

**Reports on the execution of the Regular Fund in 2023
and the first semester of 2024 and implementation of
the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 of the IACHR**

Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS)

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*Remarks by IACHR President, Commissioner **Roberta Clarke***

In my capacity as President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, it is a great honor to report on the execution of the Regular Fund in 2023 and the first semester of 2024, and on the main results achieved in the first semester of 2024 in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

The Commission fully executed the Regular Fund resources assigned to it in 2023, and that it expects the same to occur in 2024. The execution of these funds has allowed us to achieve results that have significant impacts on the lives of victims of human rights violations, and of the people who inhabit our region.

The Commission continued efforts to increase access to the Inter-American Human Rights System, with the evaluation of 76% of the petitions received in the first semester (that is, over 1,400 petitions evaluated). This resulted in the opening of 156 petitions for processing (11%). We approved 61 admissibility and inadmissibility reports concerning 16 States; of these, 33 petitions have been deemed admissible, involving 1,024 individuals and three communities as alleged victims.

The Commission also strengthened the defense of victims of human rights violations by approving 27 merits reports, concerning 12 States in the region. Over half of the cases involved vulnerable or historically discriminated groups, such as women, children, indigenous peoples, migrants, human rights defenders, and persons deprived of liberty.

Furthermore, 7 new friendly settlement agreements were signed and 9 cases were submitted to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

We made important progress in the implementation of the Prioritization Policy for Petitions and Cases (adopted in December 2023), by classifying almost 2 thousand cases in the merits portfolio.

Over 7,000 persons facing imminent and irreparable harm to their human rights were protected by the granting of 26 precautionary measures. We also conducted two visits to Brazil and Guatemala, to verify the effective implementation of precautionary measures in force.

The Commission continued to make progress on the special follow-up mechanisms in place with Bolivia, Chile and Colombia, where we worked actively with State institutions, civil society, and other stakeholders to advance compliance of recommendations.

We maintained a close dialogue and collaboration with OAS member states, by conducting four regional meetings, 14 presentations to OAS political bodies, 10 portfolio meetings and 33 bilateral meetings during the 54th OAS General Assembly in Paraguay, in addition to a special event to commemorate the Commission's 65th anniversary.

Through our monitoring mechanism, we were able to register some tangible outcomes. Four States (Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru) have taken measures in response to the calls and recommendations issued in thematic or country reports, touching upon issues such as the functioning of democratic institutions, the separation of powers and judicial independence. Likewise, five States (Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Mexico and Uruguay) have taken measures or decisions to address structural issues that give rise to human rights violations. These include judicial decisions, regulatory and administrative reforms to protect the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Colombia, Costa Rica and Uruguay, measures to facilitate the obtention of nationality in Mexico, and a judicial decision for the decriminalization of same-sex relations in Dominica.

The Commission responded to emerging situations and crises in Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela through timely statements aimed at reporting on threats of human rights or the risks to democratic institutions.

We strengthened the monitoring of the human rights situation in Colombia by conducting an on-site visit in April of this year. The preliminary observations were published in June.

The Commission published two reports on the situation of human rights in Bolivia and in Honduras, based on the on-site visits conducted in 2023. These reports include recommendations to address structural problems that give rise to human rights violations, with focus on historically excluded groups.

It is also worth highlighting the adoption of Resolution No. 01/2024, which recognizes national and international electoral observers as human rights defenders and highlights the importance of their role in defending democracy and the rule of law.

The Special Rapporteurship for economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (REDESCA) launched its Work Plan 2024-2026. It also conducted numerous promotional activities and working visits and issued 10 press releases to raise awareness on inter-American standards and call attention to issues that have specific impacts on these rights, such as the climate emergency.

The Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression (RELE) published the report on Inclusion, Digital Appropriation and Content Governance. It also issued 7 statements concerning situations in Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, and Nicaragua, published 17 press releases and conducted multiple academic, working visits, promotional events, and training activities.

The Commission approved the Five-Year Strategy for the Caribbean, which details the actions to be conducted as part of Program 17 of the Strategic Plan. It also sought to give visibility of the situation of human rights in Haiti, provided technical assistance to Saint Lucia and Suriname, and strengthened the Caribbean Dialogue Network.

With regard to the priority focus on Central America, the Commission gave particular attention to the situation of human rights in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. We received an invitation from the State of Guatemala to conduct an on-site visit, which took place in July.

The Commission carried out 76 promotional activities on the Inter-American System of Human Rights, reaching over 20,000 people, and 28 training activities, which benefited over 1,900 people.

We also made significant progress in reaching out to users, increasing by 32% (compared to last year) the number of people who consulted the IACHR's reports and press releases in English, French and Portuguese, and by 47% in the number of website visits by Caribbean users. The Commission started to publish the French version of its press releases and translated the microsite on the IACHR in the Caribbean into French.

The Commission completed all the calls for applications initiated in 2023 and continued to implement the Co-Labora program, an initiative aimed at improving our work environment.

In terms of reporting and accountability, 21 reports on project execution and 23 financial reports were submitted to donors in a timely manner.

The Executive Secretariat is benefiting from the new GAIA system, launched in 2023. During the period, more than 17,000 documents were notified automatically through the system.

In sum, in this first year and a half of implementation, the IACHR has made steady progress in achieving the objectives of its Strategic Plan. The fact that we are starting to see the impact of our actions in the States' decision-making to address structural challenges that contribute to human rights violations is promising.

These achievements would not be possible without the political support of OAS member states and observers. I would also like to recognize the support provided by international and regional organizations, as well as by civil society organizations. I too express my gratitude to member states, observers and other donor institutions whose financial contributions were crucial for achieving those results. Finally, I thank the committed and professional work of our Executive Secretariat, led by Tania Reneaum Panszi.

I would like to dedicate the work of the Commission to the memory of victims and recognize the leading role of civil society organizations in building societies that are more just and respectful of human rights, where people, particularly those who have been historically excluded, can feel protected and obtain, when they need it, satisfaction of their rights to truth, justice, and reparation.

Thank you for your attention.

