

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE LAW^{1/}

March 7, 2016

Ruben Dario Room

OAS Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

PROGRAM

The course will be organized pursuant to the mandate set forth in resolution AG/RES. 2839 (XLIV-O/14) “*Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas,*” which instructed the Permanent Council, through its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, to organize it with the support of the Department of International Law and with technical and financial assistance from the UNHCR.

8:45 – 9:00 a.m. **Registration**

9:00 – 9:45 a.m. **Opening remarks**

- *Ambassador Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General*
- *Ambassador Pablo Barahona Kruger, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and Chair of the OAS Permanent Council’s Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs*
- *Chiara Cardoletti-Carroll, UNHCR Deputy Regional Representative for the United States of America and the Caribbean*

9:45 – 10:30 a.m. **Panel I: Preserving Places for Protection of Refugees in the Americas**

1. The Brazil Plan of Action: A Regional Framework for Promoting Regional Solidarity and International Cooperation to Protection Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Stateless Persons
Speaker: Juan Carlos Murillo González, UNHCR Regional Legal Advisor, Costa Rica
2. Public Policies to Protect Refugees and Strengthen the Legal Framework for Refugee Protection in the Americas: Ecuador’s Human Mobility Law
Speaker: Verónica Rodríguez, Ecuadorian Assemblywoman
3. Strengthening National Mechanisms that Determine Refugee Status: Lessons Learned from Mexico’s Experience in Implementing the Quality Control Initiative
Speaker: Carlos Meza, Director for Protection and Return, Mexican Refugee Assistance Commission (COMAR)

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- 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Question and answer segment**
- 11:00 – 11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:15 – 12: 00 p.m. **Panel II: Subregional Experiences with International Protection of Refugees and Regional Solidarity**
1. New International Protection Needs in Central America’s Northern Triangle
Speaker: Ana Irma Rodas, Advisor of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Salvadorians Abroad
 2. International Protection for Refugees in the Caribbean: The Experience of Trinidad and Tobago
Speaker: Charmaine Gandhi-Andrews, Chief Immigration Officer, Ministry of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago
- 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. Question and answer segment
- 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. **Lunch**
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- 2:00 – 2:45 p.m. **Panel III: Strategies for Comprehensive Lasting Solutions and Regional Solidarity**
1. New Approaches to Promoting Local Integration of Refugees
Speaker: Allan Rodríguez, Head of the Refugee Unit at the Department of Alien Affairs and Migration, Ministry of Government of Costa Rica
 2. Solidarity Resettlement and Humanitarian Crises
Speaker: Aurelia Balcells, Director of the Refugee Office at the Department of Alien Affairs and Migration, Ministry of the Interior of Chile
 3. Migration Alternatives and International Protection of Refugees
Speaker: Federico Agusti, Head of International Migration Affairs, Argentina
- 2:45 – 3:15 p.m. Question and answer segment
- 3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. **Panel IV: Contributions of the Inter-American Human Rights System to Strengthen International Protection for Refugees**
1. Access and Due Process in Proceedings to Determine Refugee Status
Speaker: Romina Sijniensky, Senior Attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
 2. Protection for Child Asylum Seekers and Refugees Based on Advisory Opinion No. 21
Speaker: Paulo Abrão, Director of the MERCOSUR Human Rights Public Policy Institute
 3. LGBTI refugees in the Americas
Speaker: Fanny Gómez, Human rights specialist, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Question and answer segment

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. **Closing Ceremony**

- *Ambassador Pablo Barahona Kruger, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and Chair of the OAS Permanent Council’s Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs*
- *Dante M. Negro, Director of the Department of International Law, OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs*