

Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas

REMJA IX – Quito, Ecuador, November 29, 2012

a. Conclusions and Recommendations

I. ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN THE AMERICAS

REMJA IX reaffirms the importance of access to justice for the effective fulfillment of rights conferred on people, and in enabling them to access and benefit from the necessary guarantees for the observance of those rights as well as removing obstacles to the effective exercise of the fundamental rights of persons.

Moreover, REMJA IX considers that access to justice must cover all sectors of society, understanding it to be one of the pillars for ensuring social justice, and entailing access not only to the judicial system but also to alternative mechanisms for conflict resolution, such as mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.

Taking into account the foregoing, REMJA IX recommends:

[...]

7. Convene a technical meeting with the support of the OAS General Secretariat's Department of Legal Cooperation (hereinafter REMJA Technical Secretariat), the purpose being to offer recommendations on specific measures to strengthen hemispheric cooperation, improve the quality of public policies on access to justice, and to facilitate the exchange of information and practical experiences in this field, which, among others, will be taken into account.

[...]

- d. The actions taken by the OAS member states in order to improve access to justice, geared at, inter alia, the following:

[...]

- i. Facilitating access to justice to the general population, through measures such as the simplification of requirements for accessing the judicial system, the promotion of alternative conflict resolution mechanisms, such as mediation, conciliation, and arbitration, and the establishment of public defense offices, justices of the peace, mobile courts, binding conciliation, neighborhood judicial centers, judicial facilitators, etc.

b. Final Report (pending as of December 10, 2012)