



Roadmap between Special Procedures Mandate-Holders of the UN Human Rights Council and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

December 2018

Introduction

- 1 The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (thereafter IACHR) and the system of special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council (thereafter the UN SPs) represented by its delegation composed of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, met on 27 February 2018 on the margins of the 167th session of the IACHR, held in Bogotá and agreed to establish a Roadmap as a framework for cooperation between the two systems;
- 2 As a result draft elements for a Roadmap were prepared and underwent internal consultations;
- 3 Following the incorporation of the inputs gathered during the consultation, and
- 4 *Recalling* the recognition by all American States of the fundamental rights of the individual, as provided in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, and the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights, as reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 23 June 1993; *and bearing in mind* the importance of implementation by all States of their human rights obligations;
- 5 *Bearing in mind* General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which the Assembly decided that the Human Rights Council should work in close cooperation with regional organizations;
- 6 *Recalling* Human Rights Council Resolution 34/17, which reaffirms that regional arrangements play an important role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments;
- 7 *Recalling* the Joint Declaration signed between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the IACHR aimed to further cooperation between the two entities;
- 8 *Recalling* that the mandate of the IACHR to, inter alia, promote the observance and protection of human rights in the Americas by virtue of art. 106 of the Charter of the Organization of American States;
- 9 *Reaffirming* the importance of fostering cooperation between the special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the IACHR with the common objective to protect and promote human rights;

- 10 *Recognizing* the need to identify practical measures to nurture, sustain and strengthen such cooperation while bearing in mind structural differences between the two mechanisms;

The IACHR and the UN SPs system agreed on the following recommendations and proposals to enhance the collaboration between the two systems:

1. Establishment of regular and systematic modalities for sharing information between the IACHR and UNSPs including but not limited to:
 - a. Exchange of existing information tools, such as through the civil society weekly bulletin;
 - b. Exchange of lists of secretariat staff responsible for supporting the thematic and geographic mandate-holders and other information material to facilitate desk-to-desk exchanges and coordination;
 - c. Exchange of calendar of planned visits and other activities of the UN special procedures mandates and plans of activities of the IACHR mandate holders;
 - d. Systematic inclusion of information on countries' engagement, country-based recommendations and status of implementation, if available, with the regional mechanisms in the background information provided to special procedures mandate-holders prior to and during country visits and vice versa;
 - e. Exchange of lists and contact information of mandate holders' in both systems
 - f. Identify issues which are of common concern but where there is no clear or full alignment of mandates and discuss ways of strengthening cooperation on those issues too;
2. Consideration of joint actions including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Joint public statements and press releases;
 - b. Joint awareness raising events and participation of IACHR mandate holders at events organized/convened by the UN special procedures and vice-versa;
 - c. Involvement of the IACHR mandate holders in thematic work undertaken by UN mandate holders and vice versa, including but not limited to, input to thematic reports through calls for submissions, questionnaires and other means, and provision of regional expertise at meetings and consultations convened prior to and/or as a follow-up to thematic reports;
 - d. Yearly participation of the Chair of the UN Coordination Committee and other special procedures mandate holders in the Commission sessions and the Chair and other mandate holders of the IACHR in the Annual Meetings of UN Special Procedures;
 - e. Identification of thematic areas which relevant mandate holders of both systems could address collaboratively in the short-term;

- f. Joint review and analysis of legislation and public policies which are not in compliance with international and regional human rights norms and standards
 - g. Follow-up of country-based recommendations formulated by both mechanisms throughout their respective activities;
 - h. Possible joint missions to countries where mandate-holders of both systems are planning visits;
 - i. Peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and learning including participation at induction sessions of respective mechanisms and exploration of intern/staff exchanges between OHCHR and the Secretariat of the IACHR;
 - j. Encouragement of civil society organisations, national human rights institutions, other human rights mechanisms and any partner of both systems to promote enhanced cooperation between the two mechanisms;
 - k. Consideration of any other issue which may enhance the cooperation between the two special procedures systems;
 - l. Advice of UN mandate holders on thematic reports of IACHR mandate holders in progress and vice-versa.
3. Regular reporting on progress and challenges relating to the implementation of this road map will be conducted through the annual reports of the IACHR and the UN SPs; a comprehensive joint review of this Roadmap is expected to take place two years after the agreement on such Roadmap