

**Reports on the execution of the Regular Fund in 2022
and the first semester of 2023 and implementation of
the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 of the IACHR**

OAS Permanent Council

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*Remarks by IACHR President, Commissioner **Margarette May Macaulay***

- Ambassador **Ronald Sanders**, President of the Permanent Council;
- Mr. **Luis Almagro**, Secretary General of the OAS;
- Mr. **Nestor Mendez**, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS;
- Permanent representatives and delegates of the member states and observers;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Rights, it is a great honor to report on the execution of the Regular Fund in 2022 and the first semester of 2023 and also on the main results achieved in the first semester of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

I am pleased to report that the Commission fully executed the Regular Fund resources which were actually assigned to it in 2022, and that it expects the same to occur in 2023. The execution of these funds has allowed the Commission to achieve very important results in this period of time, with very significant impacts on the lives of victims of human rights violations in particular, and of the people who inhabit our region in general.

On to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, greater access to the Inter-American system was accomplished, with the evaluation of 80% of the petitions received by us. The Commission also strengthened the defense of victims of human rights violations, adopting 8 merits reports that benefited at least 44 people from Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Uruguay. Access to inter-American justice was also provided to at least 15 individuals on the presentation of 11 cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

In addition, we made great progress in drafting a strategy for prioritizing petitions and cases with the purpose of guaranteeing increasingly timely justice, as well as developing standards to produce structural impacts in the defense of human rights.

Over 200 people facing imminent and irreparable harm for their human rights were protected by 22 precautionary measures. Furthermore, 24 individuals and two groups obtained the protection of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, upon our request for four new provisional measures with respect to Nicaragua, Haiti and Venezuela, three provisional measures were extended with respect to Nicaragua by the Court.

The Commission also promoted compliance with the recommendations and standards of the Inter-American human rights system by making 14 presentations to OAS political bodies, holding seven portfolio meetings with States and 14 bilateral meetings between the Board and Heads of Delegation of member States during the 53rd OAS General Assembly.

On follow-up on recommendations, it is important to note the progress achieved with the implementation of Special Mechanisms for Bolivia, Colombia and Chile.

The Commission also strengthened its monitoring of the human rights situation in Bolivia and Honduras by conducting two on-site visits. The reports and recommendations resulting from these visits will contribute to the prevention of human rights violations in these countries.

Human rights crises in the region were addressed in a timely and appropriate manner each time. In the case of Peru, the Commission reacted promptly to events between December 2022 and January 2023, conducting a visit in January and issuing a report with recommendations in May. The Commission also addressed situations related to democratic institutions in Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela, among other countries.

With a view to further strengthening its capacities for the prevention of human rights violations, we began to map and systematize tools, technologies and methods from the Inter-American System and other institutions, companies and civil society organizations.

In addition, we published six thematic reports, focusing on the situation of historically excluded groups and with novel standards. The topics addressed were the impact of organized crime on women, girls and adolescents, and on children and youth in the countries of northern Central America; and also the situation environmental defenders in northern Central America; the economic, social, cultural and environmental rights of Indigenous and

Afro-descendant Peoples in the same region; the rights of older persons and national protection systems; and the situation of women deprived of liberty in the Americas were also addressed.

In the area of Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights, among the promotional activities carried out by the Office of the Special Rapporteur, the working visit to the United States stands out: it was the first one to address the situation of these rights in this country.

Freedom of expression was one of the among promotional activities carried out by the Office of the Special Rapporteur stand out the Joint Declaration on Freedom of the Media and Democracy and the presentation of the Inter-American Report on Inclusion, Digital Appropriation and Content Governance.

The Commission's strategic commitment to give priority attention to the Caribbean, visits to Saint Lucia and Suriname and the strengthening of the Caribbean Dialogue Network which is very noteworthy. In terms of priority attention to Central America, the Commission continued to address the situation in Nicaragua and Honduras and published four thematic reports on the human rights situation in northern Central America.

Our training activities reached more than 2,000 people, while our promotional activities reached over 22,000 people virtually or in person.

On technical cooperation, the actions carried out with Ecuador, Colombia and Chile stand out, as well as the 16 cooperation actions implemented by counterparts within the framework of the cooperation agreements in force.

We have also made significant progress in reaching out to users, expanding the scope of its web page and making its contents accessible to people with disabilities. Significant increases were also recorded in visits to press releases in English and Portuguese and by users from the Caribbean, while the Commission's digital audiences exceeded 1.5 million people.

It is important to note that 25 financial reports and 20 project execution reports were submitted to donors in a timely manner. In addition, five new funding agreements were signed and seven new proposals were prepared, which together would mean raising approximately US\$ 4.7 million.

I must highlight the progress made in the area of work environment, with the launching of the Co-Labora program, which objective is to develop strategies to build a healthy, safe and equitable work environment, respectful of diversity and inclusion.

Another notable development has been the implementation of the new GAIA system, which seeks to guarantee access to justice and safeguard the integrity of information relating to proceedings before the Commission.

In summary, I am proud to report that progress has been made in all the programs of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan in accordance with the strategies outlined and agreed upon.

All of this has been possible thanks to the support of OAS Member States and observers, international and regional organizations, inter-American civil society, as well as the committed and professional work of our Executive Secretariat, led by Ms. Tania Reneaum Panszi.

During my nearly eight years as Commissioner, I have witnessed the significant impact of the Commission's work on the lives of victims of human rights violations. The Commission will continue with this mission, following the path agreed upon in the collective design of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027. I conclude this presentation by calling on you to keep working with us toward a horizon of dignity, equality, justice, and peace for all people living in our region.

Because of inflation we need your decided economic support to keep the Commission strong to achieve the outcomes that I have presented today and more.

Thank you for your attention.