

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

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SPECIAL MEETING ON THE EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES  
AND EXPERIENCES WITH PUBLIC DEFENDERS AS A GUARANTEE  
OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR PERSONS IN SITUATIONS OF  
VULNERABILITY

Organization of American States  
Washington, D.C.

Agenda  
(March 17, 2015)

Resolution AG/RES. 2821 (XLIV-O/14) “Toward Autonomy for and Strengthening of Official Public Defenders as a Guarantee of Access to Justice,” which the General Assembly adopted in June 2014, requested the Permanent Council to hold a third special meeting of the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs in the first quarter of 2015.

That meeting should also deal specifically with access to justice and the autonomy of and cooperation among public defender offices, in order to exchange best practices and experiences in implementing resolutions AG/RES. 2656 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2714 (XLII-O/12) and AG/RES. 2801 (XLIII-O/13).

Finally, the General Assembly requested that member states and their respective official public legal aid institutions, as well as members of the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF), scholars, experts from civil society, and international organizations be invited to attend. This mandate is contained in operative paragraph 13, which states:

“To request the Permanent Council to hold in the first quarter of 2014 a third special meeting of the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs for an exchange of best practices and experiences generated by the implementation of resolutions AG/RES.2656 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2714 (XLII-O/12) and AG/RES. 2801 (XLII-O/13), specifically in relation to access to justice and the autonomy of and cooperation among public defender offices, in the first quarter of 2015, inviting member states and their respective official public legal aid institutions, as well as members of the AIDEF, scholars, experts from civil society, and international organizations to attend.”

**9:45 to 10:00 a.m.**

Remarks by the Chair

**10:00 to 10:30 a.m.**

Presentation on the “Regional Guidelines for Public Defender Systems and Comprehensive Protection for Persons Deprived of Their Liberty,” prepared by the AIDEF

Presentation by Noyme Yore Ismael (*Ombudsman of Paraguay and AIDEF Coordinator General*)

**10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Exchange of best practices and experiences in access to justice and the autonomy of and cooperation among public defender offices:

Presentations:

- Best practices in mental health, by Juan de Dios Moscoso (*Office of the Ombudsman of Argentina and AIDEF Secretary General*)
- Best practices on women deprived of liberty, by Marta Iris Muñoz Cascante (*Director of Public Defense of Costa Rica and AIDEF Counselor*)
- Best practices in drug treatment, by Gabriel Fernández (*National Director of the Institute of Office of Public Defense of Panama and AIDEF Counselor*)
- Best practices with respect to teen issues, by Andrés Mahnke Malschafsky (*National Defender of Chile and AIDEF Deputy Coordinator*)
- Autonomy of public defenders, by Patricia Kettermann (*President of the National Association of Public Defenders of Brazil (ANADEP) and AIDEF Spokesperson*)
- Access to genetic identification labs, by Ciro Araujo (*Public Defender of Venezuela and AIDEF Counselor*)
- Situation of the Public Defender Service of Uruguay, by Dr. Luis Ferrari (President of the Association of Court-Appointed Defenders of Uruguay)
- Best practices in relation to indigenous lawyers, by Mario Alberto Torres López (Director General and Chairman of the Board of the Public Defenders Federal Institute of Mexico)

**12:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Member states