Esteemed Secretary-General,

We are honored to write to you with the purpose of seeking solutions in the short and medium term for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in light of the decisions of the latest OAS General Assembly, and of the dire economic difficulties both organs are experiencing, which are public knowledge.

In this regard, during the most recent OAS General Assembly it was stated that “Given the commitment of Member States to achieve full financing for the organs of the Inter-American System of Human Rights in the OAS Regular Budget, as expressed in the resolution on ‘Promotion and Protection of Human Rights’, the General Secretariat is instructed, in consultation with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, to include actions in its proposed Program Budget in order to face the critical situation of these organs, as well as to present proposals to strengthen the financial sustainability of these organs in the medium and long terms”.

Notwithstanding the budgetary measures that are finally adopted, we have noted that there is a proposal for financial strengthening of the organs of the System currently circulating among Member States. We would like to highlight that initiative and the mechanism indicated therein as a very important step in this matter.

Likewise, in order to avoid facing financial difficulties in 2017 that may affect the functioning of the organs of the Inter-American System of Human Rights, we would appreciate it if the necessary budgetary actions were taken in order to increase significantly the budget of both organs.

In this regard, both organs of the System jointly request to you the following:

1. That the principle to apply for the determination of the budget should be the provision of the resources necessary to discharge fully their human rights mandates with autonomy and independence. This would allow us to work in a predictable and sustainable manner, in order to respond to the human rights protection and promotion demands in the Hemisphere.

Mr. Luis L. Almagro Lemes
Secretary General of the
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.
2. At a minimum, to double the global budget assigned to the organs of the Inter-American System of Human Rights: the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as indicated in Annex A.

3. That the total new additional resources assigned this time be distributed as follows: 57% for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and 43% for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, pursuant to Annex A.

4. That these new resources should be annual in nature, and mandatory for all Member States of the Organization, in order to generate predictability and stability for the adequate functioning of both organs.

5. That these new resources assigned to the Court and the Commission shall not exclude voluntary contributions by Member States, observer countries, or other sources or initiatives to strengthen the financial sustainability and full functioning of these organs.

6. To seek in the future permanent ways to guarantee the necessary budget for both organs, pursuant to item No. 1 above.

Allow us, Mr. Secretary, to express to you the assurances of our highest consideration.

Roberto F. Caldas
President

James Cavallaro
President

Annex A
ANNEX “A”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANS OF THE SYSTEM</th>
<th>PROGRAM BUDGET 2017</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2017 PROPOSAL</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>VARIANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS</td>
<td>2,756.20</td>
<td>3.24%</td>
<td>6,976.20</td>
<td>7.36%</td>
<td>4,220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS</td>
<td>5,634.30</td>
<td>6.63%</td>
<td>11,228.25</td>
<td>11.85%</td>
<td>5,593.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS | 8,390.50 | 9.87% | 18,204.45 | 19.21% | 9,813.95 |

| REGULAR FUND | 84,969.90 | 94,7898.39 |