1)

National Action Plan for the Prevention of Intra-family Violence (2012-2013) (2)

#### Colombia

Comprehensive Plan to Ensure a Life Free from Violence for Women (2012-2022)

#### Costa Rica

National Plan for the Care and Prevention of Violence against Women in Partner Relations and Family Members by Sexual Harassment and Rape, National Operational Plan for the Care and Prevention of Intra-family Violence against Women (2010-2015) (2)

#### Dominica

Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality

#### Dominican Republic

National Plan of Gender Equity for the 2006-2016 period (PLANEG II in its Spanish acronym) (2)

#### Ecuador

National Action Plan for the Eradication of Gender Violence Toward Women (2007)

#### El Salvador

National Policy for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence.

**Grenada**

National Strategic Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence in Grenada

**Guatemala**

National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women (2004-2014).

**Guayana**

National Policy on Domestic Violence (2008-2013).

**Haití**

Plan National de lutte contre la violence faite aux femmes (National Plan to Fight against Violence toward Women) (2012-2016).

**Honduras**

National Plan against Violence toward Women (2006-2010) (1)  
Second National Plan against Violence toward Women (2)

**Jamaica**

National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence in Jamaica .  
National Policy for Gender Equality (2011-2015)  
National Development Plan - Gender Sector Plan (2009-2030).

**México**

Comprehensive Program to Prevent, Attend to, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women (2010-2012) (1)  
Comprehensive Program to Prevent, Attend to, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women (2)

**Nicaragua**

State Policy against Violence toward Women, Children and Adolescents and the National Action Plan of the State Policy against Violence toward Women, Children and Adolescents.

**Panamá**

National Plan Against Domestic Violence and Citizen Coexistence Policies (2004-2014) (2).  
National Plan Against Domestic Violence and Citizen Coexistence Policies (2014-2024) (2)

**Paraguay**

National Program for the Prevention and Comprehensive Care of Women, Children and Adolescents in a Situation of Gender-Based, Domestic and Intra-family Violence (2010-2015).  
3rd Plan for Equal Opportunities between Men and Women (2008-2017) - “Programa Nacional para la Prevención y la Sanción de la Violencia contra la Mujer” (National Program for the Prevention and Punishment of Violence against Women)

**Perú**

National Plan against Violence toward Women (2009-2015).

**Saint Kitts and Nevis**

The Multisectoral Action Plan on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (2010)

**San Vicente and the Grenadines**

No documentation arises that proves the existence of a national plan.

**Saint Lucia**

National Action Plan for the Eradication of Gender Violence (formulation completed in 2011, still awaiting official approval).

**Surinam**

Integrated Gender Action Plan (2006-2010).  
Legal Protection and Security Plan (2006-2010).

**Trinidad and Tobago**

National Policy on Gender and Development.

**Uruguay**

National Policy to Fight against Domestic Violence (2004-2010) (1).  
Second National Policy to Fight against Domestic Violence (2).

**Venezuela**

National Socialist Plan on Women’s Right to a Life Free from Violence (2010-2013) (pending official approval).

Table A3. National care protocols by country and sector

Country	National Protocols	Sectors	Year
Antigua and Barbuda	Protocol for the Care and Treatment of Women, Girls and Female Adolescents who Are Victims of Violence	Health, Police	n/d
Argentina	Protocol for the Detection and Care for Women Victims of Abuse	Health	2008
	Technical Guide for the Care of Non-Punishable Abortion	Health	2010
	National Protocol for the Comprehensive Care for Victims of Sexual Violence	Health	2011
	Protocol for Receiving Reports of Violence against Women	Justice	n/d
	Police Intervention Protocol for the Care, Guidance and Referral of Victims of Family Violence	Police	2006
	Collective Work Plan to Promote a Comprehensive Policy for the Detection, Care and Record of Cases of Intrafamily Violence <a href="http://www.fuerzaaerea.mil.ar/mision/violencia_intrafamiliar.html">http://www.fuerzaaerea.mil.ar/mision/violencia_intrafamiliar.html</a>	Armed Forces	2010
	Care Protocol in Cases of Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment within the Armed Forces	Armed Forces	n/d
	Support Protocol for Victims of Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Persons	Consejo Federal de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia (Federal Council of Childhood, Adolescence and Family), intersectoral	2008
	Protocols for the Care of Victims of Sexual Violence	Police, Social Services and Justice	n/d
Bahamas	Prophylactic Care for Victims of Sexual Violence	Health (available only in the Emergency Unit of Hospital Princess Margaret)	n/d
Barbados	Data Collection Protocol on Gender-Based Violence	Intersectoral	2008
Belize	Domestic Violence Care Protocol	Police	n/d
	Multisectoral Protocol for the Care of Sexual Violence (and immediate access to prophylactic treatment, especially for the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections)	Intersectoral	n/d
Bolivia	Laws, Protocols and Procedures for the Comprehensive Care of Sexual Violence	Police, Health, Justice	2005

Chile	Protocol for the Temporary Regulation of the Residence of Foreign Women who Are Victims of Violence	Social Services	2009
	Protocol for Action on Intra-Family Violence	Police (National Defense-Carabiniers), Justice	2007
	Action Protocols for Referrals by Legal Entities to Refuge Shelters of Women who Are at Serious Risk or in Life-Threatening Situations as a Result of Intra-Family Violence	Justice, Social Services	n/d
	Intersectoral Protocol for Indirect Child and Adolescent Victims of Homicide or Parricide in the Context of Violence against Women (for the care of collateral child victims of femicide) (Círculo de Femicidio - Femicide Circuit)	Intersectoral	n/d
	Manual for the Regional and Assistant District Attorneys, regarding the action of the Ministerio Público (Office of the Attorney General) to Address Intra-Family Violence	Justice	n/d
	Protocol for Preferential Access to Housing for Victims/Survivors of Violence coordinated between the Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (National Women's Service) and the Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo (Ministry of Housing and Urbanism)	Social Services (Housing)	n/d
	Protocol to Provide Complementary Legal Representation in the framework of the Corporación de Asistencia Judicial (Legal Assistance Corporation) under the control of the Ministerio de Justicia (Ministry of Justice), among others.	Justice	n/d
	Action Protocols to Care for Femicide and Frustrated Femicide	Intersectoral	n/d
	Colombia	Short Consultation Guide for Forensic Sexual Examination, Expert Report and Handling the Kit for Taking Samples in the Forensic and Health Sectors	Forensics, Health
Instruction for Digital Photographic Documentation in the Investigation of Sexual Crimes and Personal Injuries directed at Forensic and Health Personnel		Forensics, Health	2008
Protocol for the Prevention, Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women Victims of Violence		Justice	2008
Technical Regulation for the Forensic Approach of the Victim in the Investigation of Sexual Crime.		Forensics	2008
Technical Regulation for the Forensic Approach of Intra-Family Partner Violence		Forensics	2008
Protocols for the Protection of Sexual and Reproductive Right for the Displaced Population with Emphasis on Intra-family Violence and the Management of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict + Operational Book for Case Management <a href="http://www.unfpa.org.co/portal/uploadunfpa/file/PUB2011/protocolo-ddhh-0711012-PANTONE-300pm%20(1).pdf">http://www.unfpa.org.co/portal/uploadunfpa/file/PUB2011/protocolo-ddhh-0711012-PANTONE-300pm%20(1).pdf</a>		Military Forces	2007
A to Z module on Sexual and Reproductive Rights for Employees with Emphasis on Intra-family Violence and Sexual Violence		Defensoría del pueblo (Office of the Public Defender)	2007
Models of Care for the Prevention, Detection and Treatment of Domestic Violence in the Health Services Handbook		Health	2007
Strategic Plan for the Defense of Women's Rights in Justice (intra-family violence, break-up of the marital partnership and labor discrimination)		Intersectoral	2008
Guide for the Care of Abused Women - Resolution 412 of 2000		Health	2000
Protocols on Functioning in the Fiscalía General de la Nación (Office of the Attorney General of Colombia)	Justice	2000	

Costa Rica	Refuge Shelter Handbook	Social Services	n/d
	Level of Danger Questionnaire in Cases of Violence	Intersectoral	n/d
	Handbook of Minimum Guidelines for Care of Victims	Intersectoral	n/d
	Handbook on Care Center Protocol and Functioning and Development for Survivors of Violence	Intersectoral	n/d
	Healthcare Regulations for Violence against Women	Health	n/d
	Care Protocols for Children and Adolescents	Patronato Nacional de la Infancia (National Child Welfare Authority)	n/d
	Protocols for Police Action in Cases of Domestic Violence	Police, Public Security	n/d
	Protocols for Care for Victims/Survivors	Health, Caja Costarricense de Seguridad Social (Costa Rican Social Security Bureau)	n/d
	Protocol for Care for Victims of Sexual Abuse	Justice	n/d
	Protocol for Care of Women Survivors of Violence and Trafficking	Justice	n/d
National Model for the Care and Prevention of Violence against Women and Intra-family Violence	Intersectoral	n/d	
Dominica	Protocols Just for Handling Child Abuse Cases (under 18 years)	Education, Health, Social Services, Police	n/d
Ecuador	Forensic Protocols for Attending to Sexual Offenses and Crimes of Injuries from Intra-Family Violence	Health	2008
	Replacement Regulation of the Program for the Protection and Support for Victims, Witnesses and Other Participants in the Penal Process.	Justice	2007
	Procedure Handbook for the Care of Cases of Intra-Family Violence in the Comisarías de la Mujer y la Familia (Woman and Family Services Centers); Intendancies, Sub-intendancies, National Police Stations and Tenencias Políticas (political authorities of municipality divisions) in the place where there are no Woman and Family Services Centers.	Police	2006
	Special Regulation for the Procedures and Mechanisms for the Knowledge and Treatment of Sexual Offenses in the Education System	Education	2004
El Salvador	Laws on Prevention, Detection and Care Procedures for Sexual Abuse in School Centers	Education	2008
	Location Maps of Territorial Violence and National and Local Citizen Networks	Security	n/d
	Clinical Guide for the Care of Women and Children regarding Intra-Family Violence and Sexual Violence directed at second and third-level care hospitals of the Ministerio de Salud Pública (Public Health Ministry)	Health	n/d
	Guide on Police Intervention in Cases of Intra-Family- Violence	Police	n/d

Grenada	National Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Protocol for Grenada	Intersectoral	2010
Guatemala	Handbook of Procedures of the Comprehensive Care Model for Cases of Intra-Family Violence, Sexual Offenses and Violence against Women in the Metropolitan Area	Intersectoral	n/d
	Care and Reference Handbook for Victims of Crime to the Referral Network for Cases of Sexual Violence and Violence against Women.	Intersectoral	n/d
	Reference and Follow-up Sheets to Inform and Document Care for Victims	Intersectoral	n/d
	Guide for Psychological Intervention in Support for Women	Health	n/d
	Care and Reference Handbook for Victims of Crime to the Referral Network for Cases of Sexual Violence and Violence against Women.	Intersectoral	n/d
	Reference and Case Follow-up Sheets, through instruments that intend to inform and document care for victims	Intersectoral	n/d
	Protocol of the Law against Femicide and Other Forms of Violence against Women Normalize criteria of interpretation and application of the legislation for all the entities of the legal sector	Justice	n/d
Guyana	Sexual and Domestic Violence Protocols for Police Prosecutors	Justice	2009
	Sexual and Domestic Violence Protocols for Social Workers and Magistrate's Court Staff	Justice	2009
	Sexual and Domestic Violence Protocols for Police Officers	Police	2009
	Sexual and Domestic Violence Protocols for Social Workers and Counsellors	Social Services	2009
Haiti	Protocole de Collaboration entre Ministère à la Condition Féminine et aux Droits des Femmes et le Ministère de la Justice et de la Sécurité Publique (Agreement for Cooperation between the Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights and the Justice and Public Security Department)	Justice, Security	2008
	Protocole de Collaboration entre le Ministère à la Condition Féminine et aux Droits des Femmes et le Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle (Agreement for Cooperation between the Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights and the National Ministry of Education and Vocational Training)	Education	2009
	Protocole avec le Ministère à la Condition Féminine et aux Droits des Femmes et le Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle (Protocol with the Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights and the National Ministry of Education and Vocational Training)	Education	2007
	Protocole d'accord de Partenariat Interministériel des Ministères de la Justice et de la Condition Féminine en Faveur des Femmes et en Vue de la Refonte du Système Légal dans son Ensemble (Protocol Agreement between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry for the Status of Women to Promote Women in a Review of the Entire Legal System)	Intersectoral	2008
	Protocole d'Accord sur l'Octroi et la Gratuité du Certificat Médical relativement aux Agressions Sexuelles entre Ministère à la Condition Féminine et aux Droits des Femmes, le Ministère de la Justice et de la Sécurité Publique et le Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (Agreement Protocol between the Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Ministry of Public Health and of the Population for the Presentation of Free Medical Certificates in Cases of Sexual Abuse)	Justice, Health	2008

Honduras	Protocol for the Application of the Law against Domestic Violence (1997)	Justice	1997
	Jurisprudence Manual with a Gender Approach	Justice	n/d
	Care for Women Survivors of Violence Protocol	Police	n/d
	Regulations and Procedures Handbook for the Comprehensive Care of Women	Health	n/d
	Regulations and Procedures Handbook for the Comprehensive Care of Adolescents	Health	n/d
Jamaica	Jamaican Law Enforcement Guide to Investigation Manual: Practicalities of the Trafficking in Persons [Prevention, Suppression and Punishment] Act, 2007.	Justice, Police	2007
	Center for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Manual	Intersectoral	2001
	Complaints and Response Protocol on Gender-Based Violence for the Office of the Public Defender	Office of the Public Defender	n/d
Mexico	Protocol for Police Action on the Subject of Gender Violence	Police	2010
	Comprehensive Care for Victims of Violence against Women Protocol	Intersectoral	2010
	Five Protocols on Psychological Care for Women who Live in a Situation of Family and Gender Violence	Health	2010
	Handbook on the Integrated Model of Prevention and Care of Family and Sexual Violence for its Distribution in Operating Health Units, Special Attorney's Office for Crimes of Violence against Women.	Health	2010
	Protocol for the Care and Punishment of Sexual Harassment <a href="http://www.inmujer.df.gob.mx/wb/inmujeres/decreto_por_el_que_se_reforman_y_adicionan_diversa">http://www.inmujer.df.gob.mx/wb/inmujeres/decreto_por_el_que_se_reforman_y_adicionan_diversa</a>	Administración Pública D.F. (Public Administration D.F.)	2012
	Comprehensive Care Protocol for Victims of Human Trafficking	Justice	2010
	Action Protocol of the Office of the Procuraduría General de Justicia del Distrito (Federal Attorney General of Justice of the Federal District), on Completing Ministerial Procedures in situ, for the Rescue, Protection and Detection of Victims or Possible Victims of Human Trafficking	Justice	2010
	Protocol for the Immediate Search for Lost or Missing Women and Children at Risk of Being Victims of Crime and Especially of Sexual Violence.	Justice	2010
	Ministerial and Expert Investigation Protocol on the Crime of Femicide	Justice	2010
Nicaragua	Protocol for Care for Victims/Survivors	Comisarías de la Mujer y la Niñez (Woman and Children Services Centers)	n/d
	Protocol for Care for Victims/Survivors of Intra-family Violence	Health	n/d

Panama	Pocket Do's and Don'ts of Police Action with Victims of Gender Violence	Police	n/d
	Protocol for the Application of the Law against Domestic Violence	Intersectoral	n/d
	Protocols for the Suspicion of Domestic Violence	Health, Police	n/d
Paraguay	Care Protocol for People in a Situation of Sexual Violence	Health	2006
	Handbook on Addressing Intra-Family and Gender Violence	Intersectoral	2011
	Small Guide and Some Ideas about Domestic Violence	Ministerio de la Mujer (Ministry of Women)	n/d
	Practical Guide on Women's Rights	Ministerio de la Mujer (Ministry of Women)	n/d
Peru	Personal Safety Measures for Women who are in a Situation of Domestic Violence	Ministerio de la Mujer (Ministry of Women)	n/d
	General guidelines of the Ministerio de Defensa (Ministry of Defense) on the prevention and punishment of sexual violence	Armed Forces	2009
	Guidelines of the Ministerio de Educación (Ministry of Education) for the application of legislation on violence against women	Education	2007-2009
	Operational Police Procedures for Intervention in Families Handbook	Police	2007
	Technical Guide on Comprehensive Care for People Affected by Gender-based Violence	Health, Safety	n/d
	Comprehensive Care Guide for the Women's Emergency Centers	Women's emergency centers	n/d
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Protocol for the Care of Domestic Violence (currently being formulated)	Health, Police, Justice	n/d
	Care protocol for the Provision of Emergency Treatment for HIV / Sexually Transmitted Diseases, applicable in cases of sexual violence.	Health	n/d
San Vicente and the Grenadines	Care Protocol in Crisis Centers (currently being formulated)	Health	n/d
Saint Lucia	Protocol for the Care and Referral of Victims/Survivors to Care Centers	Police	n/d
Suriname	Preliminary version of the Care for Victims Protocol (pending official approval)	Steering committee [on] domestic violence	n/d
Trinidad and Tobago	Protocols for the treatment of gender-based violence available in the country's health institutions	Health	n/d

Uruguay	Route maps to detect and act on situations of domestic violence in schools	Education	n/d
	Route Map for the Prevention and Care of Situations of Child Abuse and Sexual Abuse in the Health Sector	Health	2009
	Protocol for Middle Education elaborated by the Dirección de Derechos Humanos (Human Rights Department) in coordinated work and with prior consultation of teachers and psychosocial teams.	Education	n/d
	Addressing Cases of Domestic Violence toward Women - Procedures Guide in First-Level Healthcare	Health	2009
	Guide for Comprehensively Addressing Adolescent Health in First-Level Healthcare National Adolescent Health Program	Health, Safety	n/d
	Protocol for the care of domestic violence that incorporates network care teams on a national scale	Health	2006
	Police Procedure Guide - action in cases of domestic violence	Police	2010
	Intervention Protocol for Cases of Violence toward Children and Adolescents which must be followed in the this institute's offices - (Instituto del Niño y Adolescente del Uruguay (Children and Adolescent Institute of Uruguay)– Sistema Integral de Protección a niños, niñas y adolescentes contra la Violencia (Comprehensive System of Child and Adolescent Protection against Violence)	Instituto del Niño y Adolescente del Uruguay (Children and Adolescent Institute of Uruguay)	2007
	Protocol for Middle Education elaborated by the Dirección de Derechos Humanos (Human Rights Department) in coordinated work and with prior consultation of teachers and psychosocial teams.	Education	n/d
Venezuela	Critical Route of Gender Violence (in the formulation process)	Intersectoral	2013

n/d: no data.



