

RESOLUTION 2/19
CREATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT OBSERVATORY
September 22, 2019

Whereas the principal function of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is to promote the observance and protection of human rights in the Americas, pursuant to Article 106 of the Charter of the Organization of American States and Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights;

Recognizing that as a result of the Commission's six decades of work, States have publicly acknowledged their responsibility in past abuses, which represents a significant step forward in the efforts of victims to secure justice;

Taking into account that the Commission's decisions have encouraged States to extend redress to the victims of serious human rights violations—such as massacres, extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, torture, and illegal arrests—as well as to the victims' families, and that they have in addition secured the release of persons held illegally and the judicial resolution of serious human rights violations after years of impunity;

Considering that the Commission has issued protective measures on behalf of thousands of at-risk people and communities in the region;

Recognizing that the Commission has played a vital role in promoting the adoption of constitutional amendments, laws, public policies with a human rights approach, and judgments in line with inter-American rules and standards, and that its recommendations have led States to repeal discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, to provide victims with comprehensive redress, to prevent the repetition of human rights violations, and to strengthen protection;

Taking into account that the Commission's reports have helped the OAS undertake collective and structural actions to protect rights and democratic freedoms in the Member States;

Considering that, as part of the objectives of the Commission's Strategic Plan 2017–2021, and on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the IACHR's creation, the time is ripe to assess its work carried out over recent decades and to disseminate the impact it has had on the protection of human rights in the Americas and on victims' access to justice;

Acknowledging the importance of analyzing the impact of the actions of the Commission's different mechanisms, with a view to improving them and expanding the effectiveness of the inter-American human rights system as a pillar and shared commitment of the Americas;

Mindful that the construction of a conceptual and methodological approach for analyzing and measuring the Commission's impact must be a progressive and interdisciplinary process that takes on board different perspectives and that contributes to contemporary debates in the field of human rights;

Considering the importance of providing a collaborative platform for reflecting on the impact of the Commission's work that brings together States, civil society organizations, international organizations, and academics, while simultaneously looking to the past and to the future;

In light of the foregoing, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights:

Resolves to create the Impact Observatory of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, a collaborative platform with the objective of reflecting, systematizing and making visible the impact of its actions in the defense and protection of human rights in the Hemisphere.

The Commission instructs the Executive Secretariat to take the steps necessary for the implementation of this decision.

Adopted in the city of Washington, D.C., United States, on September 22nd, 2019, at the 173rd Period of Sessions, by: Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, President; Joel Antonio Hernández García, First Vice President; Antonia Urrejola, Second Vice President; and Margarete May Macaulay, Luis Ernesto Vargas, Francisco José Eguiguren Praeli, and Flávia Piovesan, members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.