

March 23rd, 2016

General Secretariat of the Organization of American States  
Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC)  
1889 F Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20006

Ref: Call for Executive Secretary of IAHRC

Dear members,

I am pleased to present my application for the position of Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

The reason is my commitment to human rights and to the strengthening of democratic institutions in the Americas. I have a strong conviction that in addition to respecting human rights, our States must effectively act together to ensure the exercise of these rights by developing laws, institutions and policies specifically aimed at securing access to these rights by the most excluded sectors of society.

I am a PhD in Law with a special emphasis on human rights and democratization processes. I have worked for the past 16 years in the field of human rights in different countries and institutions.

I am currently Executive Secretary of the MERCOSUR Institute for Human Rights Public Policies (IPPDH) and President of the Amnesty Commission in Brazil. I have previously served in Brazil as National Secretary of Justice and have been President of the National Committee for Refugees, President of the National Committee Against Human Trafficking and President of the National Council to Combat Piracy and Crimes Against Intellectual Property. I have also been a member of several national committees and councils in connection with human rights both in my home country and in other countries of the Americas.

My professional experience as a university professor and scholar and as a public servant in the national and regional spheres has provided me the opportunity to learn and to approach different realities and complex challenges in terms of human rights and democracy. This experience has also allowed me to develop juridical, political and diplomatic perspectives. During my work I had the chance of building relations with governmental institutions and national juridical systems, with the Universal and Inter-American Human Rights Systems, and with social organizations and movements around the region.

In my daily work, the effort to build broad alliances has been a key element in the search for consensus and dialogue within governments and power structures of the State. The aim was to advance effective agendas capable of promoting deep transformations, of articulating the design of human rights policies and strengthening the public institutions for the defense and promotion of human rights in our countries.

The tasks I have performed include advisory, direction, planning and management in complex institutions, working with multidisciplinary teams that included members of several nationalities and cultures. These assets have contributed to the design and implementation of public policies that promoted institutional reforms in areas with a direct impact on the exercise of human rights. And the work I have dedicated to fundraising and directing international cooperation projects promoted actions with national, regional and international bodies. This way I managed to achieve effects in the fields of transitional justice, human

trafficking, human rights education, rights of migrants and refugees, juridical international cooperation, public institutions and human rights policies.

In recent decades, the IACHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have had an essential impact in the incorporation of human rights treaties by national juridical systems, in the insertion of our countries in the international systems of human rights, in the application of the international juridical standards by States and in the development of public policies with a focus on human rights. It is a permanent challenge to deepen this work, to continue in the advance of the capacity to build dialogue and cooperation networks among the Inter-American Human Rights System, the States and civil society.

In the hope of contributing to this process, I am submitting my application for the position of the IACHR Executive Secretary. Thanks in advance for the opportunity to participate in the selection process.

Best regards,

Paulo Abrão