

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

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NINTH SPECIAL MEETING ON BEST PRACTICES USED BY EACH OFFICIAL PUBLIC
DEFENSE INSTITUTION OF THE REGION TO GUARANTEE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN DEFENSE OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS

AGENDA

April 30, 2021

(Approved by the CAJP at its meeting on February 11, 2021)

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Date: April 30, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Place: Virtual

Resolution AG/RES. 2961 (L-O/20), “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,” adopted by the General Assembly in October 2020, reaffirmed the fundamental importance of cost-free legal defense service provided by official public defender institutions in the Americas, in terms of promoting and protecting the right of access to justice for everyone, especially those who find themselves in vulnerable situations, which is a core aspect for consolidating democracy, and highlighted the work of the official public defenders in the Americas in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with regard to persons deprived of liberty, in order to guarantee hygienic conditions and effective access to health care for this vulnerable group, among other issues.

The General Assembly furthermore encouraged the member states, in accordance with their domestic laws and policies, and in particular the official public defense institutions, to guarantee access to justice with a cross-cultural perspective for indigenous peoples to effectively enjoy all the human rights, especially their economic, social, and cultural rights.

The General Assembly also requested the Permanent Council to instruct the CAJP to include the topic "Autonomous official public defense as a safeguard of the human rights of all persons without any type of discrimination, especially indigenous peoples" in its work plan, with a view to promoting the exchange of experiences and best practices, prior to the 51st regular session of the General Assembly. Accordingly, it gave instructions for a ninth special meeting of the CAJP to be held, in the first quarter of 2021, on best practices used by each official public defense institution in the region to guarantee indigenous peoples access to justice in defense of their human rights, to bring together member states and their respective official public legal aid institutions, members of the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF), scholars, and civil society, as well as international organizations. The resolution established that attendance by AIDEF members will be guaranteed by that organization.

AGENDA

1. Opening remarks:
 - Remarks by the Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, Ambassador Josué Fiallo, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic
 - Remarks by Dante Negro, Director of the Department of International Law, OAS General Secretariat [Link](#)
2. Best practices used by each official public defense institution of the region to guarantee indigenous peoples access to justice in defense of their human rights
 - Comments by Dr. Stella Maris Martínez, Public Defender General of the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF) [Link](#)
 - Comments by Dr. Marco Montero, National Defender (Substitute) of Chile and AIDEF Secretary General [Link](#)
 - Comments by Commissioner Antonia Urrejola, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
 - Comments by member states
3. Closing remarks
 - Remarks by the Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, Ambassador Josué Fiallo, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic