



INTRODUCTION



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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
2022**

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- [Report of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights \(ESCERSR\)](#)

INTRODUCTION

1. In compliance with its mandates and the provisions of Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Commission or IACHR) presents its Annual Report, which records the work carried out and the most relevant results achieved by this main body of the Organization of American States (OAS), from January 1 to December 31, 2022.

2. Thanks to the member states' decision to strengthen the capacities of the principal bodies of the inter-American human rights system by increasing their budget, and through the commitment and dedication of its Executive Secretariat's staff, the IACHR has been able to consolidate and reposition itself in the region through achievements and outstanding results, that are unparalleled in its history, even in the context of the global pandemic.

3. On March 22, 2017, following an extensive participatory process, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights approved its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, which served as the IACHR's primary tool for institutional management, establishing priorities to successfully discharge its mission and tackle current and future challenges in addressing and protecting human rights in the Americas in keeping with the Commission's three pillars: the system of petitions, cases, friendly settlements, and precautionary measures; monitoring the human rights situation in the Americas; and providing states with cooperation and technical assistance regarding human rights and their promotion. The Commission decided to extend the term of said strategic plan until December 31, 2022, inasmuch as the next five-year plan was developed during 2022.

4. As reported in detail in this 2022 Annual Report, over the course of the year the IACHR made significant progress in fulfilling the goals and objectives established in said Strategic Plan. Notable among these achievements is the progress made in overcoming the procedural backlog and developing new standards in the case system, in expanding the scope of monitoring, in increasing technical cooperation and outreach activities, and in strengthening the IACHR's mechanisms for following up on compliance with the recommendations issued through various instruments. These efforts aim to address the historical demands of the region's states for a better balance among the thematic rapporteurships and for closer coordination among the IACHR's three mandates.

5. The Commission approved the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan on October 31, 2022. Prepared with the wide-ranging participation of the main interested parties, both internal and external, the new Strategic Plan will be an institutional roadmap for the next five years. To pull it together, in addition to assessing and weighing the achievements, challenges and lessons learned from the previous plan, the Commission left ample room for consultations of different types (online, forums, meetings and workshops) aimed at defining the obstacles faced in the current human rights context in the region and at designing proposals to overcome them. Inputs were received from the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), representatives of the OAS organs, the civil society, international bodies, experts, and donors, as well as from the members and the staff of the Commission itself. The strategy of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan covers nine strategic objectives that encompass 34 programs, all in an effort to seek substantive long-term changes that lead to greater enjoyment of all human rights by all persons in the hemisphere, which is the ultimate aim of the Inter-American Commission, and to make an essential contribution to the inter-American public interest.

6. In pursuit of its task of reducing the procedural backlog and offering users of the inter-American human rights system a faster and more efficient response, in 2022 the IACHR saw significant progress in its productivity, in spite of the context of the pandemic and remote work. The achievements detailed in Chapter 2 of the instant Annual Report include the initial review of 92 percent of the petitions received, the approval of 301 reports on admissibility and 67 merits reports, and the submission of 24 cases to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Also noteworthy is the significant increase in the use and the follow-up of

friendly settlements, with 27 new agreements signed and 23 agreements formally approved.

7. Furthermore, through its work in the petition and case system, the IACHR has deepened and consolidated its case law, with which it has reinforced predictability, defined clearer human rights standards, and secured redress for victims of human rights violations. The Inter-American Commission has strengthened its transparency in the analysis and resolution of petitions and cases by detailing its work methodology and its prioritization criteria for exceptional cases.

8. With regard to precautionary measures, in 2022, for the first time, the Commission was able to process all the requests submitted up to the previous year. Also, for the first time, the Commission guaranteed that at least one supervision action was taken for each of the precautionary measures in force. The Commission also ensured that the information submitted by the parties was relayed to the remaining parties at least once a year in 100 percent of its portfolio of precautionary measures in force. In addition, 1033 requests for precautionary measures were received. Of these, 97.09 percent were evaluated within that same year. The Commission granted and/or expanded 50 precautionary measures, thus protecting more than 1648 people, as well as identifiable collectives. The Commission granted five follow-up resolutions on current precautionary measures. Furthermore, 43 precautionary measures were fully lifted, and other three were partially lifted. In total, 80 resolutions on precautionary measures were issued in 2022. With regard to provisional measures, the Commission submitted four requests to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as well as 92 briefs and five oral observations rendered at hearings summoned by the Court.

9. The Commission has continued to strengthen its work with the member states of the region with a view to improving the coordination of the measures adopted to overcome the procedural backlog, since it is aware that these measures require a joint effort. In this regard, it has increased the number of portfolio review meetings, and the number of working and advisory meetings in the stage of compliance of recommendations, after which cases are forwarded to the Court or reports are published.

10. Similarly, the Commission strengthened its timely and essential monitoring actions of the human rights situation in the region by developing and enhancing standards, drafting, and approving seven thematic reports and two country reports on the situation of human rights in Chile and Haiti, issuing 122 press releases, making timely pronouncements on social media on relevant human rights situations in the region, and sending to States 87 requests for information on the matter. In addition, the situation of human rights in 13 countries was monitored through 14 working visits: a promotion visit to Peru from April 17 to April 23; a promotion visit to Argentina, between April 25 and April 29; a promotion visit to Chile, from May 25 to May 28; a promotion working visit to Dominica from June 22 to June 23; two technical cooperation visits on memory, truth and justice to Colombia, from June 28 to June 29, and from September 5 to September 6; a promotion visit to Miami, Florida, United States, and to San José, Costa Rica, between July 25 and July 29; a promotion visit to Brazil, from July 31 to August 6; a promotion visit to Mexico between August 4 and August 5; an official visit to Mexico from November 15 to November 16; a protocol and promotion visit to Honduras from August 30 to September 1; a promotion visit to St. Lucia between September 12 and September 13; a working visit to Peru between October 10 and October 13; a technical cooperation and working visit to Ecuador from September 26 to September 28; a promotion visit to Panama from November 14 to November 16; and a technical visit to Peru between December 20 and December 23.

11. The Commission also made progress in consolidating timelier, diversified, and expanded monitoring, with working visits, and in the follow-up and update of the work plans of the Rapid and Integrated Response Coordination Units (SACROIs) with a view to identifying risk factors of human rights violations and/or to designing strategies for immediate and ongoing responses in line with its mandates. In this way, the Commission strengthened its contribution to a more effective and accessible inter-American justice by addressing specific situations in five countries through the implementation of its work plans in the SACROIs for Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, and Haiti, and by responding to the global situation posed by the

Covid-19 pandemic through the continuation of its first thematic SACROI.

12. The IACHR also reinforced its Special Mechanisms for Monitoring Recommendations, with the publication of the third report of the Special Follow-Up Mechanism to the Ayotzinapa Case (MESA) and with the ongoing work of the Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI), and the Special Follow-up Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE). In addition, in 2022, the Commission implemented four follow-up mechanisms which are currently in force: the Follow-up Mechanism on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts for Bolivia (MESEG), the Follow-up Mechanism on the Recommendations of the Working Visit to Colombia, the Joint Follow-up Mechanism on the Recommendations Held in the Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile (MESECH), and the technical mechanism to follow up on all decisions adopted by the Commission with regard to Guatemala.

13. During 2022, the IACHR maintained its public presence and relevance in the region and, in addition to carrying out the visits detailed above, it held three periods of sessions in a hybrid format. Likewise, the Commission continued to forge closer ties with the Caribbean countries, with the organization of meetings with the group of that region's states during its periods of sessions, as well as several bilateral meetings with states.

14. In 2022, the Commission continued to strengthen its promotion and training efforts for member states' public officials, civil society organizations, students, and other social actors. During this period, the IACHR held 115 training events and 262 promotion activities about the inter-American human rights system to build awareness about the system and its mechanisms and standards and about priority issues and rights. Furthermore, during 2022, new editions of three massive and open online courses were launched, and two were developed on new topics, reaching 4500 people.

15. In the area of technical cooperation, the Commission formalized its partnerships with different institutions by signing seven new inter institutional cooperation agreements. During 2022, the Commission launched the second edition of its Specialized Academic Network of Technical Cooperation, with the participation of 22 universities and other educational centers in the region.

16. The IACHR continued to strengthen its presence within OAS political bodies by delivering 26 presentations over the course of 2022. Also noteworthy was the participation of states and civil society in all the activities carried out by the Commission during the year, including public hearings, consultations, training workshops, bilateral and multilateral meetings, and other events. The participation of the region's states and civil society is essential for the IACHR to be able to fully discharge its mandate of promoting and protecting human rights, and the IACHR appreciates and expresses its gratitude for the active collaboration of states and civil society organizations. Most of the region's states and numerous civil society organizations participated in the 56 hearings during 2022's four periods of sessions, which addressed both region wide issues and specific human rights situations in 19 countries of the Americas. Open meetings with representatives of inter-American civil society were held at all the periods of sessions. The IACHR also organized regular meetings with the regional groups of States during its periods of sessions, and meetings were held with 12 countries during 2022 to review their portfolios of petitions, cases, precautionary measures, friendly settlements, and to follow up on the recommendations made to nine countries.

17. With the aim of achieving greater coordination between regional and universal human rights protection systems and the inter-American system, the Commission promoted initiatives in coordination with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and with other international, regional, and subregional human rights organizations and mechanisms. During 2022, the IACHR participated in the High-Level Segment of the sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. It also contributed to the Universal Periodic Review of Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil and Ecuador, received representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), special rapporteurs, and other UN representatives attending hearings at its 183rd, 184th and 185th periods of sessions, issued 10 joint press releases with the OHCHR and various United Nations special mechanisms, and carried out joint activities with a number of agencies of the

universal human rights system. It also strengthened its institutional cooperation with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights through joint participation in virtual seminars. In addition, in conjunction with the MERCOSUR Institute for Public Policies in Human Rights (IPPDH), the call for the sixth edition of the International Course on Public Policies on Human Rights was launched, which is being attended by 100 public officials from across the Americas.

18. The IACHR continued to step up its efforts in the areas of transparency, accountability, and information access during 2022. Thus, it published two press releases on its balance of results, created new information sections on its website, and presented annual reports on the work of its Special Rapporteurships. It also issued two transparency newsletters in an open data format and responded to 148 requests for information access.

19. Mention should also be made of the implementation of the [Inter-American SIMORE](#), an online database tool with more than 6,082 classified and systematized recommendations relating to approved friendly settlement agreements, annual reports (chapter IV.B), published merits reports, thematic and country reports, and precautionary measures granted. Also noteworthy is the implementation of the [IACHR Impact Observatory](#), launched in 2021, which has the aim of mapping and systematizing the IACHR's impact in the Americas, fostering synergies with other similar initiatives, and promoting dialogue and interconnections with strategic actors and communities interested in the effectiveness of the inter-American human rights system.

20. During 2022, 20 digital campaigns to disseminate standards were held, which resulted in 2,406,078 million views and 46,795 interactions in the Commission's social media accounts. These campaigns addressed the following topics: human mobility; the report on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile; Resolution 2/21: Protection of Haitians in Human Mobility; women's rights; the report on the Situation of persons who are deprived of liberty in Ecuador; the 2021 Annual Report; the Digest; the rights of Afro-descendants; democracy; the rights of older persons; the rights of LGBTI persons; the report on the Right to Self-determination of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples; the elimination of violence against women; the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan; the report by the Special Follow-Up Mechanism to the Ayotzinapa Case (MESA); and the rights of persons with disabilities.

21. The Commission continues to strive to make the IACHR more transparent in its processes, more predictable in its objectives and goals, and more result-oriented in its planning and management. The Commission will continue to foster a management approach that embraces dialogue and a shared willingness to solve problems, keeping its responses and commitment focused on the best interests of victims, their families, and the public in general.

22. The IACHR thanks the inter-American civil society actors engaged on human rights issues, the OAS member states and observers, international and regional agencies, OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro and his team, as well as the team of the IACHR Executive Secretariat for all the support they provided in pursuit of the accomplishments presented in this Annual Report. It also thanks the member states for strengthening the IACHR through the sustained increase of the regular fund. Its thanks also go to the member countries, observers, and donors whose voluntary contributions have been decisive in achieving these presented results: Chile, Costa Rica, the United States, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the European Commission, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, the Arcus Foundation, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), the Ford Foundation, Google/Meta, the Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF), and Georgetown University.

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

A. Progress Achieved

24. Pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure¹, 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, challenges, and best practices in the area of human rights based on the cross-cutting themes and topics prioritized in its Strategic Plan. In the same vein, below, the Commission identifies the main advances made by the member states during 2022. 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.

25. The measures highlighted 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 human rights institutions, democratic institutions and participation, access to justice, citizen security and efforts to combat torture, the forced disappearance of persons, and violence. The second group refers to measures adopted by States to protect priority populations including those in vulnerable circumstances and those who have historically been victims of discrimination. Finally, the third group includes actions taken to strengthen public policies in a number of areas that are strategic for human rights.

26. With regard to the progress made in strengthening **democratic institutions**, the Commission highlights the efforts to combat corruption with the enactment of the Special Prosecutor Law of the State of Saint Lucia.¹ Thanks to that law, citizens can discreetly and safely report corrupt behavior by any public official to an office specializing in the receipt and investigation of complaints. Similarly, the Commission notes the establishment of Government Integrity Commissions aimed at creating a culture of transparency in public entities in the Dominican Republic.²

27. In addition, the Commission takes note of the establishment of a Constitutional Reform Committee in Jamaica.³ It also welcomes the formation of a Peoples' Constitutional Commission⁴ in Belize to carry out a review of the Constitution and make recommendations for its reform.⁵ In the same vein, it welcomes the approval of the Constitution Reform Commission with a mandate that seeks to provide full protection for the fundamental rights and freedoms of Guyanese citizens. In terms of democratic participation, the Commission highlights the first lesbian governor of the State of Massachusetts, the first female governor of New York, and the first African-American governor in the State of Maryland,⁶ United States. In addition, the Commission welcomes the judgment of the Constitutional Court of Suriname regarding electoral provisions, which ruled that Articles 9 and 24 of the Electoral Regulations were contrary to the principle of equality and equal right to vote⁷. The Commission also highlights the approval of amendments to the Representation of the People and National Registry Laws, which seek to promote fair and transparent elections in Guyana. Finally, the Commission took note of the repeal of Decree No. 418-2013 on the Law for the Classification of Public

¹ IACHR, [Rules of Procedure](#), 2013. Article 59.

² Office of the President of the Dominican Republic, Dominican Republic, "[President Abinader leads the 4th Electoral Assembly for the formation of 70 new Government Integrity Commissions](#)", October 25, 2022. See also: [IACHR, Corruption and Human Rights: Inter-American Standards](#), OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 236, December 6, 2019, paragraph 493.

³ Jamaica Information Service, [Cabinet Approves Establishment of Constitutional Reform Committee](#) November 16, 2022; [Constitutional Reform Committee to Facilitate Transition to Republic](#), June 8, 2022.

⁴ Belize Government Press Office, [Cabinet Report](#) June 16, 2022.

⁵ National Assembly of Belize, [People's Constitution Commission Bill](#), 2022, sec. 6 (1).

⁶ BBC News, [U.S. elections: first Generation Z congressman, first lesbian governor and other historic landmarks](#) November 9, 2022. [See also: US midterm elections: The candidates making history]

⁷ [Constitution of the Republic of Suriname, 1987](#), Article 8: "1. All who are within the territory of Suriname shall have an equal claim to protection of person and property. 2. No one shall be discriminated against on grounds of birth, sex, race, language, religion, education, political opinion, economic position or any other status"; Article 55: "1. The National Assembly represents the people of the Republic of Suriname, and shall express the sovereign will of the nation. 2. The National Assembly is the highest institution of State."

Documents related to National Security and Defense in Honduras.

28. With regard to access to justice, the IACHR noted with satisfaction the measures taken to reduce the backlog of cases and judicial delays by the States of Belize and the Dominican Republic. In terms of strengthening the capacity of the judiciary, the Commission welcomes the initiatives developed in Antigua and Barbuda to increase the efficiency of proceedings by reducing the length of trials and increasing the flow of cases. On another note, the Commission appreciates the transition from the Privy Council to the Caribbean Court of Justice as the final Court of Appeal in Saint Lucia⁸ and highlights the mediation training provided to members of the judiciary in Barbados.⁹ It also highlights Canada's recognition of judicial education as an essential element of the justice system.¹⁰

29. The adoption of regulations by the States to improve access to and administration of justice is another aspect highlighted by the Commission. In this regard, the Commission welcomes the passage of the Bail and Restorative Justice Act^{11 12} to provide alternative means to incarceration and reduce prison overcrowding in Guyana.¹³ In addition, it welcomes the accessibility for children, the elderly, and residents abroad, among others, that the new legislation allows by authorizing testimony by "videoconference" in all criminal proceedings approved in the Bahamas.¹⁴ The Commission also notes the adoption by the U.S. Attorney General of the memorandum to improve access to services by persons with limited proficiency in English.¹⁵ Finally, the Commission applauds the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples' Access to Justice Policy project in Costa Rica, which aims to identify the obstacles posed by the judicial system for the effective access and protection of indigenous peoples.¹⁶ Another positive development observed in the same State is the adoption of the Law of Integral Reparation for Survivors of Femicide (Law 10263), which establishes a system of integral reparation for family members of femicide victims.¹⁷

30. With respect to measures to strengthen human rights institutions, the Commission welcomes the appointment of a human rights ambassador in the Bahamas. In addition, it acknowledges the presentation of the bill for the creation of the National Human Rights Institute to the Minister of Justice and Police in Suriname.¹⁸ It also welcomes the signing of the Declaration of Commitment on Technical Cooperation and the creation by the National Human Rights Institution and the Ombudsman's Office of Uruguay of the Points of Contact Mechanism between the IACHR and National Human Rights Institutions.¹⁹ The Commission also welcomes Chile's adherence to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.²⁰

31. At the same time, the Commission applauds the efforts to combat various forms of

⁸ Government of Saint Lucia, [Saint Lucia to join the jurisdiction of the Caribbean Court of Justice](#), September 19, 2022.

⁹ IMPACT Justice, [Impact Justice organizes mediation sensitization training for judges](#), January 10, 2022.

¹⁰ Government of Canada, [Strengthening judicial independence and increasing public confidence in the justice system: Chief Justice of Canada and Minister of Justice sign two key memoranda of understanding](#), April 28, 2022.

¹¹ Laws of Guyana, [Bailment Law](#), 2022.

¹² Laws of Guyana, [Restorative Justice Bill](#), 2022.

¹³ Department of Public Information, [Justice sector strengthened with passage of Restorative Justice Bill](#), November 7, 2022.

¹⁴ Official Gazette of The Bahamas, [Evidence \(Amendment Act\), 2022](#) sections 78A and B, May 20, 2022; Official Gazette of The Bahamas, [Code of Criminal Procedure \(Amendment\), 2022](#) 20 May 2022.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, [Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Issues Memorandum to Improve Access to Services for People with Limited Proficiency in English](#), November 21, 2022.

¹⁶ Official Letter DVV-SP-79-2022 sent by the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the OAS to the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR.

¹⁷ CNN, [New law compensates and orders accompaniment to relatives of victims of femicide in Costa Rica](#), April 29, 2022; Swissinfo, [Costa Rica approves law to provide reparations to families of femicide victims](#), April 29, 2022.

¹⁸ Ministry of Justice and Police, [The Commission presents the Bill. National Human Rights Institute](#), November 7, 2022.

¹⁹ IACHR. Press release 628/22. [IACHR Holds IV Dialogue with National Human Rights Institutions of the Region](#) December 6, 2022.

²⁰ Permanent Mission of Chile to the Organization of American States, Note No. 232/22, November 25, 2022. Annex, Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, November 2022, Communication 568-22/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IVA. In the IACHR's archives.

discrimination and violence through a new National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence (2022-2024) and the launch of the Open Budget Platform with a Gender and Diversity Perspective in Argentina.²¹ In the same State, a National Afro-descendants and Human Rights Program was launched with a view to developing and implementing actions for the protection and promotion of their rights based on ethnic-racial equity in the national territory.²² In the same vein, the Commission applauds the establishment of the Directorates of Complaints regarding Indigenous and Afro-descendant Affairs and matters regarding to Indigenous and Afro-descendant persons deprived of their liberty in Mexico.²³

32. Citizen security continues to be one of the challenges facing the countries of the Americas. In 2022, the Commission highlighted the progress made during that period in this area. For example, the decrease in criminal activity and efforts to combat it in the States of Dominica, Saint Lucia, The Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras. In addition, a Gang Investigations Unit has been established in the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSLPF)²⁴, aimed at stopping gangs' illegal activities. Along the same lines, the Commission highlights the establishment of the Municipal Directorates for Citizen Security and Prevention and the implementation of the Integral Strategy for Citizen Security "My Safe Country"²⁵ in the Dominican Republic. It also notes the 12.62% increase in the budget for 2022²⁶ of the Security Secretariat (SEDS) of Honduras and highlights the adoption of the "Security, Citizen Coexistence, and National Defense Policy 2022-2026" to dismantle criminal structures in Colombia.²⁷

33. As part of this progress, the Commission welcomes the fact that the concept of security has been redefined with the application of more effective methods of crime control and prevention in the region. In particular, the Commission appreciates the presentation of technological tools aimed at enhancing administration, accountability, and timely information to citizens in the Dominican Republic, such as the Municipalidad en Tus Manos platform and the Integrated Municipal Financial Management System (SIGEF Municipal).²⁸ In addition, the Commission welcomes the adoption of an executive order to foster police and criminal justice practices with a view to improving public confidence and public safety in the United States. The aim is to achieve greater transparency and avoid discriminatory profiling in policing, as well as to eliminate the racial disparities that persist in the country's criminal justice system.²⁹

34. With regard to the second group, which includes actions to protect priority and especially vulnerable populations, the Commission takes note of the measures adopted to guarantee the universal, indivisible, and interdependent nature of human rights, considering the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and which attempt to mitigate those actions that may accentuate human rights violations against diverse persons, groups, and collectivities in the Hemisphere.

35. In relation to the rights of indigenous peoples, the Commission welcomes the establishment of the Special Units for the execution of sentences by the Argentine State.³⁰ Likewise, the Commission welcomes

²¹ Ministry of Economy [Platform: Open Budgeting with a Gender and Diversity Perspective](#). n.d., accessed on December 5, 2022

²² Argentina Inputs for the 2022 Annual Report of the IACHR, pp. 17-18

²³ Report of the Mexican State. Chapter IV: November 18, 2022, par. 82.

²⁴ Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, [Royal Saint Lucia Police Force Establishes Gang Investigations Unit](#) June 24, 2022.

²⁵ Office of the President of the Dominican Republic, Dominican Republic, ["My Safe Country" strategy solidifies citizen security; social violence incidents continue to drop](#), August 4, 2022.

²⁶ According to the information provided by the State, a budget of L 7,850,251,535.00 (approximately US\$318,099,885.44) was allocated for 2022, compared to the L 6,970,580,428.00 allocated for 2021.

²⁷ Republic of Colombia, Aportes de Colombia para la elaboración del Informe Anual de la CIDH -Capítulo IV, Sección A "Panorama anual sobre la situación de los Derechos Humanos por país", [Colombia's inputs for the IACHR Annual Report- Chapter IV Section A "Annual Overview of the human rights situation in each country of the region"] MPC/OEA No.: 1820/ 2022, November 21, 2022, p. 23.

²⁸ Ministry of Interior and Police, Dominican Republic, ["Interior and Police announces the creation of Municipal Directorates of Citizen Security and Prevention"](#), July 19, 2022.

²⁹ White House, Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety, May 25, 2022.

³⁰ Argentina Inputs for the 2022 Annual Report of the IACHR, p. 7 - Ministry of Justice and Human Rights [The Secretariat participated in Chaco in the presentation meeting of the Executing Unit of the Napalpí Massacre Judgment](#), October 26, 2022.

the application by the State of Mexico of the Protocol "Right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consultation of Indigenous Peoples: Bases, Principles, and Methodology for its Implementation in the Framework of the Federal Public Administration."³¹ In addition, the Commission welcomes the measures imposed by the State of Panama to promote gender parity and access to justice and interculturalism. In this regard, the Commission underscores the measures adopted in relation to the nomination of candidates for traditional government positions,³² the possibility for indigenous people to register their children in the Civil Registry with the names used in their respective languages,³³ the conducting of several judicial proceedings in Spanish, sign language, and the Kuna language,³⁴ the gradual increase in the number of courts in indigenous community areas, and the Plan for the Economic Empowerment of Indigenous Women (2022-2025).³⁵

36. With respect to women's rights, and in relation to the measures adopted by States with a view to eradicating all types of violence, the Committee welcomes the ratification by Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Mexico of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 190 concerning Violence and Harassment in the Workplace and welcomes the ratification by Antigua and Barbuda of Maternity Protection Convention No. 183. The Commission also welcomes the entry into force of the Sexual Harassment Prevention and Protection Act and the creation of the Sexual Harassment Unit in Jamaica.³⁶ In the same vein, it applauds the adoption of the Domestic Violence Law in Saint Lucia³⁷ and takes note of the amendment to the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence in Mexico.³⁸ It also takes note of the implementation of the National Policy and Action Plan on Gender Equality in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Along the same lines, the Commission appreciates the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Ecuador and Panama. The Commission highlights the evaluation and guide on emergency protection measures for court officials in Brazil;³⁹ the preparation of national guidelines for the Military Police to assist women in situations of domestic and family violence;⁴⁰ and the creation of the Office of the Women's Ombudsperson in all units of the Public Prosecutor's Office⁴¹ in Brazil.

37. Finally, the Commission appreciates the commitment by the State of Chile (where 14 of the 24 Ministries are headed by women) to mainstream the gender approach through a Feminist Foreign Policy.⁴² In the same vein, the Commission welcomes the appointment of Santia Bradshaw as Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados. With her appointment, the Government of the Republic of Barbados is headed, for the first time in

³¹ Report of the Mexican State. Chapter IV: November 18, 2022, paras. 40-45.

³² Permanent Mission of Panama to the Organization of American States (OAS), Note PANA-OAS-7-463, November 21, 2022, on file with the IACHR, par. 21.

³³ Permanent Mission of Panama to the Organization of American States (OAS), Note PANA-OAS-7-463, November 21, 2022, on file with the IACHR, par. 26.

³⁴ Permanent Mission of Panama to the Organization of American States (OAS), Note PANA-OAS-7-463, November 21, 2022, on file with the IACHR, par. 32.

³⁵ Permanent Mission of Panama to the Organization of American States (OAS), Note PANA-OAS-7-463, November 21, 2022, on file with the IACHR, par. 101.

³⁶ Jamaica Information Service. [Sexual Harassment Act To Be Rolled Out on April 2 and March 11, 2022](#). Jamaica Information Service. [Unit To Investigate Sexual Harassment Complaints Being Established](#) June 9, 2022.

³⁷ Outright International, [St. Lucia "Breaks The Bias" With New LGBTQ-Inclusive Domestic Violence Act](#), March 8, 2022; Loop Caribbean News, [St. Lucia Domestic Violence Bill Receives Support on All Fronts](#), March 8, 2022.

³⁸ Report of the Mexican State. Chapter IV: November 18, 2022, par. 252.

³⁹ Conselho Nacional de Justiça; Instituto Avon; Consórcio Lei Maria da Penha. Avaliação sobre a aplicação das Medidas Protetivas de Urgência da Lei Maria da Penha (Evaluation on the application of the Emergency Protective Measures of the Maria da Penha Law), 2022.

⁴⁰ Ministry of Justice and Public Safety. Diretrizes nacionais para atendimento policial militar às mulheres em situação de violência doméstica e familiar (National guidelines for military police assistance to women in situations of domestic and family violence), 2022

⁴¹ Conselho Nacional Do Ministério Público (National Council of the Public Prosecutors' Office). Recommendation No. 88, January 27, 2022

⁴² Government of Chile. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chancellor Antonia Urrejola: "[The development of a feminist foreign policy will be a hallmark and vanguard element of our diplomacy](#)", March 22, 2022.

its history, by three women.⁴³ It also welcomes the appointment of the first indigenous woman judge to the Supreme Court of Canada.⁴⁴

38. With respect to measures to protect the rights of persons in conditions of human mobility, including migrants, refugees, persons seeking international protection, stateless persons, victims of trafficking, and internally displaced persons, the Commission welcomes the various measures adopted to guarantee and promote the rights of Venezuelan migrants. In this regard, it welcomes the measures to regularize their migratory status through amnesty and regularization processes proposed in Guyana, Ecuador, and Antigua and Barbuda. Data reported by the last-mentioned State indicate that at least 4,000 migrants have benefited from the measures.⁴⁵ Similarly, the Commission notes that UNHCR and the Brazilian Ministry of Citizenship renewed their partnership with a view to continuing the internal relocation strategy for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, which has benefited more than 76,000 people.⁴⁶ The Commission also welcomes the launching of the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) in the Dominican Republic. This plan prioritizes prevention of the risk of gender-based violence and support for entrepreneurship, employment, and livelihood initiatives. Similarly, the Commission applauds the regularization of the migratory status of 2,926 persons⁴⁷ through the implementation of Supreme Decree No. 4576 of 2022 in Bolivia. In addition, the Commission welcomes the adoption and entry into force of Migration Law No. 6984/2022 in Paraguay, which includes non-refoulement and family reunification, non-criminalization of migration, equal and free access to services, social programs and benefits, education, work, housing, security, and international cooperation.

39. With regard to judicial provisions, the Commission welcomes the ruling of the Mexican Supreme Court of Justice declaring the unconstitutionality of the immigration review procedure as contravening the right of movement and transit, as well as the right to equality and non-discrimination.⁴⁸ It also welcomes the decision by the Constitutional Court of Peru, which orders that migrants be considered as persons in a situation of vulnerability; that officials must refrain from preventing their entry or expelling them when their life or freedom would be endangered by being delivered to another territory for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinions; and that procedures must be introduced to warn of cases in which there is danger in the event of refoulement.⁴⁹

40. With regard to human trafficking and smuggling, the Commission welcomes the establishment of an anti-trafficking committee in Antigua and Barbuda.⁵⁰ The Commission also welcomes the revision of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act by the State of Barbados.⁵¹ It also appreciates the adoption of the 2022 work plan by the National Committee of the Public Prosecutor's Office to Combat Labor in Conditions Similar

⁴³ IACHR, January 26, 2022. IACHR welcomes the appointment of Santia Bradshaw as Deputy Prime Minister, on January 24, who, along with Sandra Mason, President and Mia Mottley, Prime Minister, comprise the first group of women to lead the Republic of Barbados: a historic milestone. (Tweet), available at <https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1486474996302163977>.

⁴⁴ CBC News, [Michelle O'Bonsawin becomes 1st Indigenous person nominated to Supreme Court of Canada](#) August 19, 2022.

⁴⁵ Office of the Prime Minister, Antigua and Barbuda - [Facebook, Notes from Cabinet: \(PT4\)](#), July 7, 2022

⁴⁶ UNHCR, [Interiorização beneficia mais de 76 mil pessoas refugiadas e migrantes da Venezuela no Brasil](#) June 12, 2022.

⁴⁷ Ministry of Government, Bolivia, [Migratory Regularization in Bolivia manages to collect more than Bs 4 million and benefit 4,328 persons](#) August 29, 202.

⁴⁸ IACHR [@CIDH]. (August 13, 2020) *The IACHR welcomes the SCJN ruling of May 18 that declares the immigration review procedure unconstitutional, as it is contrary to the right to movement and transit, equality and non-discrimination.* [Tweet] Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1531404095160037378?s=20&t=IYhy1RH2ZdcVRUvbaUsIq> SCJN, [Press Release No. 184/2022 - The immigration review procedure carried out in places other than international transit is unconstitutional because it applies to nationals and foreigners without any distinction whatsoever: First Chamber](#), May 19, 2022. Said press release indicates specifically that: "the Supreme Court considered that the immigration review procedure is unconstitutional since it violates the right to equality and non-discrimination, and therefore it creates disproportionate effects on some sectors of the population, especially indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican persons. This is due to the fact that, as a result of the lack of objective parameters to conduct the reviews, migration authorities are allowed to conduct said reviews randomly, on the basis of aspects such as ethnic origin, skin color or language, which is detrimental to the above-mentioned populations".

⁴⁹ Constitutional Tribunal, Peru, [Plenary Judgment 266/2022, File N. 000688-2020-PHC/TC.](#), July 12, 2022, paras. 81, 84, and 111.

⁵⁰ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Human Rights Council [Adopts Outcomes of Universal Periodic Review of Eswatini, Antigua and Barbuda, and Trinidad and Tobago](#) 23 March 2022.

⁵¹ Government of Barbados, [Trafficking In Persons Prevention Act To Be Reviewed](#) March 9, 2022.

to Slavery and Human Trafficking in Brazil.⁵² It also welcomes, as another sign of progress, the adoption of the enabling regulations to Law No. 21.325 on Migration and Foreigners in Chile. Thanks to those regulations, persons who show signs of being victims of trafficking will not be returned (reembarcadas) and pregnant women who are victims of trafficking may receive permission to regularize their stay in the country.⁵³ In the same vein, the Commission welcomes the implementation of the "Propel Development Program" in Canada through which survivors of human trafficking are being empowered to regain their independence.⁵⁴

41. With regard to the rights of children and adolescents, the Commission welcomes the implementation of measures and initiatives to eradicate violence and child abuse. In this regard, the Commission welcomes the implementation of Primero's Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS)⁵⁵ and the National Children's Registry in Trinidad and Tobago.⁵⁶ It also welcomes the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada.⁵⁷ In this regard, the Commission highlights the initiative of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru which, through the National Comprehensive Program for Family Welfare, is adapting and remodeling all residential care centers nationwide.⁵⁸ The Commission also takes note of progress made in the form of legislative measures to enhance the rights of children and adolescents. In this regard, it welcomes the enactment of the Law establishing the System of Guarantees and Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children⁵⁹ in Chile. That law establishes a new protection system, with the obligation to prevent situations that violate the rights of children and adolescents, through the expansion and creation of 79 Local Children's Offices nationwide.

42. With regard to improvements in the quality of education and the guarantee of the right to education for children and adolescents, the Commission welcomes the increase in the age of compulsory education in Belize from 14 to 16 years of age.⁶⁰ It also applauds the "Pearl Project" implemented in Saint Kitts and Nevis, which will seek to increase the quality of teaching and learning in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) region, especially in light of the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶¹ In the same vein, the Commission welcomes the "Yard-to-Yard, Find the Child" initiative of the Jamaican Ministry of Education and Youth, which re-engaged students in the aftermath of the pandemic.⁶² In addition, the Commission welcomes the actions taken to implement the National Policy for the Prevention of Early Unions and Teenage Pregnancy, and the enactment of Law No. 1-21 prohibiting child marriage in the territory of the Dominican Republic.⁶³ The Commission also highlights the initiative of the first Joint Assembly of the Youth Parliaments of Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis, aimed at promoting regional integration for the implementation of policies and programs for youth.⁶⁴ It also notes the launch of the new National Child Labor

⁵² Government of Brazil, [Committee to Combat Slave Labor and Human Trafficking establishes work plan for 2022](#), May 30, 2022

⁵³ Government of Chile, [Ministry of the Interior and Public Security Approves Enabling Regulations to Law No. 21.325 on Migration and Foreigners](#), February 12, 2022.

⁵⁴ Government of Canada, [On International Women's Day Government of Canada announces project empowering survivors of human trafficking to regain independence](#), March 8, 2022.

⁵⁵ UNICEF Eastern Caribbean, [New Child Protection System Launched in Trinidad and Tobago](#), June 27, 2022.

⁵⁶ Government of Trinidad and Tobago, [Safeguarding Children in Community Residences and Child Support Centers in Trinidad and Tobago](#), December 14, 2021.

⁵⁷ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, [Experts of the Committee on the Rights of the Child Commend Canada on the Truth and Reconciliation Hearing Commission for Indigenous Children, Ask Questions about Children in Court and "Jordan's Principle"](#), May 18, 2022. See also Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, [2022 Progress Report on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan](#), May 23, 2022.

⁵⁸ Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, [MIMP: Inabif starts the refurbishment and maintenance of its Residential Care Centers](#), November 18, 2022.

⁵⁹ Government of Chile, [President Piñera promulgates Law that creates the System of Guarantees and Comprehensive Protection of Children's Rights](#), March 6, 2022.

⁶⁰ Government of Belize Press Office, [Cabinet Brief](#), July 14, 2022.

⁶¹ Saint Kitts and Nevis Information Service, [Ministry of Education Together with the OECS Commission Working to Enhance Education Sector via Pearl Project](#), September 30, 2022.

⁶² Jamaica Information Service, [Thousands Of Students Re-Engaged Through Find the Child Initiative](#), April 13, 2022.

⁶³ UNFPA, [Ministry of Women and international panelists discuss actions for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy](#), September 26, 2022. See also UNFPA, [MSP initiates national adolescent pregnancy prevention day](#), September 29, 2022.

⁶⁴ Saint Kitts and Nevis Information Service, [Saint Kitts and Antigua and Barbuda Youth Parliament Associations Hold Historic Joint Youth Assembly](#), November 25, 2022.

Policy and Strategy 2022-2025⁶⁵ in Belize, which makes a commitment to remove all ambiguities in the Labor Act as to what constitutes child labor; standardize the definition of a child in all legislation; and encourage the private sector to develop a socially responsible code of ethics that protects children from sexual abuse and exploitation.⁶⁶ The Commission also welcomes the implementation of the "My Voice Matters" (Mi Voz Importa) program in Bolivia, through which 7,796 children and adolescents in 150 urban and rural municipalities were consulted on the exercise of their rights to health, education, protection, and participation in different areas.⁶⁷

43. Regarding the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, the Commission appreciates the establishment of rehabilitation programs through sports, workshops, classes, and technical training for persons deprived of liberty in the States of Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Likewise, the Commission appreciates the launching of electronic visits to persons deprived of liberty in the Bahamas and Chile. In addition, the Commission welcomes the initiatives aimed at reducing recidivism. In the same vein, the Commission especially highlights the inauguration of a pre-release sector that operates under an open regime to facilitate reintegration into society in Uruguay and welcomes the establishment of the Labor Dignity Plan, which establishes a system of social security contributions so that detainees can produce products and sell them outside Uruguayan prisons.⁶⁸ Furthermore, the Commission welcomes the adoption of a new criminal drug policy oriented towards harm reduction in the United States, which highlights the importance of health treatment for incarcerated addicts and promotes the application of measures other than incarceration for persons convicted for possessing and using addictive substances.⁶⁹ With regard to the rights of convicted persons, the Commission highlights the decision declaring section 745.51 of the Criminal Code of Canada to be unconstitutional, as it allowed a court to sentence convicted persons to imprisonment without the possibility of parole for a period of 50 years, or up to 150 years in cases of multiple first-degree murders, thus providing persons facing a life sentence with the possibility of parole after having served 25 years in prison⁷⁰. Finally, the Commission welcomes the adoption of measures to guarantee the exercise of the right to vote by this population for the first time in the history of Chile.⁷¹

44. Regarding the measures adopted to protect the human rights of Afro-descendants and combat racial discrimination, the Commission appreciates the adoption of the National Policy for Afro-Peruvian People (PNPA) in Peru. In addition, the Commission welcomes the appointment of the first Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice by the Department of State in the United States.⁷² The Commission also welcomes the enactment of Law No. 6940 in Paraguay, which establishes mechanisms and procedures to prevent and punish acts of racism and discrimination against people of African descent.⁷³ In the field of education, the Commission highlights the implementation of the law that includes "Afro-Brazilian History and Culture" in the official curriculum of the Brazilian Education Network. In addition, the Commission welcomed the fact that Quilombola peoples throughout the State were being counted in censuses for the first time in 150 years.⁷⁴

45. On the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, and intersex (LGBTI) persons, the

⁶⁵ The Government of Belize, [National Child Labor Policy and Strategy 2022-2025](#), 2022.

⁶⁶ The Government of Belize Press Office, [Ministry of Labour Launches New National Child Labour Policy and Strategy](#), July 18, 2022.

⁶⁷ UNICEF, Press Release, ["My voice matters": the opinion of children and adolescents on their participation in municipal plans](#), August 24, 2022.

⁶⁸ Parliament of Uruguay, [2021 Annual Report Preliminary Version - Situation of the Prison System and Alternative Measures](#), 2022, p. 75.

⁶⁹ White House, United States Government, [National Drug Control Strategy](#) April 21, 2022, pp. 98-104.

⁷⁰ Supreme Court of Canada, Government of Canada, [Case in Brief R. v. Bissonnette No. 2022 SCC 23](#), May 27, 2022.

⁷¹ National Institute on Human Rights (INDH), Government of Chile, [INDH observó en trece cárceles histórica votación de personas privadas de libertad para el plebiscito de salida](#), September 5, 2022.

⁷² US Department of State, [Appointment of Desirée Cormier Smith as the Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice](#) June 17, 2022.

⁷³ Law No. 6940 / [Establishes mechanisms and procedures to prevent and punish acts of racism and discrimination against people of African descent](#), Library and Central Archive of the National Congress. August 3, 2022

⁷⁴ Coordenação Nacional de Articulação de Quilombos (CONAQ), [Censo 2022: População quilombola está sendo recenseada como grupo étnico populacional pela primeira vez](#), August 6, 2022; CONAQ, [Censo 2022: Quilombolas from all over Brazil are going to be included in censuses for the first time](#) August 19, 2022.

Commission welcomes the declaration of unconstitutionality of laws that discriminate against LGBTI persons, particularly with respect to the prohibition and criminalization of same-sex sexual activity. Similar pronouncements were made by the High Court of Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in Antigua and Barbuda,⁷⁵ the High Court of Justice of Barbados,⁷⁶ and the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in Saint Kitts and Nevis.⁷⁷

46. Furthermore, the Commission welcomes the Domestic Violence Act, No. 11 of 2022, which explicitly protects against discrimination by public officials -- or other persons providing services to victims of domestic violence -- on the basis of gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation in the State of Saint Lucia. The Commission also welcomes the enactment of the 2SLGBTQI+ Federal Action Plan in Canada,⁷⁸ which contains measures aimed at guaranteeing human rights with an intersectional perspective. In addition, the Commission appreciates the actions taken by the Federal Government in the United States, especially the enactment of the Respect for Marriage Act, which strengthens marriage equality protections for same-sex and interracial couples.⁷⁹ Regarding political participation, the Commission also welcomes the increase of trans and LGBTI people, in particular the election of two trans women to congress in Brazil.⁸⁰ The Commission also applauds the issuance of the first identity card to a non-binary person in Chile.⁸¹

47. Regarding the recognition of gender identity, the Commission welcomes the first conviction for the murder of a trans woman in Uruguay in compliance with the gender-based violence law and the criminal code⁸² as well as self-recognition of African descent or black or African ancestors in the 2022 National Census of Population, Homes, and Dwellings in Argentina.⁸³ Likewise, the Commission welcomes the fact that the Population and Housing Census in Ecuador also includes the gender variable. It also welcomes Ecuador's Diversity Action Plan 2022- 2025 for the prevention of violence, social inclusion, and institutional capacity building.⁸⁴

48. With regard to the rights of persons with disabilities, the Commission applauds the entry into force of the Disability Act in Jamaica⁸⁵ and appreciates the revision of the National Social Protection Policy aimed at including more support for persons with disabilities in Saint Lucia. It also notes the progress achieved with the presentation of Canada's Disability Inclusion Action Plan,⁸⁶ which aims to reduce inequalities and reduce barriers for people with disabilities. Similarly, the Commission highlights the support programs to lower the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in education, employment, and access to justice in Chile.⁸⁷

⁷⁵ Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in the High Court of Justice of Antigua and Barbuda, [Claim No. ANUHCV2021/0042. David Order and others v. Attorney General of Antigua and Barbuda](#), July 5, 2022.

⁷⁶ (Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality) ECADE, [Caribbean republic changes discriminatory LGBTQ+ law](#), December 13, 2022.

⁷⁷ Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, *Jamal Jeffers et al v The Attorney General of Saint Christopher and Nevis*, June 10, 2022; IACHR, IACHR welcomes decision declaring criminalization of LGBTI consensual sexual activity unconstitutional in Saint Kitts and Nevis, September 6, 2022

⁷⁸ Government of Canada, [Canada's first Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan... Building our future, with pride](#), August 28, 2022.

⁷⁹ NPR, [Biden signs Respect for Marriage Act, reflecting his and the country's evolution](#), December 13, 2022. The Advocate, [Marriage Equality Is Now Federal Law After President Bidens Signs Act](#), December 13, 2022.

⁸⁰ The Guardian, [Brazilian left celebrates election wins for trans and Indigenous candidates](#), October 3, 2022; Xtra, [Queer and trans candidates are running for office in Brazil in record numbers](#), September 28, 2022

⁸¹ P. 12 Chile: [The Civil Registry delivered the first identity document to a non-binary person](#), October 14, 2022; Universidad de Chile, [Clínica Jurídica U. de Chile achieves first ruling that recognizes non-binary gender of a person of legal age](#), July 8, 2022.

⁸² Swissinfo.ch, [Uruguayan Justice issues its first ever sentence for transfemicide](#), March 7, 2022.

⁸³ Argentine Republic Inputs for the 2022 Annual Report of the IACHR, p. 16. In this regard, it should be noted that, in previous census, this question was only asked to certain populations or communities which had been previously defined by the INDEC, but since 2022, this question has been asked to all populations; it has become universal. Ministry of Culture, [Reconocernos desde la Cultura en el Censo 2022](#), April 26, 2022.

⁸⁴ State of Ecuador, Note 4-2-289/2022, Report of the Ecuadorian State regarding the request for information in connection with the drafting of Chapter IV-A of the Annual Report of the IACHR, November 22, 2022.

⁸⁵ Jamaica Information Service, [Disabilities Act](#), March 24, 2022.

⁸⁶ Government of Canada, [Canada's Disability Inclusion Action Plan, 2022](#), August 2, 2022.

⁸⁷ Republic of Chile, Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Communication 568-22/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IVA, November 2022, p. 55.

In the same vein, the Commission appreciates the training of mental health care personnel on the principles that should govern the treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities in Brazil.⁸⁸ Finally, it celebrates the proclamation of October 2022 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month⁸⁹ and October 15 as Blind Americans Equality Day⁹⁰ in the United States.

49. In relation to the rights of older persons, the Commission welcomes the increases in pensions for the elderly, as well as the implementation by the State of Guyana of a program paying tribute to its centenarians.⁹¹ The Commission also appreciates the establishment of the "Piensa en Grandes" fund to promote innovative ideas to improve the quality of life of the elderly and persons in their immediate environment in Chile.⁹² In addition, the Commission highlights the implementation of a plan to rehabilitate, adapt, and modernize the daycare homes of the National Council for the Elderly (CONAPE) in the Dominican Republic.⁹³ With regard to participation, the Commission welcomes the measures implemented in Antigua and Barbuda⁹⁴ and Grenada⁹⁵ to ensure the accessibility needed by older persons to exercise their political rights. Finally, the Commission highlights the efforts to raise awareness of age discrimination in Uruguay.⁹⁶ These included the "Guide to frailty in older adults: practical criteria and screening instruments at the first level of care" for health personnel aimed at facilitating the timely detection of frailty and improving the quality of care for older people.⁹⁷ Finally, the Commission applauds the approval of a bill that will change signs identifying older people in Brazil's capital, replacing them with an upright person icon next to the number "60+."⁹⁸

50. With regard to the third group of measures, the Commission highlights the actions taken to advance memory, truth, and justice policies and practices in the region. In this regard, the Commission welcomes the prosecution of a case that, for the first time, considered systematic attacks against the transvestite and transgender community in Argentina as acts of terrorism committed by the State.⁹⁹

51. In this regard, the Commission welcomes the delivery of the Final Report of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence, and Non-Repetition (CEV) in Colombia. It also appreciates the information received regarding progress in the seven macro-cases started by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) and on the initiation of another three macro-cases in 2022, including, in particular, one on sexual violence and other gender-motivated crimes. In addition, the Commission appreciates the progress made by the Search Unit for Persons Reported Missing (UBPD), which has found 11 people alive and carried out 173 dignified return of the bodies of identified persons to their loved ones.¹⁰⁰ It also welcomes the application of the gender perspective in punishing violence against women during the dictatorship in Chile¹⁰¹ and highlights a decision

⁸⁸ Federative Republic of Brazil, Chapter IV A - Annual Report of the IACHR 2022, Report of the Country, November 2022, pp. 201-20

⁸⁹ White House, United States, [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) September 30, 2022.

⁹⁰ White House, United States, [A proclamation on Blind Americans Equality Day](#) October 14, 2022.

⁹¹ News Room, [Extra relief promised for Guyana's centenarians](#), October 1, 2022.

⁹² Diario Sustentable, [Applications open for fund that supports entrepreneurship for senior citizens](#) November 10, 2022.

⁹³ Office of the President of the Dominican Republic, [National Council for the Elderly invests more than 25 million pesos in the country's daycare homes](#) October 21, 2022,

⁹⁴ Antigua Breaking News, [Antigua and Barbuda to host 5th CBR/CBID Continental Congress of the Americas](#), September 12, 2022; Loop Caribbean News, [Disability rights congress to be held in Antigua](#), August 8, 2022.

⁹⁵ OAS, [OAS Electoral Mission Congratulates Grenada on its Strong Democratic Commitment following General Election](#), June 24, 2022.

⁹⁶ Ministry of Public Health, [An ageing society and ageism](#) November 4, 2022.

⁹⁷ Ministry of Public Health, [The frailty guideline was presented in connection with older adults month](#) October 27, 2022.

⁹⁸ Correo Braziliense, [Project modifying signs for the handicapped advances in the Legislative Chamber of the Federal District \(CLDF\)](#), October 20, 2022.

⁹⁹ Página 12, [Kidnappings, torture, and abuses against the transvestite and trans community during the dictatorship](#), April 19, 2022.

¹⁰⁰ Search Unit for Persons Reported Missing, [Progress of the search unit - 2022, with a cut-off date of November 30, 2022](#), December 21, 2022.

¹⁰¹ Red Latinoamericana de Litigio Estratégico en Género, [Transitional Justice in Chile: moves to achieve adequate reparation reflecting the differential impacts of sexual and gender-based violence, 2022](#) Judiciary, [Court of Santiago orders compensation for victims of illegal detention and sexual torture in the Navy's precincts in Concepción](#); January 31, 2022; Judicial Branch, [Santiago Court applies gender perspective and doubles compensation to victim of illegal detention and torture](#), March 18, 2022.

by the Court of Appeals of Santiago in this regard.

52. In addition, the Commission highlights the decisions adopted by the Supreme Court of Justice of Uruguay, which reaffirm the constitutionality of Law 18.831/2011 in reestablishing the punitive powers of the State and prohibiting the prescription (due to the statute of limitations) of crimes of State terrorism until 1985.¹⁰² The Commission also welcomes the inauguration of the Memorial to Democracy in Pernambuco, Brazil, dedicated to preserving memory of the struggles for the end of the military dictatorship, which will house the archives of the Dom Helder Câmara Truth and Memory Commission.¹⁰³ In addition, the Commission welcomes the legislative proposal to establish the National Council for Reconciliation in Canada, aimed at following up on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission regarding the legacy of the Indian Residential School system, and the forms of violence perpetrated against indigenous persons in that system.

53. 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

54. 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

¹⁰² La Diaria. [SCJ falló a favor de la constitucionalidad de la ley interpretativa de caducidad \(SCJ ruled in favor of the constitutionality of the law interpreting expiration\)](#) May 11, 2022; El Observador. [Nueva mayoría de la Suprema Corte ratifica que ley interpretativa de caducidad es constitucional \(New majority of the Supreme Court ratifies the constitutionality of the law interpreting expiration\)](#) June 8, 2022; La Diaria. [Caso Roslik: SCJ rechazó inconstitucionalidad y da luz verde para la imputación de siete militares \(SCJ rejects unconstitutionality and gives green light for the indictment of seven military personnel\)](#) August 23, 2022.

¹⁰³ Recife City Hall (Prefeitura de Recife), [Recife ganha Memorial da Democracia de Pernambuco \(Recife wins Pernambuco democracy memorial\)](#), December 29, 2022; Folha de Pernambuco, [Lembrar para não esquecer: \(Remember so as not to forget\) Recife wins Pernambuco Democracy Memorial](#) December 29, 2022.

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

55. 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	PACAMDE SC ¹⁰⁴	PCADHAP M ¹⁰⁵	CIPST ¹⁰⁶	CIDFP ¹⁰⁷	CIPSEVM 108	CIEFDPD 109	CICTFDI ¹¹⁰	CICDRFCI 111	CIPDHPM 112
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				
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 03-28-21	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	F 07-06-13	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		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	
Nicaragua	R 15-12-09	R 24-03-99	A 23-09-09		R 06-10-95	R 15-07-02			
Panamá	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	

¹⁰⁴ 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.

¹⁰⁵ 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.

¹⁰⁶ 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.

¹⁰⁷ 107 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.

¹⁰⁸ 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

¹⁰⁹ 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.

¹¹⁰ 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.

¹¹¹ Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance, adopted in Guatemala City, June 5, 2013, 43rd regular session of the General Assembly.

¹¹² 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.

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			A 03.01.21
Perú	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	
Dominican Republic		A 19-12-11	R 12-12-86		R 10-01-96	R 28-12-06			
San Kitts and Nevis					R 17-03-95				
Santa Lucia					R 08-03-95				
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines					R 23-05-96				
Suriname	A 28-02-90		R 12-11-87		R 19-02-02				
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 2022

56. 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.

57. The Inter-American Commission applauds the states of Chile and Colombia for their ratification of and adhesion to the international instruments for the protection of human rights identified below, in chronological order.

58. On July 28, 2022, Chile deposited its instrument of ratification of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (“Protocol of San Salvador”).

59. On September 27, 2022, Colombia deposited the instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

60. The Inter-American Commission urges the member States of the OAS to follow the above-mentioned examples, since universal ratification of inter-American instruments is indispensable to achieve full protection of the human rights of all persons in the Hemisphere.

C. Origin, Legal Basis, Structure, Purposes and Mandates

61. 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 the IACHR Statute. Along with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica, the Inter-American Commission is one of two organs of the inter-American system responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights.

62. The IACHR is comprised of seven members, who act independently of each other and do not sit in representation of any country. The Commissioners are elected by the OAS General Assembly for a four-year period and are eligible to be reelected once. The Inter-American Commission convenes regular and special

sessions several times each year. Under Article 13 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure, the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission performs the tasks entrusted to it by the Commission and provides legal and administrative support to the Commission so that it can fulfill its duties.

63. In April 1948, in Bogota, Colombia, the OAS approved the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man (“American Declaration”), which was the first international human rights instrument of a general nature. The IACHR was created in 1959 and held its first session in 1960.

64. In 1961, the IACHR began to conduct *in situ* visits to different countries in order to observe the human rights situation firsthand on the ground. Since that time, it has conducted several visits to Member States of the Organization. Based partly on these fact-finding missions, the IACHR has thus far published 135 country and thematic reports.

65. In 1965, the IACHR was expressly authorized to hear complaints or petitions pertaining to specific human rights violations. Final published reports on these individual cases can be found in the Annual Reports of the IACHR and can also be viewed on the IACHR Web page under the Petitions and Cases tab.

66. The American Convention on Human Rights was approved in 1969 and came into force in 1978. As of December 2022, twenty-four Member States are parties to this instrument: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

67. The American Convention defines the human rights that the ratifying States have agreed to respect and ensure. This instrument also created the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and established the functions and procedures of the Inter-American Commission and Court. In addition to considering complaints where responsibility is attributed for violations of the American Convention committed with respect to States Parties to that instrument, the IACHR has the legal authority, under the OAS Charter and its own Statute, to examine alleged violations of the American Declaration by OAS Member States that are not yet parties to the American Convention.

68. In fulfillment of its mandate, the duties of the IACHR are to:

- a) Receive, examine, and investigate individual petitions alleging human rights violations, in keeping 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) Observe the general human rights situation in the Member States and publish special reports on the situation in a particular Member State, when it is deemed necessary, as provided under Article 60 of its Rules of Procedure.
- c) Conduct *in situ* visits to countries in order to carry out a thorough analysis of the general situation and/or to investigate a specific situation, as provided for under 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 concerned, which is published and submitted to the OAS Permanent Council and General Assembly.
- d) Raise public awareness about human rights in the Americas. For this purpose, the IACHR conducts and publishes studies on specific themes in keeping with Article 15 of its Rules of Procedure. Examples include what measures must be adopted to ensure greater access to justice; the effect of internal armed conflicts on particular groups of persons; the human rights situation of children, women, LGBTI persons, migrant workers and their families, persons

deprived of liberty, human rights defenders, indigenous peoples and persons of African descent; racial discrimination, freedom of expression and economic, social and cultural rights.

- e) Organize and host visits, conferences, seminars, and meetings with representatives of governments, academic institutions, non-governmental entities and others, in order to disseminate information and foster broad awareness of the work of the Inter-American human rights system, in accordance with Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of the IACHR Statute.
- f) Recommend that the OAS Member States adopt measures that contribute to the protection of human rights in the countries of the hemisphere, in accordance with Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of the IACHR Statute.
- g) Request Member States to adopt precautionary measures, as provided for by Article 25 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, in order to prevent irreparable harm to persons in serious and urgent cases. Additionally, in keeping with Article 76 of its Rules of Procedure, the IACHR may request that the Inter-American Court orders the adoption of provisional measures in cases of extreme gravity and urgency to prevent irreparable harm to persons.
- h) Bring cases and appear before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights during the processing and consideration of the cases, in accordance with Article 61 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Articles 45 and 74 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure.
- i) Request advisory opinions from the Inter-American Court, in accordance with Article 64 of the American Convention and Article 19 of the IACHR Statute.

69. Every person, group of persons, or non-governmental entity legally recognized in one or more OAS Member States may submit petitions to the Inter-American Commission regarding violations of a right recognized in the American Convention, the American Declaration, or other relevant instruments, in accordance with the respective provisions thereof, the IACHR Statute, and the Rules of Procedure. Additionally, in the circumstances described and regulated under Article 45 of the American Convention, the IACHR may consider interstate communications. Petitions may be submitted in any of the four official OAS languages (Spanish, French, English, or Portuguese), either by the alleged victim of the human rights violation or by a third party; and in the case of interstate communications, by a State.

D. Structure of the Executive Secretariat

ORGANIZATION CHART

