



INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in compliance with its mandates and the provisions of Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, presents its Annual Report, which compiles the work carried out comprehensively through its mechanisms and the most relevant results achieved by this principal body of the Organization of American States (OAS), from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

2. Like other regions, the Americas and the Caribbean face old and new challenges to democratic institutions and the rule of law. These include persistent structural discrimination against historically marginalized and exploited population groups, authoritarianism, restrictions on civil society activism, and even challenges to approaches to reparations, truth and justice for historical and egregious human rights violations.

3. The power and influence of organized criminal groups, with access to weapons, affect political processes, distort economies, threaten the land and livelihoods of communities, as well as the lives and safety of individuals. Governance institutions are overwhelmed, can be co-opted through corrupt practices and undermined by economic inequalities.

4. Disinformation and hate speech spread in the media and social networks contribute to extreme political polarization and affect consensus-building processes, which are essential for the guarantee and respect of human rights for all people.

5. Climate change is having a disproportionate impact on the small island developing states of the Caribbean, whose economies are severely affected by the increasing frequency and ferocity of hurricanes. Climate change increases inequalities between countries.

6. However, this is a region that faced dictatorships and civil wars during the 1970s and 1980s and built strong democracies during the 1990s and 2000s. States have strengthened their capacities and understanding of their commitments to uphold human rights, seeking fairer and more egalitarian societies.

7. Thanks to the decision of the Member States to strengthen the capacities of the principal bodies of the Inter-American Human Rights System, increasing their budgets, and to the commitment and dedication of the Commissioners, as well as the staff of its Executive Secretariat, led by Executive Secretary Tania Reneaum Panszi, the IACHR has been able to consolidate and strengthen its presence in the region through the attainment of outstanding achievements and results.

8. During 2024, the IACHR continued to implement its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, which is developed through nine objectives and 34 strategic programs, with which it seeks to achieve substantive changes in the greater enjoyment of all human rights by all persons in the hemisphere -the Commission's ultimate goal- and to make an essential contribution to the inter-American public interest. As reported in this Annual Report, the IACHR has made significant progress in meeting the goals and objectives defined in this Strategic Plan.

9. Particularly noteworthy are the achievements in terms of overcoming the procedural backlog and offering the users of the Inter-American Human Rights System a more rapid and efficient response. Among other results detailed in Chapter II of this Annual Report are the initial study of 80.54% of the 2,883 petitions received, the approval of 133 admissibility reports (74 on admissibility and 59 on inadmissibility) and 121 reports on the merits, and the referral of 26 cases to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

10. Also, in relation to the system of petitions and cases, there was a significant boost in the use and follow-up of cases in friendly settlements, with the signing of 19 new agreements and the homologation of

another 13. Likewise, progress was made with the total fulfillment of 11 friendly settlement agreements and the implementation of measures in another 67.

11. Through the work of the petition and case system, the IACHR deepened and consolidated its jurisprudence, reinforcing the predictability and definition of clearer human rights standards, and achieving reparations for victims of human rights violations.

12. As part of the commitments of the Strategic Plan, the Commission made progress in the implementation of the prioritization policy approved in December 2023 through Resolution 4/23, to adequately and clearly manage pending matters, with a view to addressing the issues that so merit it in a more timely manner. During 2024, while continuing to advance chronologically in the study of matters, priority was given to those related to serious human rights violations, without prejudice to the other categories established in Resolution 4/23, which have allowed the IACHR to pronounce itself on situations that are circumstantial, structural and related to the inter-American public order. At the same time, priority has been given to urgent cases, such as those related to the international return of children and adolescents, and the possible imposition of the death penalty.

13. Regarding the precautionary measures mechanism, the Commission was able to guarantee at least one supervisory action in 100% of the precautionary measures in force, as well as to ensure that the reports sent by the parties are transferred in 100% of its portfolio of precautionary measures in force at least once a year. It also analyzed 94.83% of the 1,412 requests for precautionary measures received in the same year, granting and/or extending 77 precautionary measures through 73 resolutions, providing protection to more than 7,430 individuals and identifiable groups or collectives. The IACHR adopted 10 follow-up resolutions with respect to 11 precautionary measures in force and decided to completely lift 28 precautionary measures in force and partially lift one precautionary measure in force. It submitted one new request for provisional measures and two requests for extensions to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

14. It is worth highlighting the progress made in 2024 in the implementation of GAIA, the new central system for the processing of petitions, cases and precautionary measures. This software streamlines the Commission's internal processes. Thanks to GAIA, the IACHR has been able to take significant steps towards a more modern and efficient inter-American justice system.

15. The Commission continued to strengthen its work with the member states of the region in order to reinforce coordination in the measures it has adopted to overcome the procedural backlog. It held 17 meetings to review portfolios of petitions, cases, precautionary measures, friendly settlements and follow-up on recommendations related to 15 countries.

16. The IACHR continued to consolidate its timely and relevant monitoring of the human rights situation in the region by producing and enriching standards through the publication of three country reports on the human rights situation in Bolivia, Honduras and El Salvador, a compendium on "Comprehensive reparations with a gender perspective and transitional justice," and the study "Inter-American Standards on Freedom of Religion and Belief". It also issued 112 press releases and agile and timely positions in social media on relevant human rights situations in the region, and sent 88 requests for information to 35 States on human rights situations.

17. The IACHR observed the human rights situation in 12 countries by conducting two on-site visits to Colombia and Guatemala (April 15-19 and July 22-26, respectively), and 12 working, promotional and/or cooperation visits, namely: a working visit to Costa Rica from February 6 to 9; a promotional visit to Honduras from May 13 to 17; a promotional visit to Costa Rica from May 19 to 21; a working visit to Honduras from August 12 to 15; a virtual working visit to Colombia from September 3 to 11; a working visit to Chile from September 5 to 6; a working visit to Chile from September 5 to 7; a working visit to Bolivia from September 9 to 13; a working visit to Guatemala from September 12 to 16; a promotional visit to the Dominican Republic from October 1 to 5; a technical cooperation, promotion and follow-up visit to Barbados from October 8 to 11; and a technical cooperation, promotion and follow-up visit to Belize from October 15 to 18.

18. Among the innovations of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan is the development of early warnings and preventive monitoring in the area of democratic institutions. Significant progress was made during 2024, laying the groundwork for the next phase of the project in 2025. Among the main achievements are: the methodological update and approval of reference documents, the development and implementation of technological tools, the development of the first working versions of predictive models and interpretability techniques and interfaces, and the integration and evaluation of data sources, as well as the identification of the required technological infrastructure and its compatibility with the OAS information technology rules.

19. In 2024, the IACHR continued with the implementation of the work plans of the follow-up mechanisms established with respect to Colombia, for the recommendations issued following the [working visit to the country](#) in June 2021; for [Chile](#), regarding the recommendations of the [Country Report issued in 2022](#), following the working visit to the country on the occasion of the social protests of late 2019 and early 2020, and regarding Bolivia, through the Roundtable for the Follow-up of the Implementation of the recommendations of the GIEI Bolivia ([MESEG](#)), on the recommendations issued in the [Final Report of the GIEI-Bolivia](#). With regard to the Joint Follow-up Mechanism for Colombia, the continuity of the spaces for dialogue with civil society organizations, the holding of the public hearing “Follow-up to the recommendations on the investigation of human rights violations during the national strike” during the 190th Period of Sessions, and the progress made in the preparation of the second follow-up report on the 33 recommendations included in the Mechanism’s work plan are highlighted. With regard to the Joint Follow-up Mechanism on Recommendations for Chile (MESECH), the working visit to the country between March 18 and 20 and the progress in the preparation of the first follow-up report on the recommendations in the areas of i) progress on structural, institutional and regulatory reforms (with 32 recommendations); ii) investigation (with 13 recommendations, and iii) reparations (with 4 recommendations) are noteworthy. Regarding the MESEG, in 2024, one working visit was carried out (from July 1 to 5) and progress was made in the preparation of the Second Follow-up Report on the Recommendations of the GIEI Bolivia. In addition, regarding follow-up on recommendations, the importance of the high-level visit to Peru on August 12 and 13 is underlined. During 2024, the IACHR maintained its public presence and relevance in the region. In addition to conducting the abovementioned visits, it held three sessions (189th, 190th, and 191st) in a hybrid format, for a total of 98 public hearings.

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21. It is worth emphasizing the IACHR’s sustained outreach to the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Strategy for the Caribbean, which is implemented as part of Program 17 of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027. Meetings were held with the group of Caribbean States in the framework of the sessions, working visits to Barbados and Belize, bilateral meetings with States, and training activities for officials, civil servants and representatives of civil society organizations from Caribbean countries.

22. The Commission continued to consolidate its promotion and training activities aimed at both officials of member states and civil society organizations, students and other social sectors. In 2024, the IACHR conducted 69 training activities and 210 promotional activities on the Inter-American Human Rights System in order to increase knowledge about the system, its mechanisms and standards, as well as about priority issues and rights. These activities reached 38,238 people, of whom 4,152 received training.

23. In the area of technical cooperation, the Commission formalized its partnership with different institutions through the signing of three new inter-institutional cooperation agreements in 2024 and the implementation of existing agreements. Also noteworthy are the efforts made to strengthen ties with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

24. The IACHR continued to strengthen its presence before the political bodies of the OAS, making 27 presentations to them in 2024, thus fulfilling its conventional mandate to advise the States.

25. Also noteworthy was the participation of the States in all the activities carried out by the Commission during the year, including public hearings, consultations, training workshops, bilateral and multilateral meetings, among others. Most of the States of the region participated in the hearings held during the three sessions. The IACHR also held regular meetings with regional groups of States during its sessions.

26. In 2024, the IACHR celebrated its 65th anniversary. Two commemorative events were held, with the participation of the States of the region: the first, during the 54th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly in Asuncion, Paraguay; and the second, during the 190th Session, in Washington, D.C.

27. The participation of civil society in the activities carried out by the IACHR is also noteworthy. Numerous civil society organizations participated in the public hearings held during the 189th, 190th, and 191st sessions. A hybrid meeting was also held with civil society during the 189th session to learn about technological information systems for monitoring democratic institutions and issuing early warnings, and a virtual meeting was held with the RegionaR network to learn about its work agenda during the 190th session. The IACHR also held meetings with civil society organizations as part of the two on-site visits and the 12 working visits it conducted. It also held periodic meetings with civil society organizations in the framework of its rapporteurships and mechanisms for follow-up on recommendations, as well as with coalitions and networks of human rights organizations in the region.

28. The participation of States and civil society is essential for the IACHR to be able to fully comply with its mandate to promote and protect human rights. The IACHR values and thanks the States and civil society for their active collaboration.

29. The IACHR maintains its conviction to strengthen its ties of collaboration and respect with other international and regional human rights organizations. Under Program 30 of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027, during 2024 it maintained a strong relationship with the United Nations system, engaging in dialogue and cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Of particular note was the meeting between Commissioner José Luis Caballero and Executive Secretary Tania Reneaum Panszi with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, on June 19, in Geneva, the periodic meetings with representatives of the various regional and national offices of the OHCHR and the participation of its representatives in the hearings of the 189th, 190th and 191st sessions.

30. The IACHR also continued to promote collaboration with the United Nations Human Rights Council, including the participation of the President of the IACHR, Commissioner Roberta Clarke, in the high-level segment of the 55th session of the Council (February 26) and a meeting between Executive Secretary Tania Reneaum Panszi and the President of this body, on June 18 in Geneva. The IACHR also continued its practice of sending its contributions to the Universal Periodic Review, in this case to Nicaragua, Dominica, Uruguay, Bolivia and El Salvador. It also continued to collaborate with the working groups and special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council. It also held a meeting of the plenary of the IACHR with the chairpersons of the treaty bodies on May 30.

31. In 2024, the IACHR carried on deepening its ties with other regional bodies in 2024. Of particular note was the visit of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to the IACHR headquarters from July 11 to 16, for the purpose of exchanging and discussing its mandates and mechanisms. Also noteworthy was the sixth inter-American human rights forum, organized jointly with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition, the IACHR hosted the annual meeting of focal points of regional human rights mechanisms on November 13 and 14.

32. The IACHR kept on increasing its efforts in the area of transparency, accountability and access to information. In this regard, it responded to more than 9,000 requests from users received through different channels and provided responses to 131 requests for access to information during 2024.

33. It is important to highlight the continuity of the Inter-American SIMORE, an online computer tool with more than 7,746 classified and systematized recommendations. In 2024, the publication of the "First

booklet on SIMORE Inter-American: Report of measures by Honduras”, the first of a collection that seeks to make visible and encourage the use of this tool, stands out.

34. As part of the strategy to disseminate the various reports, themes and rapporteurships that the Commission works on, 21 digital campaigns were carried out to disseminate standards with a total of 2,447,132 impressions and 39,709 interactions on the IACHR's social media accounts. Throughout the year, the Commission generated and published 330 press releases; these addressed priority issues in the region, containing statements on alert situations and human rights violations, as well as recognition of good practices and institutional issues relevant to the fulfillment of the IACHR's mandate.

35. The achievements of the Special Rapporteurships for Freedom of Expression (RELE) and on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA) in 2024 should be highlighted, which are detailed in the respective annexed reports.

36. Mention should also be made of the continuity of the Co-Labora Program, *Construyamos nuestro espacio*, to improve the work environment and change the organizational culture. In the second year of the program, there was a reduction in the concerns expressed by the personnel, an increase in the transparency of communication, higher levels of trust between areas and collaborators, and greater openness to feedback from the leaders. The qualitative results highlighted a high level of gratitude towards these spaces for listening and reflection, consolidating a more open, collaborative and development-oriented work culture.

37. During 2024, public competitions continued to be held to fill 12 vacant positions: eight financed by the Regular Fund and four by specific funds.

38. The Commission continues to work to have an IACHR that is more transparent in its processes, more predictable in its objectives and goals, and planned and managed for concrete results. It will also continue to promote a management based on a posture of dialogue and a common disposition to solve problems, keeping in mind the interests of the victims, their families, and citizens, at the center of its attention and commitments.

39. The IACHR recognizes the inter-American human rights civil society, OAS Member States and observers, international and regional organizations, the Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro and his team, as well as the team of its Executive Secretariat for all the support provided to achieve the accomplishments presented in this Annual Report. It is grateful to the States for strengthening the IACHR by maintaining the increase in the regular fund; and to the member countries, observers and donors whose voluntary contributions have been decisive in achieving the results presented: Canada, Costa Rica, Honduras, United States, Mexico, Panama, Peru, European Commission, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Monaco, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Arcus Foundation, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ford Foundation, New Venture Fund, and Pan American Development Foundation (PADF).

40. The IACHR dedicates its work to the memory of the victims and recognizes the leading role of civil society organizations and social movements in building societies that are more fair and respectful of human rights.

A. Progress Achieved

41. Pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, in Chapter IV.A of this report the Commission provides a descriptive overview of the human rights situation in the region, highlighting the main trends, progress, and challenges in the area of human rights based on the cross-cutting themes and topics prioritized in its Strategic Plan. Below, the Commission identifies the main progress observed in the member states in 2024. The actions referred to stand out for being aimed at promoting and protecting the human rights of individuals in accordance with the international obligations assumed by the States and contained in the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and other inter-American instruments on the subject.

42. The IACHR annually highlights a series of measures, policies, practices, and programs adopted by States in the Americas as examples of progress and/or best practices consistent with inter-American human rights standards. The information contained in this report is taken from the overview of the human rights situation in the countries referenced, which can be consulted in detail in Chapter IV.A of this report.

43. The measures identified in this section are classified into three groups. The first refers to cross-cutting and intersectoral issues that have a multidimensional impact on human rights protection guarantees. Within this group are those actions that the States have taken to strengthen democratic institutions, engagement, access to justice, citizen security, and efforts to combat torture, forced disappearance of persons, and violence. The second group refers to measures implemented by States to protect priority populations including those in vulnerable circumstances and those who have historically been victims of discrimination. Lastly, the third group includes actions taken to strengthen public policies in a number of areas that are strategic for human rights.

44. With regard to the progress made in strengthening **democratic institutions**, the IACHR recognizes the swearing in of the elected President and Vice President of the Republic of Guatemala as an achievement for democracy and respect for the will of Guatemalans freely expressed at the ballot box. It also highlights the new government's openness to international monitoring. In particular, it notes the invitation to the IACHR to conduct an *on-site* visit in July, as well as the commitment of the highest authorities to implement its recommendations and ensure the human rights of the population.

45. In Haiti, the Commission took note of the reappointment of the Prime Minister and the President of the High-Level Transition and Constitutional Council, as well as the appointment of the members of the Provisional Electoral Council, both necessary to hold elections. In addition, the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) has been deployed in the country since June to restore security. In Panama, the Commission notes the high level of participation of women in the voting stations during the general elections. It also acknowledges as positive the election of Mexico's first female President. In addition, the Plurinational Constitutional Tribunal of Bolivia ratified the prohibition of indefinite reelection in the executive branch. In the Dominican Republic, the Commission welcomes the constitutional reform and the increased participation of women in positions of public office. With regard to Colombia, the IACHR considers that the State has made progress in the areas of citizen security and democratic institutions, promoting the rights of Afro-descendants and indigenous people; it has taken steps under the Development Plan to transform territories with a low state presence; and it has passed the pension reform as part of a comprehensive response to the armed conflict and violence in the country. In Suriname, the Commission highlights the passage of the reform of the Electoral Regulation Act and the decision of the Constitutional Court on guarantee deposits for political parties.

46. In the area of **anti-corruption**, the Commission highlights the approval of the Whistleblower Protection Act in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the creation of the Special Organised Crime Unit in the Guyana Police Force. The Commission continued to monitor the possible installation of an International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH) under the auspices of the United Nations. In Suriname, the Commission took note of the creation of an Anti-Corruption Commission and the enactment of an anti-corruption decree in 2023.

47. Regarding **access to justice**, a new Court Case Management System has been implemented in the Magistrates Courts of Barbados to modernize the justice system and reduce delays in the administration of justice. Likewise, the Commission highlights the regulatory changes to reduce the case backlog and delays in the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago. It also takes note of the laws on criminal procedure in Guyana aimed at speeding up proceedings, reducing the backlog in the courts, and lowering the number of people in pretrial detention.

48. With regard to the extension of the scope of justice services, offices of the Attorney General's Office were set up in the province of Darien, Panama, to assist individuals in migration contexts. Furthermore, three offices of the Victim Assistance Center, prosecutorial mediation centers, and working groups on violence against women were opened in the interior of Paraguay. In addition, a council was created to manage the

resources of the Union's Public Defense Fund to enable the expansion of free comprehensive legal assistance services in Brazil's interior regions. Also notable is the Support for Indigenous Victims of Crime initiative to improve the availability of, and access to, culturally safe and informed victim services in Canada.

49. With respect to measures to strengthen the **human rights institutional framework**, the Commission welcomes the passage of the Ombudsman Act in the Bahamas, the primary function of which is the advancement and protection of all human rights. It also highlights the restructuring of the Office of the Ombudsman of Belize, including the expansion of its mandate to protect and promote human rights. It also commends the Ombudsman's Office of Paraguay on its "A" status rating from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). The IACHR takes note of the proposal to strengthen the legal framework of the Panamanian Ombudsman's Office in accordance with international human rights standards and the UN Paris Principles. In Peru, the National Multisectoral Human Rights Policy 2040 (PNMD) was approved in a Following participatory process; its aim is to address inequality and structural discrimination in the country. The Commission notes that in St. Kitts and Nevis an amendment was introduced to the Freedom of Information Act to allow the Ombudsman or Special Prosecutor to act as Information Commissioner; this, in an effort to increase transparency and improve operational and budgetary efficiency.

50. Regarding **citizen security**, Argentina reported on the continuation of training programs for security forces on human rights and prevention of institutional violence. In Bolivia, human rights training was provided to police, particularly on limits on the use of force under the law. In turn, the Police issued memorandum 17/2024 on ensuring the rights of LGBTI persons during police operations. With respect to Brazil, the State reported on the National Guidelines on the Use of Force by Public Security Agents. Colombia saw the entry into effect of the Public Policy and the Permanent Action Plan for dismantling criminal conduct or organizations that attack human rights defenders, members of grassroots movements, political movements, and persons involved in the implementation of the peace agreements and peace-building efforts. The State reported a decrease in the rate of homicides and other crimes against the civilian population. With respect to El Salvador, the IACHR has also noted a significant reduction in the homicide rate in that country. In addition, based on available information, it observes that in Dominica there has been a 44 percent drop in homicides over the last year, Jamaica has seen a decline in its homicide rate of around 17 percent.

51. The IACHR welcomes the creation in the United States of the Emerging Firearms Threats Task Force, which instructs federal agencies to develop and publish information on school safety protocols. In addition, the Department of Justice issued model legislation and guidelines for states to conduct more comprehensive background checks on individuals seeking to obtain firearms. In El Salvador, the Urban Centers for Welfare and Opportunities (CUBOs) have been set up to train and educate young people in areas previously under gang control, and the "Territorial Activation" program has been implemented, bringing the services of 15 state institutions closer to communities affected by gang violence.

52. Uruguay passed a law criminalizing cybercrime, including aggravating circumstances and specific protections for the most vulnerable victims. In addition, guidelines were prepared for dealing with sexual crimes against children and adolescents, as well as for incorporating a gender and sexual diversity approach.

53. With regard to **the second group** of actions for protecting priority and especially vulnerable populations, the Commission takes note of measures adopted to ensure the universal, indivisible, and interdependent nature of human rights, including the principles of equality and non-discrimination. Such measures seek to mitigate actions that may accentuate human rights violations against different individuals, groups and communities in the hemisphere.

54. With regard to **human rights defenders**, the Commission welcomes Colombia's ratification of the Escazú Agreement and its commitments to protect environmental defenders. Also noteworthy is the 85 percent increase in resources allocated to the implementation of the Program for Protection of Human Rights Defenders (PPDDH) in Brazil. In addition, the regional technical teams were expanded and a headquarters set up in Porto Seguro, Bahia, strengthening the program's coverage in the south of the state. The IACHR also

welcomes the actions aimed at strengthening the Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists in Mexico, including increasing its budget and staff. It also noted the identification of more than 20,000 missing persons. The approval of the Protocol for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Chile, which seeks to strengthen the State's response and establish protection measures for those who face risks or threats to their fundamental rights due to their work as rights defenders is also recognized. For its part, Guatemala reported having resumed the development of its Public Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. It also announced that two sections of the Specialized Criminal Investigation Division (DECI) had been given the function of investigating, advising and reporting on crimes against the lives and integrity of human rights defenders. In this regard, the IACHR recognizes Honduras' efforts to strengthen the National Protection Mechanism through human rights training for public officials.

55. In relation to the situation of **the rights of indigenous peoples** in Brazil, the IACHR highlights the actions taken to combat racial discrimination against Quilombola communities and recognize their territories. It also notes the approval by the Amnesty Commission of the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship—for the first time since its creation—of a request for collective reparations for serious violations of the rights of indigenous communities during the military regime (1964–1985), which included massacres, torture, and forced displacement. In addition, the State took steps to contain and remove squatters and *garimpeiros* (illegal gold miners) from the Yanomami Amazon reserve, reinforcing the protection of this indigenous territory. With respect to Canada, the Commission welcomes the launch of the Indigenous Victims of Crime Support initiative, as well as information regarding the availability of funds to improve access to justice for indigenous and “racialized” communities in British Columbia. In Colombia, a decree granted indigenous authorities powers over environmental matters within their territories. The Commission also highlights the restitution, in compliance with court orders, of at least 55,000 hectares of land to indigenous communities in the departments of La Guajira, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Chocó, and Antioquia. Similarly, land titles were granted to seven indigenous communities in Guyana.

56. With respect to Guatemala, the Commission takes note of actions to ensure access to water, housing and education by the Guatemalan Indigenous Development Fund (FODIGUA), in addition to projects on intercultural education, sustainable agriculture, and access to potable water and health services for these communities. In addition, the Commission takes note of the curriculum designed for the Initial Training Program for Aspiring Lower Court Judges, which, among other things, prioritizes training in human rights of indigenous peoples. The Commission welcomes the creation of the National Council of Indigenous Peoples of Mexico as a participatory body enabling engagement between those peoples and the executive branch for public policy design and implementation. It also highlights the constitutional recognition of indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples as subjects of public law, including legal personality and their own heritage, following the reform of Article 2 of the Constitution.

57. Regarding Honduras, mention should be made of the creation of the “First National Plan to Safeguard Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Languages,” which seeks, through joint actions with these communities, to revitalize and preserve their linguistic wealth. The adoption of an early warning protocol to address risks to the rights of peoples in voluntary isolation in Ecuador is also noteworthy. In addition, El Salvador has set up the Observatory of Violence against Indigenous Women, a civil society initiative run by women indigenous leaders to raise awareness and highlight cases of violence. In Suriname, the Commission welcomes the judicial decision on the State's obligation to undertake free, prior, and informed consultation with indigenous and tribal peoples before allowing economic activities in their territories.

58. With respect to **women's rights**, and in relation to the measures adopted by States to eradicate all types of violence, Brazil has defined the crime of femicide as an autonomous offense and amended regulations to ensure that priority and adequate assistance is provided by the health care systems and law enforcement to women in situations of domestic and family violence. It also launched the Plan of Action of the National Pact for the Prevention of Femicide. In Chile, regulations were adopted on prevention, punishment and eradication of gender-based violence against women that recognize such forms as vicarious, symbolic, and gynecological-obstetric violence. A follow-up mechanism was also established to ensure compliance with measures ordered in favor of the victims.

59. For its part, the IACHR welcomes the approval of the National Gender Policy 2024-2030 in Belize, which addresses different areas, including health, education, employment, prevention of gender-based violence, and female participation in decision-making positions. In Canada, the IACHR welcomes the continuation and/or adoption of new measures to ensure sexual and reproductive rights. With regard to attention to gender violence, Costa Rica has relaunched its 1125 hotline, which provides free legal, psychological, and social assistance to women. In Ecuador, the State enacted the Law of Containment, Accompaniment, and Transformative and Integral Reparation for Daughters, Sons, Mothers, Fathers and other Relatives of Victims of Femicide and other Gender-Based Violent Deaths; it also enacted the Organic Law on Equal Pay for Women and Men. As for the United States, the IACHR values the measures announced at the federal level to improve care and protection for victims of gender-based violence, through the allocation of new funds for the care of survivors; addressing violence in the digital sphere and artificial intelligence; curbs on access to weapons by aggressors, and other measures.

60. In Guatemala, the reactivation of the National Coordinator for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in Guatemala and the creation of the Interagency Commission against Sexual Violence which will make decisions on prevention, comprehensive care, justice, and reparations for victims, are noteworthy. In Guyana, the IACHR highlights the increase in female representation in the judiciary. According to information provided by the State, 8 new female judges were appointed in June, bringing women's overall representation in the judicial branch to 70 percent. In addition, the Commission welcomed the enactment of the Law on Domestic Violence, which strengthens protection for victims of violence in domestic or intimate partner contexts. It also highlights the creation of the Secretariat for Women in Mexico, as well as the constitutional reform on the substantive equality of women, gender perspective, and the right of women to a life free of violence.

61. The IACHR also welcomes the approval of the Shelter Law in Honduras for women violence survivors. In El Salvador, the IACHR values the measures adopted to promote gender equality in the economic sphere, such as the reform of the Law Creating the Solidarity Fund for the Microentrepreneurial Family and the creation of the Interagency Care Commission to implement the National Policy of Co-responsibility for Care. In Panama, the IACHR highlights the criminal law reforms aimed at punishing sexual violence online, as well as the approval of the National Plan against Sexual Exploitation 2024-2028. Likewise, it highlights the approval of the law institutionalizing the National Care System and establishing the right to receive and provide care under equal conditions; the updating of the Public Policy on Equal Opportunities for Women 2024-2034; and actions to promote women's political participation. In Peru, a working group was created to strengthen attention to cases of femicide and attempted femicide at Women's Emergency Centers, as was a working group for the promotion and protection of the rights of women sex workers. In addition, a working group and pilot plan for the coordination of sectoral interventions in the area of care were set up with the aim of improving conditions for caregivers.

62. The Commission notes the recent amendments to Jamaica's Domestic Violence Act, which have broadened the categories of individuals who may apply for a protection order. The Commission also appreciates the creation of a working group on gender-based violence in St. Vincent and the Grenadines whose objective is to support coordination among providers of essential services for dealing with gender-based violence. In the same vein, Dominica has developed a National Action Plan against Domestic Violence to ensure that frontline service providers, including the police, judiciary, and civil society, are fully aware of the provisions of the updated Domestic Violence Act.

63. With respect to the Dominican Republic, the IACHR takes note of the creation of 14 Comprehensive Care Units for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Crimes (UVGs) and the implementation of the National School for Equality for gender mainstreaming in the public, private, and community sectors. It also welcomes the increased representation of women in public office. Likewise, it highlights that Trinidad and Tobago launched the National Strategic Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Violence (2023-2027), which establishes a comprehensive framework aimed to prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based violence, as well as the Survivor Transformation and Empowerment Programme, which is designed to

provide essential life skills, educational opportunities, and business training to women who have suffered gender-based violence.

64. With respect to measures to protect the rights of people experiencing human mobility, including migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless persons, and victims of trafficking, Argentina adopted a special migration regularization regime for Venezuelan nationals. The IACHR also recognizes that Brazil approved an amendment to the Migration Law that expands legal protections, facilitating access to the labor market and education for refugees and migrants, especially those in situations of socioeconomic vulnerability. It also notes that in Chile the Second Chamber of the Supreme Court voided an expulsion order against a Venezuelan citizen with family roots in the country, setting an important precedent in the protection of the rights of migrants. In Ecuador, the granting of an immigration amnesty and the establishment of a special regularization process for Venezuelan nationals and their families are notable. The Commission also welcomes the decision of Mexico's Supreme Court ordering the creation of a registry of detained migrants.

65. Measures worth highlighting in Canada include the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) to protect migrant workers. Furthermore, with respect to prevention of statelessness, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice declared that the first-generation limit for foreign-born individuals is unconstitutional. For its part, Colombia created the Special Permit to Stay for Legal Representatives or Guardians of Children and Adolescents for Venezuelan nationals responsible for minors with temporary protection permits issued before December 31, 2023. The IACHR also takes note of the Comprehensive Migration Policy 2024-2034 in Costa Rica and the adoption of Executive Decree 44.501, which incorporated protection against the refoulement of asylum seekers. The IACHR takes note of the presentation of the National Reintegration Plan (2024-2025) in Honduras, which incorporates actions that will allow returnees to re-establish economic, social, and psychosocial ties in order to preserve their lives and livelihoods, as well as to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities. The IACHR also notes the presentation of three community and family guides prepared by the Ministry of Social Development of Panama and welcomes the approval of the Protocol for the Identification and Care of Unaccompanied and/or Separated Children and Adolescents in mobility contexts.

66. In the area of statelessness, the Commission noted the Dominican Republic's efforts to restore the nationality of at least 26,000 persons, as well as the naturalization of another 799 persons affected by Constitutional Court ruling TC/0168/13, which resulted in hundreds of thousands of persons being the arbitrary stripped of Dominican nationality and rendered stateless those not considered nationals of another State. In Peru, a law was passed that extends the temporary coverage of the Comprehensive Health Insurance to migrants and refugees living with HIV or diagnosed with tuberculosis without the need for official residency documentation. The Commission notes the amendment the Immigration Act and the passage of the Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Bill in St. Kitts and Nevis. In Uruguay, a pilot plan was approved that will recognize *prima facie* refugee status for Venezuelan asylum seekers, prioritizing those at risk or with specific needs, such as families with children, gender violence survivors, people with disabilities, the elderly, and the economically vulnerable. The IACHR also welcomes the Trinidad and Tobago's decision to extend the work permit exemption for Venezuelan nationals.

67. With regard to **trafficking in persons**, the Commission notes that in Bolivia, the Plurinational Council against Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling reactivated the technical commission in the area of criminal prosecution for human trafficking, which seeks to strengthen coordination among council members on prevention and investigation. With respect to Canada, the Committee takes note of the entry into force of the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act, which includes amendments to the Customs Tariff. The State of Ecuador created the Mechanism for the Detection and Referral of Cases of Trafficking in Persons for Labor Exploitation which is designed to enable labor inspectors and public servants to act in a comprehensive and coordinated manner in dealing with such cases. In the United States, the House of Representatives passed the Human Trafficking Detection Improvement Act, which is designed to provide Department of Labor personnel with tools and resources to identify, prevent and prosecute cases of exploitation. Furthermore, the Commission welcomes the steps taken in Jamaica to protect children from child

trafficking, including the establishment of a national referral mechanism to interview child victims and witnesses with a child-friendly approach to avoid re-victimization of child victims. In Guyana, the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act 2023, which aims to comprehensively address this scourge, came into force. The Commission takes note of the signing of the Framework Collaboration Agreement between public entities of the Dominican Republic to strengthen assistance to Dominicans identified as victims of human trafficking abroad upon their return to the country. In Uruguay, the Interagency Action Guide for Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons was approved; it introduces specific procedures for effective detection and coordination between agencies in such cases.

68. With regard to the **rights of children and adolescents**, the IACHR welcomes the Child Protection Act passed in Barbados and the reestablishment of the National Child Labour Committee. In Brazil, the adoption of Laws 14.811 and 15.032 introduced measures against violence in schools and child sexual abuse, in addition to earmarking public funds for anti-child abuse policies. In Canada, the Commission takes note of the Online Harms Act, aimed at holding digital platforms liable for harmful content. The Commission welcomes the adoption of the Law on Prevention, Early Detection, and Response to Violence against Children and Adolescents in Costa Rica, which is aimed at generating measures for prevention and early detection of all forms of violence against children; it also applauds the National Policy for Children and Adolescents 2024-2036, which was drawn up with input from children and adolescents. In Chile, the new Policy on Children and Adolescents was approved, together with its Action Plan 2024-2032, prioritizing the comprehensive wellbeing of children and adolescents.

69. The IACHR takes note of the launch of the Crime Prevention Programs for children and adolescents in Guatemala and highlights the launch of the plan for the prevention and response to violence against children. The Commission welcomes the introduction of the International Measures for the Protection of Children (Hague Convention) Bill (2024) in Guyana, which aims to strengthen child safety in the country. The IACHR also hails the adoption of the law creating the National Children's Congress in Honduras. In addition, it values the amendment of Article 58 of the General Law on Tourism in Mexico, which aims to combat the sexual exploitation of children.

70. The IACHR welcomes the creation of a commission to evaluate the functioning and operation of the special protection system for children and adolescents in the Dominican Republic. Likewise, it highlights the adoption of a national education policy and the formation of multidisciplinary working groups to ensure high-quality, inclusive education in Suriname. It also notes that in Uruguay, the State enacted the Law on Guarantees for Early Childhood and Adolescence and created the Uruguay Amber Alert system to ensure a rapid community response to the abduction of minors.

71. Regarding the rights of **persons deprived of liberty**, the IACHR appreciates Mexico's efforts to guarantee the right to vote for persons in pretrial detention. For its part, Chile implemented measures under the Prison Infrastructure Master Plan with the aim of increasing the holding capacity of the system, including holding tenders for infrastructure maintenance and the construction of new facilities. In Uruguay improvements were also made in women's prison conditions, including the construction of new housing facilities and a specific unit for trans women. The Commission welcomes the approval of immigration detention center regulations in the Bahamas which establish standards for the administration of detention centers with a human-rights approach. It also highlights the implementation of a prison census of 29,000 people in Bolivia and social reintegration programs for women. The efforts in that regard in Saint Lucia, through the Community Reentry Program, are also noteworthy. As regards Guyana, the Commission takes note of efforts to improve the infrastructure of the prisons of New Amsterdam, Lusignan and Mazaruni, in order to provide better environments for the rehabilitation and security of inmates. Paraguay inaugurated the Minga Guazú penitentiary center with the aim of promoting reintegration and reducing overcrowding. The Commission welcomes "LinkUp" program in Trinidad and Tobago, a collaborative initiative between the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) Regency Recruitment and Resources Limited to support inmates' transition into society and the workforce, in which private companies have committed to supporting inmates by providing on-the-job training.

72. In the area of **combating torture**, the Commission welcomed the ratification by Honduras of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture and the creation of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, while Colombia ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Commission also welcomed the judgment of the Supreme Court of Grenada declaring corporal punishment by flogging or whipping unconstitutional.

73. As for measures to protect the **human rights of people of African descent and combat racial discrimination**, the Commission highlights the efforts of the Barbados to move forward with a reparations program linked to the era of slavery. Canada adopted the Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028. Brazil and Colombia made progress on a binational program on Afro-descendent Peoples of the Americas, which seeks to strengthen their role as guardians of biodiversity and promote their access to cooperation funds for projects in this area. In addition, Brazil demarcated and titled land for more than 19 Quilombola communities and promoted a reparations agenda with the Portuguese government for damages caused during the time of slavery. As part of the implementation of Law 21.151, the State of Chile enacted regulations on prior consultation for the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people. In addition, Chile and El Salvador included a self-identification question for Afro-descendants in the Population and Housing Census. In the United States, the State of California allocated a budget of US\$12 million for reparations to address historical “harms and atrocities” against the black population. This decision marks an important milestone in recognizing and atoning for the legacy of systemic racism.

74. The State of Mexico reformed the Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination, identifying indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities as priority groups for affirmative action. In addition, it created the National Council of Indigenous Peoples as a body for participation, consultation, and defense of the rights of those communities, including representation by indigenous and Afro-Mexican advisors. For its part, the Peruvian Congress approved a constitutional reform recognizing Afro-Peruvian people and made progress in the implementation of the National Policy for Afro-Peruvian People 2030 (PNPA). In Uruguay, the National Plan for Racial Equity and Afro-descendants was unveiled, and the Observatory for Monitoring the Implementation of Affirmative-Action Measures for People of African Descent was created. In Honduras, the Afro-descendant Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Project was implemented, which focuses on protecting heritage and implementing countermeasures against racism and racial discrimination.

75. On the **rights of LGBTI people**, the Commission noted the judgment of Federal Criminal Court No. 1 of La Plata, Argentina that recognized the systemic nature of persecution and repression of trans women and convicted 11 people for crimes against humanity committed during the last military dictatorship in which 8 of the victims of those crimes were trans women. The Commission also took note of the first LGBTI pride march in the Bahamas. In Brazil, the Federal Supreme Court unanimously ratified the decision that the Unified Health System (SUS) should modify its platforms so that trans people can access consultations, examinations, and procedures according to their specific needs; in addition, the Committee for the Follow-up of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against LGBTQIA People was established. In Ecuador, the State set up the Interagency Panel on the Diversity Action Plan. The Commission welcomed the judgment of the High Court of Dominica declaring Sections 14 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act, which prohibit “gross indecency” and “sodomy,” respectively, to be unconstitutional and void. The IACHR highlights the jurisprudential advances in the recognition of “transfeminicide” by the Supreme Court of Justice Mexico. The Constitutional Court of Peru ordered the rectification of the registered sex for an intersex person. The National Registry of Persons of Honduras announced the implementation of processes to allow the rectification of official documents, in accordance with the judgment of the Inter-American Court in the Vicky Hernandez case.

76. With regard to the **rights of persons with disabilities**, the Commission acknowledges Saint Lucia’s signing of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities. Also, it welcomes the adoption of the declaration on global action for the rights of persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty for institutional strengthening, as well as the networking effort launched by a number of States in the hemisphere. This declaration calls for strengthening protection for

the rights of incarcerated persons with disabilities and the exchange of good practices, knowledge, experiences, and challenges. Progress has also been made in Costa Rica's National Survey on Disability, which includes disaggregated data and the creation of an updated registry on the situation of this population, facilitating the formulation of policies and laws. The IACHR also welcomes the creation of the National Registration System for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder, which simplifies the issuance of credentials to facilitate access to public policies for people in Brazil. Also noteworthy is the approval of Law 31781, which strengthens care for elderly persons with disabilities in situations of family neglect or at risk of social exclusion in Peru with measures to ensure their health, safety, education, work, and participation, among other rights, with an equality and non-discrimination perspective. It is also worth mentioning initiatives to strengthen access to justice for people with disabilities by Argentina's National Registry of Communication Facilitators.

77. Regarding the **rights of older persons**, the IACHR welcomes the ratification by Belize of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. For its part, the State of Chile made progress in the implementation of its *Chile Cuida* National System of Support and Care (SNAC), which has led to the opening of 20 new community day centers for the elderly. The Commission welcomes the presentation of the public policy "For Healthy Aging" in Panama, and the enactment of Law 423 establishing free health care services in the public system for economically deprived older persons.

78. The Commission also welcomes the implementation of the *Activando Abuelos* program, led by the National Directorate for Integration of El Salvador, through which paid internships are offered to people over 60. Also positive is the constitutional recognition of the right to a universal non-contributory pension for all senior citizens and the publication of a guide to an inclusive care model in Mexico, as is the Pension Program for the Wellbeing of the Elderly, which provided pensions to more than one million people residing in indigenous or Afro-Mexican municipalities or localities. The Commission also welcomes the creation of the *Royalties for All* program by Suriname to distribute profits from the country's energy sector, with a priority on the elderly and people with disabilities.

79. Finally, with regard to the **third group of measures**, the Commission highlights measures taken to advance memory, truth and justice policies and practices in the region. One example is the enactment in Colombia of Law 2364 of 2024, which recognizes and comprehensively protects the work and rights of women and persons searching for victims of forced disappearance. Another example is the compensation provided to at least 853 victims of political violence during the dictatorship in Bolivia and the creation of the Interagency Special Review Commission to reassess more than 4,000 reparations claims. The creation of the National Institute of Historical Memory in Honduras is also welcomed, as is the announcement of the expropriation of land for the construction of memorial sites in Chile. Also noteworthy is the conviction of a former police commissioner for acts of torture during the military dictatorship in Paraguay by that country's by the Court of Criminal Appeals, as well as the creation in the National Archive of Uruguay of a section to collect, organize, and preserve documents relating to the recent past and human rights violations.

80. In Mexico, the IACHR welcomes the amendment to the General Law on Disappearances incorporating the right to memory and the designation of the basement of the headquarters of the former Federal Security Directorate, where torture and other serious human rights violations were committed between 1960 and 1990, as a memorial site. It also values the decision of the Supreme Court that determined that the application of the statute of limitations, atypicality, and non-retroactivity to the investigation of crimes against humanity committed during the so-called "dirty war" contravenes the rights to truth and access to justice. The IACHR also notes that the Mechanism for Truth and Historical Clarification (MEH), published its Final Report entitled "It was the State (1965-1990)," which recognized 8,594 victims of serious human rights violations.

81. The IACHR notes that El Salvador strengthened the Investigation Unit for Crimes Committed During the Armed Conflict, under the Attorney General's Office, which led to the identification and arrest of senior military commanders involved in different cases, including the Massacre of El Calabozo, Dutch Journalists, and the Massacre of the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas. In that connection, the IACHR notes that in August 2024, a Salvadoran court began the trial of five members of the armed forces for

the murder of four Dutch journalists during the armed conflict in the country. In Brazil, the State reported the reinstatement of the Special Commission for Political Murders and Disappearances to search for people killed and disappeared for political reasons during the military dictatorship. The country also announced a plan to resume the search for and identification of the victims of the Araguaia guerrilla group. In Peru, the Commission welcomes the adoption of the Amended Consolidated Text of Legislative Decree 1428 on Strengthening the Missing Persons Search System and its Implementing Regulations.

82. In conclusion, the Commission observed noteworthy efforts by States to develop policies, practices, and legislative and judicial measures to advance the promotion and effective protection of the human rights of their inhabitants. It acknowledges these efforts and urges the States to continue to formulate and implement the human rights approach in public policies in response to recommendations by the bodies of the inter-American human rights system and to disseminate this approach in all State institutions and in society as a whole. The Commission places itself at the disposal of the States to provide the technical assistance required to achieve these goals.

B. Universalization of the Inter-American Human Rights System

1. Ratification Status of Inter-American Instruments

83. The current status of signatures and ratifications of inter-American treaties on human rights can be consulted on the web page of the Department of International Law of the OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs at the following website: http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/tratados_multilaterales_interamericanos_firmas.asp

RATIFICATION STATUS OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE COURT'S CONTENTIOUS JURISDICTION

SIGNATORY COUNTRIES	SIGNATURE	RATIFICATION/ACCESSION	DEPOSIT	ACCEPTANCE OF THE COURT'S JURISDICTION
Antigua and Barbuda				
Argentina	02-02-84	14-08-84	RA 05-09-84	05-09-84
Bahamas				
Barbados	20-06-78	05-11-81	RA 27-11-82	04-06-00
Belize				
Bolivia		20-06-79	AD 19-07-79	27-07-93
Brazil		09-07-92	AD 25-09-92	10-12-98
Canada				
Chile	22-11-69	10-08-90	RA 21-08-90	21-08-90
Colombia	22-11-69	28-05-73	RA 31-07-73	21-06-85
Costa Rica	22-11-69	02-03-70	RA 08-04-70	02-07-80
Dominica		03-06-93	RA 11-06-93	
Ecuador	22-11-69	08-12-77	RA 28-12-77	27-07-84
El Salvador	22-11-69	20-06-78	RA 23-06-78	06-06-95
United States	01-06-77			
Grenada	14-07-78	14-07-78	RA 18-07-78	

Guatemala	22-11-69	27-04-78	RA 25-05-78	09-03-87
Guyana				
Haiti		14-09-77	AD 27-09-77	20-03-98
Honduras	22-11-69	05-09-77	RA 08-09-77	09-09-81
Jamaica	16-09-77	19-07-78	RA 07-08-78	
Mexico		02-03-81	AD 24-03-81	16-12-98
Nicaragua	22-11-69	25-09-79	RA 25-09-79	12-02-91
Panama	22-11-69	08-05-78	RA 22-06-78	09-05-90
Paraguay	22-11-69	18-08-89	RA 24-08-89	26-03-93
Peru	27-07-77	12-07-78	RA 28-07-78	21-01-81
Dominican Republic	07-09-77	11-01-78	RA 19-04-78	25-03-99
San Kitts and Nevis				
Saint Lucia				
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines				
Suriname		12-11-87	AD 12-11-87	12-11-87
Trinidad and Tobago		03-04-91	AD 28-05-91*	28-05-91
Uruguay	22-11-69	26-03-85	RA 19-04-85	19-04-85
Venezuela	22-11-69	07-01-19	RA 07/31/19**	07-01-19

Source: Department of International Law of the OAS General Secretariat

* Complaint filed in May 1998

** Complaint filed in September 2012

RA = RATIFICATION

AD = ACCESSION

84. With respect to the other eight treaties that make up the Inter-American System, the following table indicates the OAS member states that have ratified or acceded to them:

STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS TO THE AMERICAN CONVENTION AND OTHER INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

States	PACAMDESC ¹	PCADHAPM ²	CIPST ³	CIDFP ⁴	CIPSEVM ⁵	CIEFDPD ⁶	CICTFDI ⁷	CICRDRFCI ⁸	CIPDHPM ⁹
Antigua & Barbuda					A 12-08-98			R 01-06-18	
Argentina	R 30-03-03	R 18-06-08	R 18-11-88	R 31-10-95	R 09-04-96	R 28-09-00	F 07-06-13	F 07-06-13	R 23-10-17
Bahamas					A 03-05-95				
Barbados					R 08-02-95				
Belize					A 25-11-96				R 19-12-24
Bolivia	R 12-07-06		R 26-08-96	R 19-09-96	R 26-10-94	R 27-02-03	F 10-03-15	F 10-03-15	R 17-05-17
Brazil	A 08-08-96	R 31-07-96	R 09-06-89	R 26-07-13	R 16-11-95	R 17-07-01	F 07-06-13	R 28-05-21	F 15-06-15
Canada									
Chile	R 27-08-22	R 04-08-08	R 15-09-88	R 13-01-10	R 24-10-96	R 04-12-01	F 22-10-15	F 22-10-15	R 15-08-17
Colombia	A 22-10-97		R 02-12-98	R 01-04-10	A 03-10-96	R 04-12-03	F 08-09-13	F 08-09-14	R 27-09-22
Costa Rica	R 29-09-99	R 30-03-98	R 25-11-99	R 20-03-96	R 05-07-95	R 08-12-99		R 12-12-16	R 12-12-16
Cuba									
Dominica					R 30-06-95				
Ecuador	R 10-02-93	R 05-02-98	R 30-09-99	R 07-07-96	R 30-06-95	R 01-03-04	R 05-08-24	R 14-01-20	
El Salvador	R 04-05-95		R 17-10-94		R 13-11-95	R 15-01-02			A 18-04-18
United States									
Grenada					R 29-11-00				
Guatemala	R 30-05-00		R 10-12-86	R 27-07-99	R 04-01-95	R 08-08-02			
Guyana					R 08-01-96				
Haiti					A 07-04-97	R 29-05-09	F 25-06-14	F 25-06-14	
Honduras	A 14-09-11	A 14-09-11	23-07-24	R 28-04-05	R 04-07-95	A 14-09-11			
Jamaica					R 11-11-05				
Mexico	R 08-03-96	R 28-06-07	R 11-02-87	R 28-02-92	R 19-06-98	R 06-12-00	R 21-01-20	R 21-01-20	A 03/28/23
Nicaragua	R 15-12-09	R 24-03-99	A 23-09-09		R 06-10-95	R 15-07-02			
Panama	R 28-10-92	R 27-06-91	R 27-06-91	R 31-07-95	R 26-04-95	R 24-01-01	F 05-06-14	F 05-06-14	
Paraguay	R 28-05-97	R 31-10-00	R 12-02-90	R 26-08-96	R 29-09-95	R 28-06-02			
Peru	R 17-05-95		R 27-02-90	R 08-02-92	R 02-04-96	R 10-07-01	F 25-10-16	F 25-10-16	A 01-03-21
Dominican Republic		A 19-12-11	R 12-12-86		R 10-01-96	R 28-12-06			
	PACAMDESC	PCADHAPM	CIPST	CIDFP	CIPSEVM	CIEFDPD	CICTFDI	CICRDRFCI	CIPDHPM

¹ Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted in San Salvador, El Salvador, November 17, 1988, 18th regular session of the General Assembly.

² Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty, adopted in Asuncion, Paraguay, on 8 June 1990, 20th regular session of the General Assembly.

³ Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, adopted at Cartagena de Indias, Barranquilla, Colombia, on December 9, 1985, 15th Regular Session of the General Assembly.

⁴ Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, adopted in Belém do Pará, Brazil, on June 9, 1994, 24th Regular Session of the General Assembly.

⁵ Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, adopted in Belém do Pará, Brazil, on June 9, 1994, 24th Regular Session of the General Assembly.

⁶ Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, adopted in Guatemala City, Guatemala, June 7, 1999, 29th regular session of the General Assembly.

⁷ Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, adopted in Guatemala City, Guatemala, June 5, 2013, 43rd regular session of the General Assembly.

⁸ Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance, adopted in Guatemala City, June 5, 2013, 43rd regular session of the General Assembly.

⁹ Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, adopted in Washington, D.C., on June 15, 2015, 45th regular session of the General Assembly.

States	PACAMDESC ¹	PCADHAPM ²	CIPST ³	CIDFP ⁴	CIPSEVM ⁵	CIEFDPD ⁶	CICTFDI ⁷	CICRDRFCI ⁸	CIPDHPM ⁹
San Kitts y Nevis					R 17-03-95				
Saint Lucia					R 08-03-95	R 28-06-24			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines					R 23-05-96				
Suriname	A 28-02-90		R 12-11-87		R 19-02-02				A 05/08/23
Trinidad and Tobago					R 04-01-96				
Uruguay	R 21-11-95	R 08-02-94	R 23-09-92	R 06-02-96	R 04-01-96	R 24-05-01	R 11-05-18	R 12-10-17	R 18-11-16
Venezuela	R 24-07-20	R 06-04-94	R 25-06-91	R 06-07-98	R 16-01-95	R 06-06-06			

Source: Department of International Law of the OAS General Secretariat

2. Progress made with the Ratification and Signature of Instruments of the Inter-American System in 2024

85. The IACHR has stressed the importance of universal ratification of the instruments of the inter-American system as a critical element in ensuring full respect for and guaranteeing human rights in the Americas.

86. The Inter-American Commission applauds the states of Saint Lucia, Honduras, Ecuador and Belize for their adhesion to the international instruments for the protection of human rights identified below, in chronological order.

87. On June 28, 2024, Saint Lucia signed the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

88. On July 23, 2024, Honduras deposited the instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture.

89. On August 5, 2024, Ecuador deposited the instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

90. On December 16, 2024, Belize deposited the instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons.

C. Origin, legal basis, structures, purposes and mandates

91. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("IACHR" or "Inter-American Commission") is an autonomous organ of the Organization of American States (OAS), headquartered in Washington, D.C. Its mandate is established in the OAS Charter, the American Convention on Human Rights ("American Convention") and its Statute. The IACHR is one of two organs of the Inter-American system responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights; the other is the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, based in San José, Costa Rica.

92. The IACHR is composed of seven members who act independently, without representing any country. Its members are elected by the OAS General Assembly for a four-year term and may be reelected once. The Inter-American Commission meets in regular and special sessions several times a year. The Executive Secretariat, in accordance with Article 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR, carries out the tasks delegated to it by the IACHR and provides the latter with legal and administrative support in the performance of its functions.

93. In April 1948, the OAS adopted in Bogotá, Colombia, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man ("American Declaration"), the first general international human rights instrument. The IACHR was created in 1959 and held its first session in 1960.

94. In 1961, the IACHR began making visits to various countries to observe the human rights situation in situ. Since then, it has conducted numerous visits to the Organization's Member States. Partly on the basis of these on-site investigations, the Inter-American Commission has published 135 country and thematic reports to date.

95. In 1965, the IACHR was expressly authorized to examine complaints or petitions related to specific cases of human rights violations. The final reports published by the IACHR, in relation to these individual cases, can be found in the [Annual Reports of the Inter-American Commission](#) and are also available on the IACHR website, in the section on [petitions and cases](#).

96. The American Convention on Human Rights was adopted in 1969 and entered into force in 1978. As of December 2024, 24 Member States are party to this treaty: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

97. The American Convention defines the human rights that States agree to respect and guarantee by virtue of ratification. It also created the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and defined the functions and procedures of the IACHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition to considering complaints alleging responsibility for violations of the American Convention with respect to States parties to that instrument, the IACHR is competent, under the OAS Charter and its Statute, to examine alleged violations of the American Declaration by OAS Member States that are not yet parties to the American Convention.

98. In compliance with its mandate, the Inter-American Commission:

- a) Receives, analyzes and investigates individual petitions alleging human rights violations, in accordance with Articles 44 to 51 of the American Convention, Articles 19 and 20 of its Statute and Articles 23 to 52 of its Rules of Procedure.
- b) Observes the general human rights situation in Member States and issues special reports on the situation in a particular Member State when it considers it appropriate in accordance with Rule 60 of its Rules of Procedure.
- c) Conducts *on-site* visits to countries to conduct in-depth analyses of the general situation and/or to investigate a specific situation in accordance with Article 18 of its Statute and Article 53 of its Rules of Procedure. In general, these visits result in the preparation of a report on the human rights situation of the country in question, which is published and submitted to the Permanent Council and the OAS General Assembly.
- d) Stimulates public awareness of human rights in the Americas. To this end, the Inter-American Commission conducts and publishes studies on specific topics in accordance with Article 15 of its Rules of Procedure, such as the measures to be adopted to ensure greater access to justice; the effects of internal armed conflicts on certain groups of people; the human rights situation of children, women, LGBTI persons, people on the move, including migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and victims of human trafficking, persons deprived of liberty, human rights defenders, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, racial discrimination, freedom of expression, and economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.
- e) Organizes and holds visits, conferences, seminars and meetings with representatives of governments, academic institutions, non-governmental entities and others, to

disseminate information and promote broad knowledge of the work of the inter-American human rights system in accordance with the provisions of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of its Statute.

- f) Recommends to the OAS member states the adoption of measures that contribute to the protection of human rights in the countries of the Hemisphere in accordance with the provisions of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of its Statute.
- g) It requests Member States to adopt precautionary measures in accordance with the provisions of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, to prevent irreparable harm to human rights in serious and urgent cases. Likewise, in accordance with the provisions of Article 76 of its Rules of Procedure, it may request that the Inter-American Court order the adoption of provisional measures in cases of extreme gravity and urgency to prevent irreparable harm to persons.
- h) Submits cases to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and appears before the Court during its processing and consideration in accordance with the provisions of Article 61 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Articles 45 and 74 of its Rules of Procedure.
- i) It requests advisory opinions from the Inter-American Court, in accordance with the provisions of Article 64 of the American Convention and Article 19 of its Statute.

99. Any person, group of persons or non-governmental entity legally recognized in one or more of the OAS Member States may lodge petitions with the Inter-American Commission regarding violations of a right recognized in the American Convention, the American Declaration or other relevant instrument, in accordance with their respective provisions and its Statute and Rules of Procedure. Likewise, in the situation described and regulated by Article 45 of the American Convention, the IACHR may consider communications in the nature of an inter-State complaint. Complaints may be submitted in any of the four official languages of the OAS (Spanish, French, English or Portuguese) by the alleged victim of the violation of rights or by a third party; and in the case of interstate complaints, by a State.

D. Structure of the Executive Secretariat

