

CHAPTER I

ACTIVITIES OF THE IACHR IN 2018

A. 2017-2021 Strategic Plan

1. On March 22, 2017, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) approved its [Strategic Plan for the 2017-2021 period](#). The 2017-2021 Strategic Plan is in the main instrument for institutional management that establishes the priorities that the IACHR will implement to successfully carry out its mission and to tackle the current and future challenges for keeping track of and protecting human rights in the Americas. To draw up the Plan a wide-ranging process of consultations was carried out that included contributions from 536 persons and 343 entities, as well as the member states.

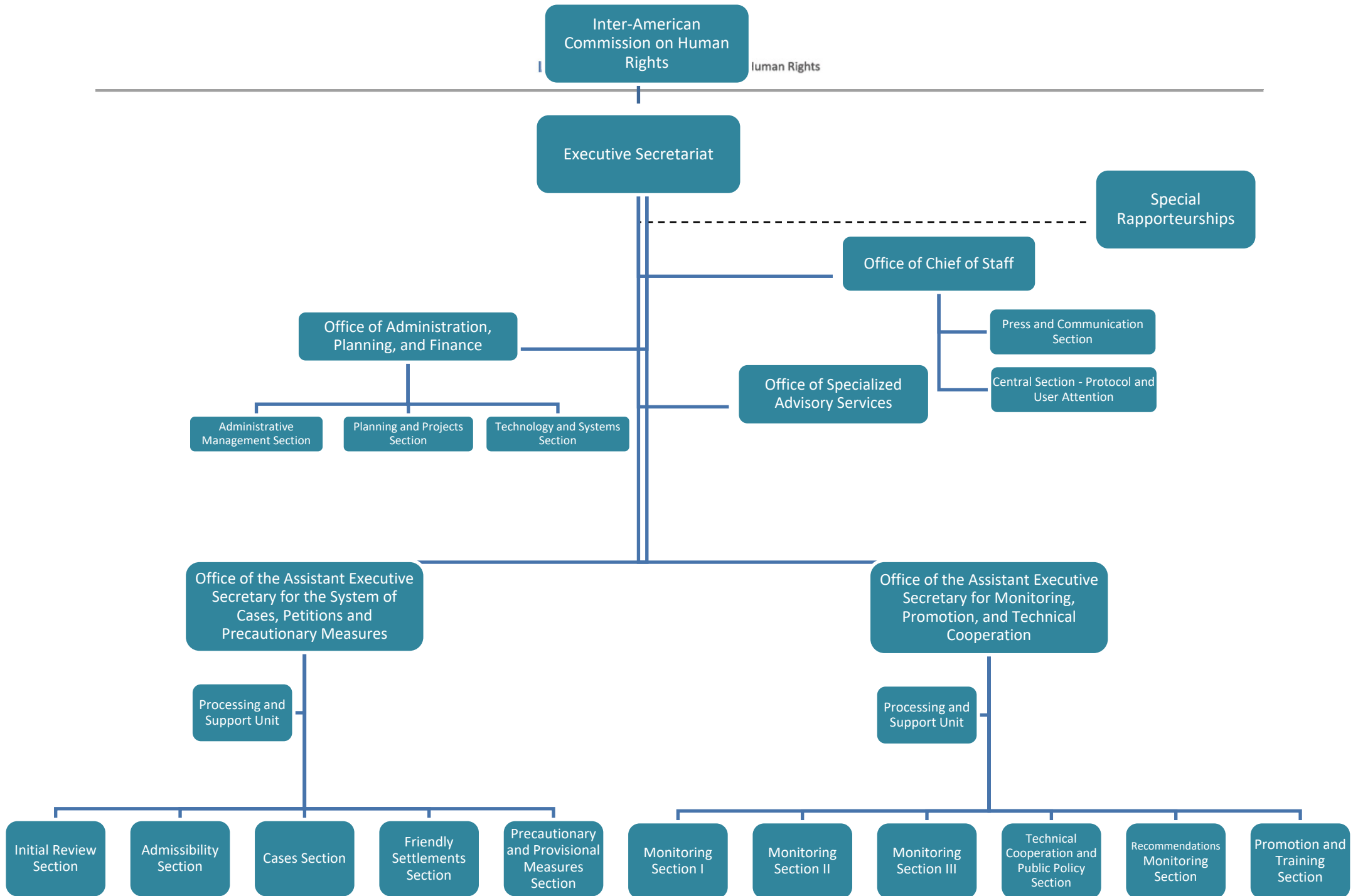
2. The IACHR defined its work strategically for the coming years by articulating its mandates, functions, and mechanisms. For the 2017-2021 period, the Inter-American Commission prioritized a series of issues and populations, some of which have been the subject of the work of its rapporteurships. The following populations were identified for priority attention: indigenous peoples; women; migrants, refugees, stateless persons, victims of human trafficking, and internally displaced persons; Afrodescendants; children and adolescents; human rights defenders; persons deprived of liberty; lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex persons; persons with disabilities; and older persons. The Plan has three main priority thematic areas: the right to freedom of expression; economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights; and the right to memory, truth, and justice. In addition, the Strategic Plan includes six crosscutting lines of work: democratic institutional framework; judicial independence, prosecutorial independence, and access to justice; institutional framework for human security and violence; development and human rights; and gender equality and diversity.

3. In the first months of 2018, the action plans were completed for each of the five strategic objectives and 21 work programs, with activities, responsibilities, goals, and indicators being determined in keeping with a results-based management approach. This process had begun in 2017.

4. Since the approval of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan major accomplishments have been attained, in keeping with what was submitted in detail in the [First Partial Report of the Strategic Plan](#) (on 2017) and the [Second Report](#) (on 2018). With respect to the program to reduce the procedural backlog, which is one of its priorities, historical records have been achieved in the number of petitions reviewed in the stages of initial review, admissibility, and merits. As regards monitoring, country-based and thematic-based efforts were integrated, new standards were developed, and the presence in the field was expanded with more working visits and more onsite visits. Technical cooperation, training, and monitoring activities were strengthened, as were efforts to articulate with civil society, universities, national human rights institutions, and other international, regional, and subregional human rights bodies. In addition, new methodologies and initiatives were developed to monitor the recommendations of the IACHR. All this was based on institutional strengthening drawing on results-based management and on holding dialogues and participatory consultations with the users of the inter-American human rights system.

5. For 2019, the IACHR intends to make progress implementing the Plan with special emphasis on the new strategies implemented in late 2018 to resolve the procedural backlog; and also in implementing programs that continue at their initial stages.

B. Structure of the Executive Secretariat



C. Activities of the IACHR in relation to the Political Organs of the OAS

6. One of the functions of the IACHR is to offer advisory services to the states in respect of human rights, which is done, among other means, through the relationship of the IACHR with the political organs of the OAS, i.e. the General Assembly (GA) and the Permanent Council (PC) and its committees, in particular the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). The IACHR accompanies the work of the political organs of the OAS to promote minimum human rights standards in resolutions, declarations, treaties, conventions, and other inter-American instruments. It also maintains relations with other areas of the OAS.

7. In the course of 2018, the IACHR was continuously represented in the meetings of the Permanent Council, the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, and the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs. In addition, calls were addressed to present information to the political organs of the OAS on the implementation of resolutions, along with other specific requests of the member states, with the participation of commissioners, the Executive Secretary, the special rapporteurs, and the human rights specialists of the Executive Secretariat. Those presented are described next in chronological order:

- a. Presentation by the Assistant Executive Secretary for Monitoring, Promotion, and Technical Cooperation of the IACHR, María Claudia Pulido, in the Special Session of the CAJP for sharing information on advances, experiences, and lessons learned and challenges in implementing the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (February 1, 2018).
- b. Presentation by Commissioner Francisco Eguiguren in the Special Session of the CAJP on the Implementation of and Follow-up to the Action Plan on the Decade of Persons of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025) (February 15, 2018).
- c. Presentation by the Special Rapporteur for Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights of the IACHR, Soledad García Muñoz, in the Special Session of the CAJP on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Business (videoconference) (February 21, 2018).
- d. Presentation by the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR, Edison Lanza, on the point corresponding to “Commemorating International Freedom of Press Day” (regular session of the Permanent Council, May 14, 2018).
- e. Presentation by the Executive Secretary of the IACHR, Paulo Abrão, on the point corresponding to “Commemorating the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia” (regular session of the Permanent Council, May 25, 2018).
- f. Presentation of the First Partial Report of the IACHR 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, by the Executive Secretary of the IACHR, Paulo Abrão (regular session of the Permanent Council, June 20, 2018).
- g. Presentation of the Final Report of the IACHR on the Visit to Nicaragua, by Commissioner Antonia Urrejola, Rapporteur for Nicaragua, and the Executive Secretary of the IACHR, Paulo Abrão (Special Session of the Permanent Council on the Situation in Nicaragua, June 22, 2018).
- h. Updated presentation of the human rights situation in Nicaragua; activities of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); installation of the Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI) and of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI), Commissioner Antonia Urrejola, Rapporteur for Nicaragua, and Executive Secretary of the IACHR Paulo Abrão (Regular Session of the Permanent Council, July 11, 2018).
- i. Presentation by IACHR Human Rights Specialist Álvaro Botero, at the Special Session of the Permanent Council to mark the First Inter-American Week for Indigenous Peoples (August 9, 2018).
- j. Presentation by the Assistant Executive Secretary for Monitoring, Promotion, and Technical Cooperation of the IACHR, María Claudia Pulido, in the first meeting of the Permanent Council Working Group on Nicaragua (August 16, 2018).
- k. Presentation by the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights of the IACHR, Soledad García Muñoz, at the Special Session of the Permanent Council to consider the “Linkages between Human Rights and the Environment: The Experience of the Escazú Agreement” (August 22, 2018).

- l. Presentation by the Assistant Executive Secretary for Monitoring, Promotion, and Technical Cooperation of the IACHR, María Claudia Pulido, during the Special Session of the Permanent Council on the migration crisis stemming from the situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (September 5, 2018).
 - m. Presentation by the Special Rapporteur for Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights, Soledad García Muñoz, on the item for commemorating the first anniversary of the Office of the Special Rapporteur (regular session of the Permanent Council, September 27, 2018).
 - n. Presentation by Commissioner Antonia Urrejola, Rapporteur for Nicaragua, and other commissioners at the meeting of the Permanent Council Working Group on Nicaragua (videoconference) (October 5, 2018).
 - o. Presentation by IACHR Executive Secretary Paulo Abrão at the Special Session of the Permanent Council to consider the situation in Nicaragua (October 19, 2018).
 - p. Presentation by IACHR Executive Secretary Paulo Abrão on the execution of the 2018 Regular Fund of the IACHR, at the CAAP (October 23, 2018).
 - q. Presentation by IACHR Executive Secretary Paulo Abrão on the execution of the 2018 Regular Fund of the IACHR (up to August 31) (regular session of the Permanent Council, October 24, 2018).
 - r. Presentation by IACHR Executive Secretary Paulo Abrão on the item corresponding to the commemoration of the “Day of Intersex Visibility” (regular session of the Permanent Council, October 24, 2018).
 - s. Presentation by the Assistant Executive Secretary for Monitoring, Promotion, and Technical Cooperation of the IACHR, María Claudia Pulido, on the point corresponding to “Commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women” (regular session of the Permanent Council, November 28, 2018).
 - t. Presentation by the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environment Rights of the IACHR, Soledad García Muñoz, on preparations for the Special Session of the CAJP on Human Rights and Business (December 3, 2018).
 - u. Presentation by the President of the IACHR, Commissioner Margarette May Macaulay, at the Special Session of the Permanent Council to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) (December 4, 2018).
 - v. Presentation by the Vice President of the IACHR, Commissioner Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, at the Special Session of the Permanent Council to consider the situation in Nicaragua (December 27, 2018).
8. In addition, on March 22, 2018, the President of the IACHR, Commissioner Margarette May Macaulay, presented the IACHR 2017 Annual Report to the CAJP. The President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IA Court HR), Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot, and IA Court HR Executive Secretary, Pablo Saavedra, attended the presentation.
9. In the context of the Eighth Summit of the Americas, held April 13 and 14, 2018, in Lima, Peru, the IACHR held bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Peru, and with the Chief of the Americas Division of the Swiss foreign ministry.
10. In 2018, 13 meetings were held for portfolio review on petitions, cases, precautionary measures, friendly settlements, and monitoring of recommendations with representatives of the following states: Canada (April 9); Colombia (April 19 and 20); Ecuador (June 12 and 13); Mexico (June 14 and 15); Paraguay (June 28); Argentina (July 12 and 13 and November 15 for specific cases); Costa Rica (August 28 and 29); Bolivia (October 23 to 25); Brazil (November 28 to 30); Guatemala (November 29 and 30 to review follow-up to recommendations and friendly settlements only); Chile (November 30), and Peru (December 5 – specific cases).

11. From June 25 to July 6 IACHR Executive Secretary Paulo Abrão and Executive Secretariat Chief of Staff Marisol Blanchard visited Germany, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark to present the Commission's Strategic Plan and discuss the possibilities of financial support for its activities,

12. In the context of the work to draw up the resolutions adopted at the 48th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, which was held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. on June 4 and 5, 2018, Executive Secretariat staff attended meetings at the CAJP and in the Permanent Council held to negotiate omnibus resolution [AG/RES. 2928 \(XLVIII-O/18\) – Promotion and Protection of Human Rights](#).

13. In the context of the OAS General Assembly held in Washington, D.C. on June 4 and 5, 2018, the IACHR held bilateral meetings with the ministers of foreign affairs or heads of delegation, and with the delegations of member states and observer countries; held meetings with civil society organizations; and presented its 2017 Annual Report in the Fourth Plenary Session of the General Assembly.

14. During the second half of 2018 the Commission provided technical advisory services to the Permanent Council and its Working Group on Nicaragua, in particular, as concerns the human rights situation in the country. These advisory services were provided through participation and presentation of reports and updates at the various meetings called by the political organs to deliberate on the situation in Nicaragua, as well as in response to consultations made on the following resolutions:

- a. [CP/RES. 1108/18 \(2172/18\) rev. 1 – The Situation in Nicaragua](#) (adopted by the Permanent Council at the Special Session held July 18, 2018)
- b. [CP/RES. 1109 \(2175/18\) rev. 1 – Working Group on Nicaragua](#) (adopted by the Permanent Council at the Special Session held August 2, 2018)
- c. [CP/RES. 1110 \(2182/18\) - Recent Events in Nicaragua](#) (adopted by the Permanent Council at the Special Session held September 12, 2018).

15. The Executive Secretariat closely monitored the debates in the CAAP, the Working Group on Strategic Vision, and the Permanent Council with respect to the preparatory meetings of the Special General Assembly on the 2019 OAS Budget, which took place October 30, 2018 in Washington, DC. There the states approved the budget allocation corresponding to the second year of the agreement reached in the context of the 47th Regular Session held in Cancún, Mexico from June 19 to 21, 2017 ("Cancún Agreement"), which provides for doubling the resources of the Regular Fund earmarked to the organs of the inter-American human rights system over a period of three years beginning in 2018 (Resolution [AG/RES. 2908 \(XLVII-O/17\)](#)). The IACHR is grateful for and celebrates this budget appropriation, which will make possible more actions to promote human rights, as well as further development of and access to the system for the protection of human rights for the populations of the hemisphere.

16. In the context of the 170th period of sessions of the IACHR, which took place at OAS Headquarters December 3 to 7, 2018, the commissioners and the Executive Secretariat met with permanent representatives of the member states of the following regional groups: ALADI Group (December 3); Canada and the United States (December 3); and CARICOM and Central America (December 4).

D. Periods of Sessions of the IACHR held in 2018

17. During 2018 the IACHR held four periods of sessions, three of which were held away from headquarters. Holding sessions away from headquarters allows the IACHR to bring the mechanisms for the defense, protection, and promotion of human rights closer to the victims and peoples under its competence; expand the Commission's public presence in the region; and encourage democratization of access to the inter-American human rights system.

18. At these periods of sessions, the IACHR followed up on and gave visibility to a significant number of human rights situations by holding 118 hearings. They addressed issues related to monitoring regional situations, the situations of some subregions, and 22 countries individually: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti,

Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. In addition, new trends in human rights were addressed, along with follow-up to recommendations issued by the IACHR. A total of 535 civil society organizations participated in the hearings.

Number of hearings in 2018 by country

#	Country	2018
1	Argentina	3
2	Bahamas	1
3	Bolivia	3
4	Brazil	7
5	Canada	1
6	Chile	1
7	Colombia	9
8	Cuba	2
9	Ecuador	6
10	El Salvador	6
11	United States	7
12	Guatemala	5
13	Haiti	2
14	Honduras	5
15	Mexico	8
16	Nicaragua	5
17	Panama	1
18	Paraguay	1
19	Peru	8
20	Dominican Republic	2
21	Uruguay	1
22	Venezuela	11
Country Coverage		95
	Regional	23
Total hearings		118

19. The hearings covered the 13 priority issues and 6 cross-cutting themes of the strategic plan, evolving from and achieving greater thematic balance with respect to 2016. In order to make more progress towards complete access to the inter-American system, the Commission facilitated interpretation in sign language in two public hearings.

Number of hearings in 2018 by priority issues

Priority Issues	2018
ESCER	18
Freedom of Expression	11
Persons Deprived of Liberty	10
Migrants	8
Children	7
LGBTI	8
Indigenous Peoples	14
Racial Discrimination	4
Persons with Disabilities	4
HR Defenders	11
Women	12
Memory, Truth and Justice	10
Older Adults	3
Priority Issues Coverage	13

20. In these periods of sessions the IACHR decided to call 16 public hearings at its own initiative (ex officio): “Gender policies and sexual diversity in Paraguay”; “25 years of the El Salvador Truth Commission”; “Regulating the trade in weapons and social violence in the United States”; “The right to food and health in Venezuela”; “Human rights situation of persons affected by the cancellation of TPS (Temporary Protected Status) and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) in the United States”; “Human rights situation of indigenous peoples in Canada”; “Situation of the right to protest in Argentina”; “Human rights and pardon of former President Fujimori in Peru”; “Business and human rights: Input for Inter-American guidelines”; “Duty to protect human rights defenders in the context of the assassinations of Marielle Franco and Anderson Gomes in Brazil”; “Election process and its impact on the general human rights situation in Venezuela”; “Religious freedom and lay state in Latin America”; “Role of CICIG in fighting corruption and its impact on the human rights situation in Guatemala”; “Situation of persons deprived of liberty in the context of the political crisis in Venezuela”; “Human rights of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the Region”; and “Situation of human rights of the persons who join the Caravan of Migrants.”

21. In addition, during the four periods of sessions, 99 working meetings were held on precautionary measures, cases and matters in the friendly settlement process, follow-up on recommendations, cases in process, and thematic issues involving 17 countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela. At the same time, numerous bilateral meetings were held with civil society organizations and states of the region to address different human rights-related matters of particular interest.

22. The detailed information for each period of sessions, as well as a summary of each of the hearings, can be found at the links in the table below:

Period of sessions	Dates	Place	Total hearings held	Total working meetings held	Link to the Period of Sessions	Link to Press Release	Link to hearings held
167 th	February 22 to March 2	Bogotá, Colombia	30	18	Multimedia Section	Press Release 41/18 Annex	Hearings
168 th	May 3 to 11	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	30	21	Multimedia Section	Press Release 104/18 Annex	Hearings
169 th	September 30 to October 5	Boulder, United States	37	31	Multimedia Section	Press Release 220/18 Annex	Hearings
170 th	December 3 to 7	Washington, D.C., United States	21	29	Multimedia Section	Press Release 271/18 Annex	Hearings
TOTAL			118	99			

E. Press Releases issued in 2018

23. In the course of 2018 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights published 276 press releases, a 24% increase with respect to 2017. The press releases addressed priority issues facing the region and contain pronouncements on worrisome human rights situations in the region, as well as recognition of good practices implemented by some states. Through this mechanism the Commission addressed the 13 priority issues and 6 cross-cutting themes identified in the strategic plan, and issued statements on different aspects of the human rights situation throughout the region, and specifically with respect to 23 countries: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, and Venezuela. The press releases also addressed aspects of technical cooperation and promotion activities in the region. Special mention was also made of important accomplishments and aspects of the IACHR's work.

Number of press releases in 2018 by country

#	Country	2018
1	Argentina	10
2	Barbados	1
3	Bolivia	3
4	Brazil	20
5	Canada	2
6	Chile	6
7	Colombia	10
8	Costa Rica	1
9	Cuba	2
10	Ecuador	6
11	El Salvador	10
12	United States	13
13	Guatemala	14
14	Haiti	1
15	Honduras	6
16	Mexico	17
17	Nicaragua	43
18	Panama	1
19	Paraguay	2
20	Peru	7
21	Dominican Republic	3
22	Trinidad and Tobago	1
23	Venezuela	10
Country Coverage		189
	Regional	87
Total Press Releases		276

Number of press releases in 2018 by priority issues

Priority Issues	2018
ESCER	7
Freedom of Expression	38
Persons Deprived of Liberty	14
Migrants	16
Children	8
LGBTI	15
Indigenous Peoples	8
Racial Discrimination	8
Persons with Disabilities	6
HR Defenders	25
Women	10
Memory, Truth and Justice	11
Older Adults	5
Priority Issues Coverage	13

24. By issuing joint press releases the IACHR has furthered its cooperation with the United Nations human rights system and other regional systems and subregional mechanisms on human rights. In this regard, 22 press releases have been issued jointly with other institutions such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, other organs and special procedures of the United Nations, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Institute for Public Policies on Human Rights of Mercosur, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa, and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

25. Following is a list with all the press releases issued by the Commission in 2018.

#	Press Releases
1	R1/18 - Special Rapporteurship on Freedom of Expression Presents E-Book on the Right to Freedom of Expression in the Doctrine of the Inter-American System of Human Rights. (Available in Spanish only) Washington, D.C., January 9, 2018
2	2/18 - IACHR Starts 2018 with New Composition and Distributes Rapporteurships. Washington, D.C., January 10, 2018
3	3/18 - IACHR Condemns Deaths of Persons Deprived of Liberty in a Brazilian Prison. Washington, D.C., January 11, 2018.
4	4/18 - IACHR Expresses Deep Concern about the Human Rights Situation in Puerto Rico. Washington, D.C., January 18, 2018
5	R5/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Journalist Carlos Domínguez in Mexico and Urges the State to Investigate Connection to Journalistic Activity. Washington, D.C., January 19, 2018

#	Press Releases
6	6/18 - IACHR Expresses Concern for Decision of the United States regarding Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Washington, D.C., January 19, 2018
7	7/18 - IACHR and OHCHR Express Concern over Threats and Practices of Harassment against Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, and Media Outlets in Honduras Following the Elections. Tegucigalpa/Washington, D.C., January 19, 2018
8	8/18 - In View of Ongoing Post-Electoral Tensions, IACHR Welcomes Creation of a Human Rights Secretariat in Honduras. Washington, D.C., January 22, 2018
9	9/18 - IACHR Takes Case involving Argentina to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., January 25, 2018
10	R10/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Two Journalists in Brazil and Urges the State to Investigate Connection to Journalistic Activity. Washington, D.C., January 26, 2018
11	11/18 - IACHR Wraps Up Working Visit to El Salvador. Washington, D.C., January 29, 2018 11A/18 - ANNEX: Conclusions and Observations on the IACHR's Working Visit to El Salvador
12	12/18 - IACHR Announces its Schedule for 2018. Washington, D.C., January 30, 2018
13	13/18 - IACHR Welcomes Elimination of Long-Term Solitary Confinement of People with Mental Disabilities in Ontario, Canada. Washington, D.C., January 30, 2018
14	14/18 - IACHR Announces Schedule of Public Hearings for its 167th Sessions and Calls for Participation in Hearings Convened at its own Initiative. Washington, D.C., January 30, 2018
15	15/18 - IACHR Is Accepting Requests for Hearings for its 168th Sessions. Washington, D.C., February 1, 2018
16	16/18 - IACHR and its Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights Urge the State of Venezuela to Protect and Respect the Rights to Food and Health. Washington, D.C., February 1, 2018
17	17/18 - IACHR Takes Case involving Guatemala to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., February 1, 2018
18	18/18 - IACHR To Launch Report on Human Rights Situation in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., February 2, 2018
19	R19/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Two Journalists in Guatemala, Urges State to Investigate Fully and Implement Protection Mechanism. Washington, D.C., February 5, 2018
20	20/18 - IACHR Welcomes Creation by Canada of an Ombudsperson to Oversee Canadian Companies Operating Abroad. Washington, D.C., February 6, 2018
21	21/18 - IACHR remits request for provisional measures in favor of members of the Council of Citizen Participation of Ecuador. Washington, D.C., February 6, 2018.
22	22/18 - IACHR and U.N. Commissioner for Human Rights express concern over a lawsuit on quilombola peoples in Brazil. Washington, D.C. / Santiago, Chile, February 7, 2018
23	23/18 - IACHR grants precautionary measure to indigenous families of the Chaab'il Ch'och 'Community in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., February 8, 2018.
24	24/18 - IACHR Conducts Visit to Chile on Friendly Settlements. Washington, D.C., February 9, 2018

#	Press Releases
25	25/18 - IACHR Presents Report on the Human Rights Situation in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., February 12, 2018
26	26/18 - Experts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the IACHR and the United Nations express their concern at the adoption of a law that declares the construction of highways in the Peruvian Amazon as a priority and a national interest. Washington, D.C., February 13, 2018
27	27/18 - IACHR condemns killing of peasant defender of the right to land in Brazil. Washington, D.C., February 13, 2018.
28	R28/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Citizen Journalist in Mexico, Urges Authorities to Investigate Relationship to Publications and Punish Perpetrators. Washington, D.C., February 14, 2018
29	29/18 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Situation of Immigrant Defenders in the United States. Washington, D.C., February 16, 2018
30	30/18 - IACHR Condemns Death of Ten People in a Jail in Ceará, Brazil. Washington, D.C., February 16, 2018.
31	31/18 - IACHR Condemns Decision of the United States to Maintain Guantanamo Prison Open. Washington, D.C., February 20, 2018
32	32/18 - IACHR Welcomes Decisions on Clarifying Forced Disappearances in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., February 20, 2018
33	33/18 - IACHR announces new forms of coordination with UN human rights organizations and other regional mechanisms. Bogotá, Colombia, February 21, 2018.
34	34/18 - IACHR Elects New Board. Bogota, Colombia., February 23, 2018
35	35/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Argentina to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., February 23, 2018.
36	36/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Argentina to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., February 27, 2018.
37	37/18 - IACHR Presents Report on National Child Protection Systems. Bogota, Colombia., February 27, 2018
38	38/18 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measure to Attorney General of El Salvador. Bogota, Colombia., February 28, 2018
39	39/18 - IACHR Launches Report on Comprehensive Protection Policies for Human Rights Defenders. Bogota, Colombia., February 28, 2018
40	40/18 - IACHR and OHCHR agree on joint actions for the protection of defenders for 2018. Bogotá, Colombia, March 1, 2018.
41	41/18 - IACHR Wraps Up 167th Session in Colombia. Bogota, Colombia., March 2, 2018 41A/18 - Annex: Public Hearings, Working Meetings, Promotional Activities and Bilateral Meetings
42	42/18 - IACHR Urges El Salvador to End the Total Criminalization of Abortion. Washington, D.C., March 7, 2018
43	43/18 - A Year after the Tragedy at a Guatemalan Residential Institution, the IACHR Expresses Concern about the State's Slow and Incomplete Response. Washington, D.C., March 8, 2018

#	Press Releases
44	44/18 - On International Women's Day, the IACHR Urges States to Refrain from Adopting Measures that Would Set Back Respect for and Protection of Women's Rights. Washington, D.C., March 8, 2018
45	45/18 - IACHR achieves historical results in 2017 and presents its progress report on the first year of the Strategic Plan. Washington, D.C., March 12, 2018
46	46/18 - IACHR Welcomes Creation of Office of Ombudsman for Children in Chile. Washington, D.C., March 12, 2018
47	47/18 - Brazil: OHCHR and IACHR express concern over federal intervention in Rio de Janeiro. Washington, D.C., March 13, 2018
48	48/18 - IACHR Adopts Resolution on Forced Migration of Venezuelans. Washington, D.C., March 14, 2018
49	49/18 - IACHR Welcomes decision in favor of women imprisoned in Brazil. Washington, D.C., March 14, 2018
50	50/18 - IACHR Presents in Geneva Report on the Human Rights Situation in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., March 15, 2018
51	51/18 - IACHR Announces Dates to Request Hearings and Working Meetings. Washington, D.C., March 15, 2018
52	52/18 - IACHR Repudiates Murder of Councilor and Defender of Human Rights in Brazil. Washington, D.C., March 16, 2018
53	53/18 - IACHR Publishes Resolution on Corruption and Human Rights. Washington, D.C., March 16, 2018
54	54/18 - IACHR Concludes that the United States Violated Russell Bucklew's Fundamental Rights, that His Execution Should Not Proceed and His Sentence Should be Commuted. Washington, D.C., March 19, 2018
55	55/18 - On the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the IACHR and the UN Special Rapporteur on racism call on States to adopt special measures and affirmative actions towards Afro-descendant persons. Washington, D.C., March 21, 2018
56	56/18 - IACHR presents its Annual Report. Washington, D.C., March 22, 2018.
57	R57/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR presents its 2017 Annual Report. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2018
58	58/18 - Inter-American, African and UN Human Rights Experts to Hold Dialogue on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Sex Characteristics. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2018
59	D59/18 - SRESCER of the IACHR urges the prioritization of actions aimed at the realization of the rights to water and sanitation in the Hemisphere. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2018
60	60/18 - On the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the IACHR Urges States to Employ Efforts to Protect and Promote Afro-American Culture. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2018
61	61/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Argentina to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2018.
62	62/18 - IACHR Expresses Concern over People Killed and Injured in a Bolivian Prison. Washington, D.C., March 26, 2018
63	63/18 - IACHR Calls on El Salvador to Not Renew Extraordinary Measures in Detention Centers. Washington, D.C., March 26, 2018

#	Press Releases
64	64/18 - IACHR Releases a New Report on the Human Rights Situation in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., March 27, 2018
65	65/18 - IACHR Urges Colombia to Adopt Urgent Measures to Protect Human Rights Defenders and Social Leaders. Washington, D.C., March 27, 2018
66	66/18 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of the Afro-Colombian Leaders of the Governing Board of the Alto Mira and Frontera Community Council. Washington, D.C., March 28, 2018
67	R67/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression launches a questionnaire for the preparation of the thematic report on the situation of the right to access to public information in the Americas. Washington, D.C., March 28, 2018
68	68/18 - IACHR Calls on Nicaragua to Eradicate Violence Against Women, Girls and Adolescents. Washington, D.C., March 28, 2018
69	69/18 - On the occasion of International Transgender Day of Visibility, the IACHR and a UN expert urge States to guarantee the full exercise of the human rights of transgender persons. Washington, D.C./Geneva, March 29, 2018
70	70/18 - Inter-American and African Commissions agree to strengthen strategic cooperation. Washington, D.C., March 29, 2018
71	R71/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur expresses its extreme concern over the disappearance of journalist Vladjimir Legagneur in Haiti, and urges the authorities to take necessary measures to determine his whereabouts. Washington, D.C., March 29, 2018
72	R72/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Launches Multimedia Website on the Inter-American Standards for a Free, Open, and Inclusive Internet. Washington, D.C., April 2, 2018
73	73/18 - Public Statement from the Second Trilateral Dialogue between Inter-American, African and UN Human Rights Experts. Washington, D.C., April 2, 2018
74	74/18 - IACHR Urges El Salvador to Comply with the Recommendations from the Truth Commission's Final Report, 25 Years after its Publication. Washington, D.C., April 2, 2018
75	75/18 - IACHR Installs Working Group on Implementation of Human Rights Policies in the Dominican Republic. Washington, D.C., April 3, 2018
76	R76/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur of the IACHR expresses extreme concern over the situation of the journalists kidnapped in the border between Ecuador and Colombia; and calls on both States to coordinate efforts to guarantee their release. Washington, D.C., April 3, 2018
77	77/18 - IACHR Condemns Deaths of Scores of People at a Venezuelan Detention Center. Washington, D.C., April 3, 2018
78	R78/18 - New registration record in the course "International Legal Framework of Freedom of Expression, Access to Public Information and Protection of Journalists". Washington, D.C., April 4, 2018
79	79/18 - IACHR Welcomes the Implementation of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture in Argentina. Washington, D.C., April 4, 2018
80	80/18 - IACHR Releases Schedule of Public Hearings for 168th Period of Sessions, Calls for Participation in Hearings Convened on its Own Initiative or Requested by a State. Washington, D.C., April 11, 2018

#	Press Releases
81	81/18 - IACHR takes case involving Ecuador to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., April 11, 2018
82	R82/18 - IACHR publishes merit report in case related to the criminalization of political opinion and deliberation in Cuba. Washington, D.C., April 11, 2018
83	D83/18 - SRESCER Welcomes Decisions Taken in the Region to Face Climate Change. Washington, D.C., April 17, 2018
84	84/18 - IACHR Condemns Deaths of at least 21 People in Brazilian Prison. Washington, D.C., April 23, 2018
85	85/18 - IACHR Welcomes Brazilian Supreme Court Decision to Allow Trans Persons to Change Name through Self-Declaration. Washington, D.C., April 23, 2018
86	86/18 - IACHR Condemns Attack on a Committee of Colombia's Land Restitution Unit. Washington, D.C., April 23, 2018
87	87/18 - IACHR Welcomes Mexico's Move to Develop a Survey on Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Washington, D.C., April 23, 2018
88	88/18 - IACHR Welcomes Decision to Decriminalize Consensual Sexual Relations between Same Sex Adults in Trinidad and Tobago. Washington, D.C., April 23, 2018
89	R89/18 - Mexico: Human rights experts call for media independence to be safeguarded in new government advertising bill. Geneva/Washington, D.C., April 24, 2018
90	90/18 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Deaths in the Context of Nicaraguan Protests. Washington, D.C., April 24, 2018
91	91/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Guatemala to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., April 24, 2018
92	92/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Ecuador to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., April 25, 2018
93	R93/18 - Joint Declaration on Media Independence and Diversity in the Digital Age. Washington, D.C., May 2, 2018
94	94/18 - IACHR to Set Up a Coordination Unit to Monitor Events in Nicaragua. Santo Domingo, May 3, 2018
95	R95/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns murder of journalist in Guatemala and urges to investigate the relation to his journalistic activity. Washington, D.C., May 4, 2018
96	96/18 - IACHR Recognizes the Work Carried Out by Elizabeth Abi-Mershed for 26 Years. Santo Domingo, May 5, 2018
97	97/18 - IACHR Launches New Stage in Efforts to Overcome Procedural Backlog. Santo Domingo, May 9, 2018 97A/18 - Annex to the press release
98	R98/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression invites to consultation on access to information, violence against women, and the administration of justice in the Americas. Washington, D.C., May 9, 2018
99	99/18 - IACHR Announces Location for its 169 Period of Sessions. Santo Domingo, May 9, 2018
100	100/18 - IACHR Releases Updated Report on the Impact of its Friendly Settlement Procedure. Santo Domingo, May 10, 2018

#	Press Releases
101	101/18 - IACHR Condemns Deaths of at Least Seven People in Guatemalan Prison. Santo Domingo, May 10, 2018
102	102/18 - IACHR Observes Violence During the Electoral Process in Mexico. Santo Domingo, May 10, 2018
103	103/18 - IACHR Conducts Roundtable Discussion on the Limits and Potentialities of its Recommendations Follow-up Process. Santo Domingo, May 11, 2018
	103A/18 - Annex to the Press Release
104	104/18 - IACHR Wraps Up 168th Session in Dominican Republic. Santo Domingo, May 11, 2018
	104A/18 - Annex: Public Hearings of the 168 Period of Sessions.
105	105/18 - IACHR Stresses Request for Nicaragua to Authorize a Visit. Santo Domingo, May 11, 2018
106	106/18 - IACHR and its Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression Report on Follow-up after the Murder of Members of a Team of Ecuadorian Reporters. Santo Domingo, May 11, 2018
107	107/18 - IACHR Moves to Make Precautionary Measures more Efficient. Santo Domingo, May 14, 2018
108	108/18 - IACHR Will Visit Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., May 14, 2018
109	109/18 - IACHR convened to participate in a public consultation of the Unit on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Washington, D.C. , May 16, 2018.
110	110/18 - Leave no LGBT person behind - Statement by human rights experts on the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. Banjul/Geneva/Strasbourg/Washington, D.C., May 16, 2018
111	111/18 - IACHR Announces Dates and Scope of Upcoming Visit to Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., May 17, 2018
112	112/18 - IACHR Warns about Lack of Adequate Conditions to Hold Free and Fair Elections in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., May 18, 2018
113	113/18 - Preliminary observations on the IACHR working visit to Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., May 21, 2018
114	114/18 - IACHR Welcomes Progress towards a Friendly Settlement in Case of Triqui Indigenous Human Rights Defender in Mexico. Washington, D.C., May 22, 2018
115	R115/18 - The Special Rapporteur condemns murder of journalist in Mexico and urged to investigate relationship with his journalistic activity. Washington, D.C., May 24, 2018
16	116/18 - IACHR Adopts Precautionary Measures to Protect Students in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., May 25, 2018
117	117/18 - IACHR Welcomes Progress in the Administration of Justice in Argentina. Washington, D.C., May 25, 2018
118	118/18 - IACHR Condemns Renewed Violence in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., May 25, 2018
119	119/18 - IACHR Welcomes the Approval of the Protocol for the Investigation and Litigation of Femicides in Argentina. Washington, D.C., May 29, 2018
120	120/18 - IACHR Welcomes El Salvador's Accession to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. Washington, D.C., May 29, 2018
121	121/18 - IACHR to Create Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts to Help Investigate Recent Violence in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., May 30, 2018

#	Press Releases
122	122/18 - IACHR Adopts Precautionary Measure to Protect Monsignor Silvio José Báez Ortega in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., May 31, 2018
123	123/18 - Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child Urges States to End Corporal Punishment and Bullying Against Children and Adolescents. Washington, D.C., June 1, 2018
124	124/18 - IACHR Urges Nicaragua to Dismantle Parapolice Groups and Protect Right to Peaceful Protest. Washington, D.C., June 1, 2018
125	R125/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns the murder of journalists in Mexico and notes with concern the situation of violence against media workers. Washington, D.C., June 1, 2018
126	126/18 - IACHR Presents Performance Report on the Special Follow-Up Mechanism for Ayotzinapa, Mexico, One Year Into its Work. Washington, D.C., June 6, 2018
127	127/18 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measure in Favor of Priest Edwin Heriberto Roman Calderón and Human Rights Defender Álvaro Leiva Sánchez in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., June 7, 2018
128	128/18 - IACHR Condemns Increased Violence in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., June 13, 2018
129	129/18 - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Geneva / Washington, D.C., June 15, 2018
130	130/18 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Recent Migration and Asylum Policies and Measures in the United States. Washington, D.C., June 18, 2018
131	131/18 - IACHR Urges Honduras to Guarantee International Standards for Independence and Impartiality in the Process of Appointing the Country's New Attorney General Washington, D.C., June 21, 2018
132	132/18 - IACHR Is Accepting Requests for Hearings for its 169th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., June 21, 2018
133	133/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Argentina to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Washington, D.C., June 22, 2018
134	134/18 - IACHR Issues Report on Nicaragua's Serious Human Rights Situation Washington, D.C., June 22, 2018
135	135/18 - IACHR Launches Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI) Washington, D.C., June 25, 2018
136	136/18 - 26 june joint statement – udhr70 Washington, D.C., June 26, 2018
137	137/18 - IACHR and OHCHR Condemn Murder of Campaigners and Activists Supporting Indigenous Peoples and Peasants in Guatemala Washington, D.C. / Guatemala City, June 27, 2018
138	138/18 - IACHR Dismayed over Frequent Deaths of Teenagers in Brazilian Detention Centers Washington, D.C., June 27, 2018
139	139/18 - IACHR meets with the institutions included in the Peace Agreement in Colombia Washington, D.C., June 28, 2018
140	R140/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns the killing of journalist in Brazil. Washington, D.C., June 29, 2018
141	141/18 - The Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI) Completes First Week in Action. Washington, D.C., July 2, 2018
142	142/18 - IACHR welcomes historic decision in the fight against impunity for crimes committed during the internal armed conflict in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., July 2, 2018

#	Press Releases
143	R143/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur of the IACHR expresses alarm and condemns mass shooting inside Capital Gazette newsroom in the United States. Washington, D.C., July 2, 2018
144	144/18 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Prevalence of Murder and Other Forms of Extreme Violence against Women in Peru. Washington, D.C., July 2, 2018
145	145/18 - IACHR Announces Establishment of Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts for Nicaragua. Managua, July 2, 2018
146	146/18 - IACHR Grants New Precautionary Measures to Protect People in Nicaragua through MESENI. Washington, D.C., July 5, 2018
147	147/18 - IACHR and Regional Office of the High Commissioner condemn new acts of violence in Nicaragua and aggressions against members of the Catholic Church. Managua / Panama, July 10, 2018.
148	148/18 - IACHR Denounces Worsening, Deepening and Diversifying Repression in Nicaragua and Expresses Concern over the Situation of Children and Adolescents in the Country Managua, July 11, 2018
149	R149/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns the murder of another journalist in Mexico and urges to investigate the relationship to his journalistic activity. Washington, D.C., July 11, 2018
150	150/18 - IACHR Adopts New Precautionary Measures Based on MESENI's Work, Condemns Attack on Félix Maradiaga Washington, D.C. , July 12, 2018
151	R151/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over Measures Forcing Journalists in Peru to reveal their sources and materials. Washington, D.C., July 12, 2018
152	R152/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over Criminal Convictions for desacato laws in Cuba. Washington, D.C., July 17, 2018
153	153/18 - IACHR Welcomes Change by WHO to Stop Regarding Gender Identity as a Disorder. Washington, D.C., July 18, 2018
154	154/18 - IACHR Welcomes Progress in the Protection of Older Persons and their Right to Health. Washington, D.C., July 18, 2018
155	155/18 - IACHR Condemns Murders of Human Rights Defenders and Social Leaders in Colombia. Washington, D.C., July 19, 2018
156	156/18 - The Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI) Completes Third Week in Action, Observes Tougher Repression and Raids by Police and Parapolice Groups. Washington, D.C./ Managua , July 19, 2018
157	157/18 - IACHR welcomes broad participation in consultation on Persons with Disabilities. Washington, D.C., July 20, 2018
158	158/18 - IACHR, UN Experts Express Concern over Forced Evictions and Internal Displacement in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., July 20, 2018
159	159/18 - IACHR Welcomes Ruling by the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Making Mandatory Death Penalty in Barbados unconstitutional. Washington, D.C., July 23, 2018
160	160/18 - ACHR Notes Recent Good Practices in the Protection of the Human Rights of LGBTI Persons in 5 Countries in the Region. Washington, D.C., July 25, 2018
161	161/18 - On International Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women's Day, the IACHR calls on States to encourage and strengthen their political participation. Washington, D.C., July 25, 2018

#	Press Releases
162	162/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Colombia to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., July 25, 2018
163	163/18 - IACHR and Dominican State Hold First Working Group on the Implementation of Human Rights Policies. Washington, D.C., July 25, 2018
164	164/18 - IACHR Makes On-site Visit to Honduras. Washington, D.C., July 26, 2018
165	165/18 - IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur installed in Quito Special Follow-Up Team for the murder of members of El Comercio's journalistic team. Washington, D.C., July 26, 2018
166	166/18 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Authorities and Members of Siona Indigenous Reservations in Colombian Department of Putumayo. Washington, D.C., July 27, 2018
167	167/18 - CIDH and IPPDH Announce the Call for the International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights. Washington, D.C. / Buenos Aires, July 27, 2018
168	168/18 - IACHR Condemns Murders of Human Rights Defenders Linked to Environmental and Land Rights and to Rural Laborers in Brazil. Washington, D.C., July 27, 2018
169	169/18 - IACHR Confirms Reports of Criminalization and Legal Persecution in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., August 2, 2018
170	R170/18 - Trump attacks on the media violate basic norms of press freedom, human rights experts say. Washington, D.C., August 2, 2018
171	171/18 - IACHR Has Concluded its Visit to Honduras and Presents its Preliminary Observations. Tegucigalpa, August 3, 2018
172	172/18 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Mônica Tereza Azeredo Benício in Brazil. Washington, D.C., August 5, 2018.
173	R173/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns two new murders of journalists in Mexico and urges the State to implement recommendations on protection and law enforcement. Washington, D.C., August 7, 2018
174	174/18 - To Mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the IACHR Urges States to Implement Public Policies to Protect Indigenous Peoples Who Have Been Forced to Migrate. Washington, D.C., August 9, 2018
175	175/18 - IACHR and IPPDH Jointly Organize Activities to Raise Awareness of the Issue of Older People. Washington, D.C., August 9, 2018
176	176/18 - IACHR Condemns Death of Nine Persons in Colombia. Washington, D.C., August 9, 2018
177	177/18 - IACHR Welcomes Nomination of Michelle Bachelet for the Post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Washington, D.C., August 9, 2018
178	178/18 - IACHR and the UN's Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons Welcome Decision Made by El Salvador's Constitutional Chamber on Internal Displacement Caused by Violence. Washington, D.C., August 10, 2018
179	179/18 - IACHR Requests the Inter-American Court to Extend Provisional Measures in favor of the Members of the Miskitu Indigenous People's Communities in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., August 10, 2018
180	180/18 - IACHR Salutes Gender Parity in the Cabinet of Ministers in Colombia. Washington, D.C., August 13, 2018

#	Press Releases
181	181/18 - IACHR Welcomes Supreme Court Decision on Equal Marriage in Costa Rica. Washington, D.C., August 14, 2018
182	182/18 - IACHR Is Accepting Requests for Hearings for its 170th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., August 14, 2018
183	183/18 - IACHR expresses concern about the situation of Nicaraguan migrants and refugees and calls on the States of the region to adopt measures for their protection. Washington, D.C., August 15, 2018
184	184/18 - IACHR Welcomes Measures Adopted by Colombia to Regularize Migration and Access to Rights for Venezuelans. Washington, D.C., August 17, 2018
185	185/18 - IACHR Expresses Concern over the Granting of Conditional Release to those Convicted of Serious Human Rights Violations in Chile. Washington, D.C., August 17, 2018
186	186/18 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measure to Protect Separated Migrant Children in the United States. Washington, D.C., August 20, 2018
187	187/18 - IACHR Calls On the State of Nicaragua to Cease the Criminalization of Protest and Respect Persons Deprived of Liberty and Their Families. Managua / Washington, D.C., August 24, 2018
188	R188/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur concludes its visit to Ecuador and presents its preliminary observations and recommendations on freedom of expression in the country. Washington, D.C., August 24, 2018.
189	189/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Peru to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., August 27, 2018
190	190/18 - IACHR Condemns the Death of at least Four People in a Guatemalan Jail. Washington, D.C., August 28, 2018
191	R191/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns the murder of a Journalist in Brazil and urges the authorities to Investigate Connection to Journalistic Activity. Washington, D.C., August 28, 2018
192	192/18 - IACHR Wraps-Up Working Visit to Bolivia. Washington, D.C., August 28, 2018
193	193/18 - IACHR Expresses Concern about the Situation of Congressmen of the National Assembly in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., August 29, 2018
194	194/18 - IACHR is Accepting Requests for Hearings for its 170th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., August 30, 2018
195	195/18 - IACHR Regrets the Conclusion of the Invitation to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., August 31, 2018
196	196/18 - IACHR Expresses its Concern over Guatemala's Decision to not Renew the Mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). Washington, D.C., September 4, 2018
197	197/18 - Joint Statement for the development of a regional response to the massive arrival of Venezuelans to the Americas of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and committees, organs and special procedures of the United Nations). Washington, D.C. / Geneva, September 5, 2018
198	198/18 - IACHR reports balance report and results of its work during the first semester of 2018. Washington, D.C., September 7, 2018
199	199/18 - Joint Press Release from Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Washington, D.C., September 7, 2018

#	Press Releases
200	200/18 - IACHR Releases Schedule of Public Hearings for 169th Period of Sessions and Calls for Participation in Hearings Ex Officio. Washington, D.C., September 7, 2018
201	R201/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns attacks, political pressures and indirect censorship against journalists and the media in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., September 8, 2018.
202	202/18 - Special Mechanism on Ayotzinapa Case Makes Second Official Visit to Mexico. Washington, D.C., September 11, 2018
203	D203/18 - SRESCER views with serious concern information about arbitrary dismissals and harassment against medical personnel, university professors and students in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., September 10, 2018
204	204/18 - IACHR Announces the End of the First module of Training Course on Transitional Justice for the Justice Sector in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., September 11, 2018
205	205/18 - IACHR Adopts Precautionary Measures in Favor of More Than a Hundred People at Serious Risk in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., September 18, 2018
206	206/18 - IACHR Presents Performance Report and Results Relating to Friendly Settlements for the First Eight Months of 2018. Washington, D.C., September 20, 2018
207	207/18 - IACHR and PAHO Call on Countries to Guarantee Access to Care Services and Medical Attention for People with Alzheimer's Disease. Washington, D.C., September 21, 2018
208	208/18 - Bi Visibility Day – Making the existence of bisexual persons visible is a key building block in the eradication of violence and discrimination against them. Geneva / Washington, D.C., September 21, 2018
209	209/18 - IACHR Expresses Deep Concern over Growing Violence against Afro-descendants in Brazil. Washington, D.C., September 26, 2018
210	210/18 - Rapporteur on the Rights of People Deprived of Liberty Visits Nicaragua. Managua / Washington, D.C., September 26, 2018
211	211/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Argentina to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., September 27, 2018
212	R212/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Journalist in Mexico and Urges to Redouble Efforts to Prevent Violence against Journalists. Washington, D.C., September 27, 2018
213	213/18 - IACHR Presents Report on the Situation of Children in the Adult Criminal Justice System in the United States. Washington, D.C., September 27, 2018
214	R214/18 - On the International Day of Access to public information, the IACHR's Special Rapporteur for freedom of expression evaluates: The compliance of State obligations regarding "Access to information, violence against women and the administration of justice in The Americas". Washington, D.C., September 28, 2018
215	215/18 - Venezuela: Human rights experts say health system in crisis. Geneva / Washington, D.C., October 1, 2018
216	216/18 - IACHR Welcomes Measures Recognizing the Legal Capacity of People with Disabilities in Peru. Washington, D.C., October 2, 2018
217	217/18 - IACHR Urges States to Recognize and Promote the Use of Sign Language. Washington, D.C., October 4, 2018

#	Press Releases
218	218/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Brazil to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., October 4, 2018
219	219/18 - IACHR Welcomes Ruling from the Supreme Tribunal of Pretrial Investigation of the Supreme Court of Justice of Peru to Repeal the Fujimori Pardon. Boulder, Colorado, October 5, 2018
220	220/18 - IACHR Concludes 169th Period of Sessions in Boulder, Colorado. Boulder, Colorado, October 5, 2018 220A/18: Annex to the Press Release: Summaries of Hearings
221	221/18 - International Day of Older Persons. Geneva / Washington, D.C., October 9, 2018
222	222/18 - IACHR and Special Rapporteurship on Freedom of Expression express deep concern over decision to declare protests illegal in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., October 9, 2018
223	223/18 - IACHR warns of new wave of repression in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., October 18, 2018
224	224/18 - IACHR presents case on Bolivia before the I/A Court. Washington, D.C., October 23, 2018
225	225/18 - IACHR expresses concern over the situation of the "Migrant Caravan" from Honduras and calls on the States of the region to adopt measures for their protection. Washington, D.C., October 23, 2018
226	226/18 - IACHR grants precautionary measure in favor of Venezuelan at risk of deportation from Panama. Washington, D.C., October 24, 2018
227	227/18 - IACHR Calls for Making Visible and Combating Discrimination and Violence against Intersex Persons. Washington, D.C., October 26, 2018
228	R228/18 - Committee of Experts and Special Rapporteurship of the IACHR express their concern over the threats against journalist Noelia Díaz Esquivel in Paraguay. Washington, D.C., October 30, 2018
229	229/18 - IACHR invites civil society organizations and other interested actors to submit information on the human rights situation in the region. Washington, D.C., October 30, 2018
230	230/18 - IACHR Expresses Alarm over the Increase in Murders and Aggressions against Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., October 31, 2018
231	231/18 - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and its Office of the Special Rapporteur express serious concern over the Nicaraguan government's new attempt to impose restrictions on the 100% Noticias television channel. Washington, D.C., October 31, 2018.
232	232/18 - IACHR conducts on site visit to Brazil. Washington, D.C., November 1, 2018
233	233/18 - Preliminary observations on the working visit to monitor the situation of Nicaraguans forced to flee to Costa Rica. Washington, D.C., November 1, 2018
234	234/18 - IACHR Urges the United States to Stay the Execution of Roberto Moreno Ramos. Washington, D.C., November 1, 2018
235	235/18 - Special Follow-Up Team on the Investigations Regarding the Team of Journalists from El Comercio Newspaper Finishes the First Stage in Its Work plan and Reports on the Challenges the Investigation is Facing. Washington, D.C., November 1, 2018
236	236/18 - International Experts call Mexico to ensure continued and sufficient funding for the Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists in Mexico. Washington, D.C., November 2, 2018

#	Press Releases
237	237/18 - IACHR Invites Participation in an Expert Regional Consultation on Combating Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Other Forms of Intolerance. Washington, D.C., November 6, 2018
238	238/18 - IACHR Concludes Visit to Brazil. Washington, D.C., November 12, 2018 Preliminary observations of the visit (English) Preliminary observations of the visit (Portuguese) Preliminary observations of the visit (Spanish)
239	239/18 - IACHR Accepts Requests for Hearings for its 171 Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., November 14, 2018
240	240/18 - IACHR Releases Schedule of Public Hearings for 170 Period of Sessions and Calls for Participation in Hearing Ex Officio. Washington, D.C., November 14, 2018
241	241/18 - IACHR Announces Periods of Sessions and Third IASHR Forum in 2019. Washington, D.C., November 16, 2018
242	242/18 - IACHR Transitional Justice Training Workshop in El Salvador Concludes Successfully. Washington, D.C., November 16, 2018
243	243/18 - IACHR completes working visit to Peru. Washington, D.C., November 16, 2018
244	244/18 - IACHR Condemns Execution of Roberto Moreno Ramos in Texas. Washington, D.C., November 16, 2018
245	245/18 - President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Visits Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., November 16, 2018
246	246/18 - IACHR and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) sign Declaration of Commitment for Technical Cooperation. Washington, D.C., November 19, 2018
247	247/18 - On Transgender Day of Remembrance, the IACHR Calls on States to Provide Comprehensive Protection for the Lives of Trans and Gender-Diverse People. Washington, D.C., November 20, 2018
248	248/18 - IACHR's MESENI expresses concern over Nicaragua's strategy to prevent social protest. Washington, D.C., November 20, 2018
249	249/18 - IACHR expresses its concern about the acts of violence that occurred in the Indigenous Community of Temukuikui in Chile. Washington, D.C., November 21, 2018
250	250/18 - International Day on the Elimination of Violence against Women. Washington, D.C., November 25, 2018
251	251/18 - IACHR Welcomes Mexican Supreme Court of Justice Ruling on Unconstitutionality of Domestic Security Law. Washington, D.C., November 26, 2018
252	252/18 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Argentina to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., November 26, 2018
253	253/18 - IACHR Holds the Second Working Meeting on the Implementation of Human Rights Public Policies in the Dominican Republic. Washington, D.C., November 27, 2018
254	254/18 - Special Follow-Up Mechanism on the Ayotzinapa Case Presents Final Report. Washington, D.C., November 28, 2018
255	255/18 - IACHR condemns the arbitrary expulsion of human rights defender in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., November 28, 2018

#	Press Releases
256	256/18 - In Light of the Forthcoming Ruling on the Berta Cáceres Case, the OHCHR and the IACHR Express Concern over the Exclusion of Victims' Legal Representatives and Unjustified Delays in the Trial. Washington, D.C., November 28, 2018
257	257/18 - IACHR completes 2 years of its Procedural Backlog Reduction Program and announces new actions approved following a second round of its participatory process of consultations. Washington, D.C., December 2, 2018
258	258/18 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 121/18, Case 10.573—José Isabel Salas Galindo and Others, Concerning the United States. Washington, D.C., December 3, 2018
259	259/18 - IACHR Notes Progress on the Right to Vote for People with Disabilities in the Americas. Washington, D.C., December 3, 2018
260	260/18 - IACHR and IA Court Announce Second Inter-American Human Rights System Forum. Washington, D.C., December 5, 2018
261	261/18 - "Human rights defenders are one of the essential pillars that hold up democracy." International Human Rights Defenders Day, December 9, 2018. Washington, D.C., December 7, 2018
262	262/18 - International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights closes week in Washington DC. Washington, D.C., December 7, 2018
263	263/18 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Journalists in Mexico and Calls on New Government to Redouble Efforts to Prevent Violence against Journalists. Washington, D.C., December 13, 2018
264	264/18 - IACHR announces the publication of Report No. 155/18, Petition 687-11, Gabriela Blas Blas and her daughter C.B.B., Chile. Washington, D.C., December 13, 2018
265	265/18 - IACHR Condemns the Cancellation of the Legal Personality of Human Rights Organizations in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., December 13, 2018
266	266/18 - IACHR announces the publication of Friendly Settlement Report on the Case Pedro Antonio Centurion, Paraguay. Washington, D.C., December 14, 2018
267	R267/18 - Experts on freedom of expression of the UN and the Inter-American System condemn attacks and threats against journalists and the media in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., December 14, 2018
268	268/18 - IACHR urges OAS member states to sign and ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons. Washington, D.C., December 14, 2018
269	269/18 - IACHR and OHCHR complete regional consultations on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. Washington, D.C., December 14, 2018
270	270/18 - IACHR and UN Special Procedures adopt Roadmap to Enhance Collaboration. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2018
271	271/18 - IACHR Concludes 170th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., December 18, 2018 Annex to the Press Release: Summaries of Public Hearings
272	272/18 - On the occasion of International Migrants Day, the IACHR urges the States of the region to adopt measures to guarantee the effective enjoyment of the human rights of migrants. Washington, D.C., December 18, 2018
273	273/18 - IACHR denounces aggravation of the repression and the closure of democratic spaces in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., December 19, 2018

#	Press Releases
274	274/18 - Press release about Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., December 19, 2018
275	275/18 - IACHR Welcomes Progress towards the Recognition of Gender Identity in the Region. Washington, D.C., December 21, 2018
276	276/18 - IACHR and Regional Office for South America of the OHCHR Condemn Murders of Rural Activists in Brazil. Washington, D.C., December 27, 2018

F. Country Reports

26. In the course of 2018 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights approved and published a country report on Nicaragua. Given the serious human rights crisis in Nicaragua in relation to the violent events that took place as of April 18, 2018, the IACHR made a working visit to Nicaragua in May with the objective of observing the human rights situation in the country on the ground, documenting those facts, and making the first specific recommendations to the State. On May 21, the IACHR published its Preliminary Observations on the visit, and on June 22, the IACHR published its Gross Human Rights Violations in the Context of Social Protests in Nicaragua, which has an Annex: List of persons who died in Nicaragua in the context of the social protests (April 19 to June 19, 2018).

G. Activities of the IACHR in connection to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

27. On September 1, 2018, the plenaries of the Inter-American Court (IA Court HR) and the Inter-American Commission came together for their annual meeting.

28. During the meeting, the members of the Court and the Commission analyzed the present and future challenges facing the organs of the inter-American system. In addition, the members of both organs put forward their perspectives on the current challenges in processing cases before the inter-American system and agreed to establish a working group made up of judges, commissioners, and technical staff from both institutions to seek structural solutions that ensure the sound functioning of the case system.

29. In addition, the IA Court HR and the IACHR finalized details on the second edition of the “Inter-American Forum on Human Rights.” Finally, both organs took advantage of the occasion to issue an appeal to the OAS states to carry out the commitments they have assumed in the context of the 47th regular session of the General Assembly, held in Cancún, Mexico, where it was agreed to double the regular fund budget granted by the OAS to the institutions of the inter-American human rights system over a three-year period.

30. On December 10, 2018, the Inter-American Court and the IACHR together held the Second Edition of the Forum of the Inter-American Human Rights System, in the city of Bogotá, Colombia. That edition was celebrated on this occasion with the organization and sponsorship of the Office of the Procurator General of the Nation of Colombia. In the context of the Second Forum, celebrations continued of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the 40th anniversary of the coming into force of the American Convention on Human Rights, and International Human Rights Day.

31. The aim of this joint initiative is to generate and promote a debate on the present and future of human rights in the region, the efficacy of the system, the need to increase the levels of compliance with the recommendations of the IACHR and the judgments of the IA Court HR by the member states, and other key issues on the human rights agenda in the Americas. The intent is to provide a forum for constructive exchange among all the actors: states, civil society, international organizations, universities, social and trade union movements, and the general public.

32. In this Second Forum a tribute was paid, for a life of struggle for human rights, to former IACHR Commissioner Robert Goldman, and a series of panel discussions tackled priority issues on the human rights agenda in the Americas.

H. Activities of the IACHR with other Regional and Universal Human Rights Organs

33. In the course of 2018, the IACHR has deepened its cooperation with the United Nations human rights system on several fronts. First, it continued different practices that had been established previously: it provided input for the universal periodic review of Chile, Costa Rica, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Uruguay; it received United Nations special rapporteurs to participate in hearings at its 167th, 169th, and 170th periods of sessions; and it held meetings with UN agencies in Colombia and the Dominican Republic to pull together information on their work in those countries. In the same period, 25 joint press releases were issued with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with special mechanisms of the UN system. Cooperation with the field offices of OHCHR has been very significant for implementing the Defenders Mechanism, in carrying out the onsite visit to Honduras, in following up on the situation in Nicaragua on the ground through the Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI), and in carrying out a visit to look into the situation of human rights defenders in Colombia.

34. In addition, novel collaborative initiatives were implemented. The IACHR participated on a more regular basis in the sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. In early September, for the first time the IACHR participated in the session of the United Nations Human Rights Council as an observer, representing the OAS. Commissioner Joel Hernández spoke on two occasions to make comments on the situation in Nicaragua and in Venezuela, a practice that the Commission intends to continue in future sessions. In addition, it held two side events in the context of 37th and 38th sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, to submit its reports on Venezuela and Nicaragua. The events were well-attended by the missions in Geneva and the civil society organizations that participated in the sessions. The first exchange of personnel took place between the IACHR and the Geneva Office of the OHCHR, focused on sharing experiences in the processing and analysis of cases and individual petitions. The IACHR sent a representative of the Executive Secretariat to participate in the first training program devoted to the regional mechanisms, with the objective of sharing experiences and identifying opportunities for cooperation and synergy as between the systems.

35. In December, the IACHR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights held a Regional Consultation with Civil Society on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and other related forms of intolerance. The consultation was held on December 8, in the context of the 170th period of sessions, in Washington, and brought together representatives of civil society and independent state organs to discuss the main challenges in this set of issues and to define strategies for cooperation with the regional human rights mechanisms and the universal system. This is the first of a series of regional consultations that will be carried out up to the world meeting of regional mechanisms, in 2019.

36. It should be noted that in December the IACHR signed a Road Map with the UN special procedures to expand and strengthen their cooperation. This is the result of the dialogue and the interactions that have taken place over the years between the two systems; it was made official in February 2018, when a delegation from the UN special procedures and the IACHR met in the context of the 167th period of sessions of the IACHR and agreed to establish a framework for cooperation between the two systems. The Road Map seeks to guide and increase the joint initiatives and cooperation between the two systems, including the regular exchange of information, joint statements, contributions to thematic reports, participation in consultations, joint visits, and follow-up on recommendations.

37. During the year covered by this report, implementation began of the mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders in the Americas, together with the OHCHR, after the gains of 2017 with respect to its design and public consultations on its working agenda. In March the first meeting of focal points of the joint mechanism was held in Bogotá, with the presence of focal points from the IACHR and the offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Central America, South America, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, to discuss the implementation of the mechanism.

38. At this meeting the offices of the OHCHR and the IACHR agreed to continue pursuing joint actions to ensure the effective implementation of the mechanism and joint actions to contribute to the protection of human rights defenders in the Americas. In addition, they made progress consolidating the mechanism of joint actions with specific proposals for action in five priority lines: (1) joint studies, (2) monitoring and protection, (3) advocacy, (4) promotion, and (5) technical assistance.

39. To implement those actions, it was agreed to periodically exchange information for joint analysis of issues and situations of special concern, as well as to take actions for attaining the effective and timely protection of human rights defenders at risk. In addition, a draft was submitted of Diagnosis of the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas (2012-2017), which constitutes an input for the joint actions to be developed.

40. In the course of this year both organs have undertaken a series of joint actions, such as issuing two joint pronouncements on situations of mutual concern (with respect to Brazil, Honduras, Guatemala, and regional matters); jointly participating in monitoring and promotion activities; and stepping up the sharing of information and analyses on the human rights situation of human rights defenders in the region, including relevant information on precautionary measures. Among the activities carried out are a seminar and a forum on standards for human rights defenders in Honduras; the participation of a representative of OHCHR in Honduras in the onsite visit of the IACHR; a meeting of experts on good practices in protection, prevention, and investigation of crimes against human rights defenders, as well as an expert consultation. In December, a meeting of focal points was held to evaluate the results attained and to agree upon the timetable for actions in the first half of 2019.

41. In addition to furthering its ties with the universal human rights system, in 2018 the IACHR deepened its cooperation with regional human rights systems and subregional human rights mechanisms.

42. The IACHR and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights have agreed to strengthen their strategic cooperation at a meeting held in March 2018. The cooperation will involve sharing information, collaborating on standard-setting, and holding regular consultations, among other activities. The focal points of each organization are drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding and a road map for signature.

43. The meeting was held in the context of an activity for an exchange on regional human rights standards: an interregional meeting was held on human rights from the perspective of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sexual characteristics. The members of the Inter-American Commission and its special rapporteurships were joined by five members of the African Commission and nine human rights experts from the United Nations for a three-day dialogue to discuss provisions, best practices, and challenges, and to identify possible areas of cooperation among the systems.

44. The meeting had three general objectives: to share best practices and challenges, to identify areas of cooperation, and to reaffirm the commitment of the human rights experts of the United Nations and the inter-American and African regional human rights systems to eradicate violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. All the experts present agreed that working to guarantee that all persons may enjoy a life free from such violence and discrimination should continue to be a priority.

45. In addition, in 2018 the IACHR began a collaboration with the Institute for Public Policies on Human Rights of Mercosur. In particular, the two institutions have begun an International Course on Public Policies in Human Rights. With 100 participants, the course is geared to public officials responsible for designing, directing, implementing, and evaluating public policies; members of organizations and social movements; academics; and society at large. The first edition of the course will conclude in 2019, when the second edition will start up.

I. The Social Participation Agenda

46. In 2018, the IACHR maintained its practice of establishing periodic channels of dialogue with civil society and academia. At its 167th, 168th, 169th, and 170th periods of sessions, held in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and the United States, meetings were held with organizations of inter-American civil society and with the coalition of organizations that work with the inter-American human rights system to collect information on the human rights situation in the region and to hear their demands. In particular, holding periods of sessions away from headquarters ensures increased access for civil society organizations from different parts of the region to the IACHR, expanding the role of the different actors involved in the inter-American human rights system.

47. One important result of the first half of 2018 was holding the public consultation on the working agenda of the Unit on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UDPD), in June, in Lima, Peru. After holding this consultation, all the thematic units created in the context of the Strategic Plan have had one activity involving consulting users of the system to draw up their working agenda.

48. In addition, in the process of defining the additional measures taken in the context of the Special Program for Reducing the Procedural Backlog, dialogue and consultation took place with users of the system in order to improve the system of petitions and cases and expand the effectiveness of the measures.

49. In this period progress was also made working with universities to set up the Academic Network specialized in the inter-American system. In all, 21 new inter-institutional cooperation agreements were signed, among which eight agreements with universities deserve special mention. The complete list of institutions is as follows: the Office of the Procurator-General of the Republic of Colombia (Procuraduría General de la República de Colombia); the Executive Commission for Attention to Victims of Mexico (Comisión Ejecutiva de Atención a Víctimas de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos); Universidad Benito Juárez of Oaxaca; Universidad Metropolitana of Ecuador; the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsperson (Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos) of Guatemala; the National Council of the Office of the Federal Public Prosecutor of Brazil; the Office of the Federal Public Prosecutor of Brazil; the University of Oklahoma College of Law; the National Council Against Discrimination of Mexico (CONAPRED); the Public Ministry of Chile; the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina; the Commission for Clarification of the Truth, Co-Existence, and Non-Repetition of Colombia; the International Land Coalition; the Law School of the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba; the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law; Brown University; the Office of the Federal Labor Prosecutor (Ministério Público do Trabalho) of Brazil; the Universidad Católica del Perú; Inter-American Institute for Social Responsibility and Human Rights (IIRESODH); Save the Children; and the Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (REDLAMYC).

J. Technical Cooperation

50. The IACHR performs its functions with the three pillars of its work: the individual petition system; the monitoring of human rights situations in the member states; and providing advisory services and technical cooperation to the states. Through this structure, the Commission considers that in the context of providing for the rights of every person under the jurisdiction of the American states, it is fundamental to give attention to those persons, communities, and groups historically subject to discrimination and exclusion.

51. In that context, the IACHR pursues assistance and technical cooperation activities with the member states to carry out public policies with a human rights approach, offering and responding to specific requests made by the states. The emphasis is geared to achieving greater recognition and use of the inter-American human rights system by the states, so as to give impetus to the application of inter-American standards and the implementation of its recommendations.

52. In effect, in 2018 the IACHR proposed as one of its priorities strengthening its technical cooperation activities with the member states, regional agencies, and other institutions for institutional strengthening and for designing, implementing, and evaluating public policies geared to respecting and ensuring human rights in the Americas based on inter-American standards.

53. Accordingly, the IACHR made progress throughout the year both drafting instruments and providing inputs geared to those who make public policies and consolidating ties for providing technical assistance and supporting the states' strategies for institutional strengthening and for establishing cooperation actions with other institutions.

54. In that regard, it should be noted that the IACHR approved a first report on "Public Policy with a Human Rights Perspective" with the objective of offering an effective tool for those in charge of planning, designing, implementing, and monitoring or evaluating public policies, making available the relevant inter-American principles and standards, as well as a set of practical guidelines that give guidance to such state action throughout the different stages in the cycle of a political policy with a human rights approach. In 2019 the IACHR set out to continue strengthening its public policy work and in that connection to provide technical assistance to the states of the region based on the standards and recommendations put forth in this Report.

55. In addition, during the year the IACHR approved another report titled "Internal Displacement in the Northern Triangle: Guidelines to Develop Public Policy." Once again, the objective of this document is to provide a practical tool for those public officials in charge of carrying out human rights obligations as well as the representatives of social organizations working to promote and protect the rights of internally displaced persons, and who demand that the state adopt measures and public policies to respond to this worrisome situation.

56. In the context of this same technical assistance strategy, the IACHR prepared a "Practical Guide on Guidelines for Public Policymaking on Internal Displacement." This Guide constitutes an initiative to present, in a pedagogic manner, the main recommendations regarding the design of public policies for addressing this human rights problem.

57. As part of the same objective of institutional strengthening and technical cooperation, one novel initiative taken up by the IACHR this year for training is especially noteworthy. An International Course for Public Policies on Human Rights was held by the IACHR in a partnership with the Institute for Public Policies on Human Rights of Mercosur. The six-month course, which included a face-to-face section, was given to 100 public servants responsible for designing, directing, implementing, and evaluating public policies, members of social organizations and movements, academics, and society at large.

58. Finally, the IACHR also worked with the Technical Unit of the Justice Sector of El Salvador in response to a request for technical cooperation, to further the knowledge, analysis, and dialogue of the judiciary on transitional justice processes in that country. In that regard, the IACHR produced a 64-hour training program that unfolded with training in four consecutive modules from August to November 2018. During the modules, directed to more than 70 participants from the justice sector in El Salvador, different relevant issues in transitional justice were addressed by specialists from the IACHR and international experts.

59. The IACHR highlights its openness and willingness to provide technical assistance to the states, regional bodies, social organizations, and other institutions for institutional strengthening and for designing, implementing, and evaluating public policies geared to strengthening respect for human rights in the Americas based on inter-American standards.

60. Moreover, as mentioned in item G above, in the course of the year 21 new inter-institutional cooperation agreements were signed, of which special mention should be made of eight with universities. The complete list of institutions is as follows: Office of the Procurator General of the Republic of Colombia; the Executive Commission for Attention to Victims of Mexico; Universidad Benito Juárez de Oaxaca; Universidad Metropolitana de Ecuador; the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsperson of Guatemala; the National Council of the Office of the Federal Public Prosecutor of Brazil; the Office of the Federal Public Prosecutor of Brazil; the University of Oklahoma Law College; the National Council against Discrimination of Mexico (CONAPRED: Consejo Nacional contra la Discriminación de México); the Public Ministry of Chile; Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina; the Commission for Clarifying the Truth, Co-existence, and Non-Repitition of Colombia; the International Land Coalition; the law school of the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba; the University of

California at Los Angeles School of Law; Brown University; the Office of the Federal Labor Prosecutor of Brazil; the Universidad Católica del Perú; the Inter-American Institute for Social Responsibility and Human Rights (IRRESODH: Instituto de Responsabilidad Social y Derechos Humanos); Save the Children; the Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (REDLAMYC); and the State of Colombia.

61. In the context of those agreements, progress is being made expanding the Fellowship Program and the Associate Program, as well as in training, promotion, and academic research. Along these lines, during the year seven professionals came into the Executive Secretariat through the Associate Personnel Program.

K. On-site Visits

62. The activities related to the on-site visits made during this period are detailed in the section on the IACHR's observation activities in 2018, included in Chapter III of this Annual Report.

L. Follow-up to Recommendations

63. In the context of the Special Program for Monitoring Recommendations (Program 21) of the Strategic Plan [2017-2021](#), in 2018 the IACHR implemented the Recommendations Follow-up Section (SSR), structurally linked to the Office of the Assistant Executive Secretary for Monitoring, Promotion, and Technical Cooperation on Human Rights, with the function of serving the follow-up work done by the entire Executive Secretariat of the IACHR in an integral, crosscutting, and coordinated fashion among all its areas. The creation of this area has represented one of the most significant advances for promoting effective follow-up to the decisions and recommendations produced by it, and for verifying the degree of compliance and assumption, domestically, of the commitments taken on by the states in respect of human rights.

64. The new Follow-up Section is responsible for coordinating follow-up on recommendations issued by the IACHR via its different instruments and tools (Executive Order SG/OEA No. 17/06, Annex I, D, 7). Among the different functions that were attributed to it is to provide advisory services, functionally, to the work of following up on recommendations and decisions of all the mechanisms of the IACHR; to implement the Special Program 21 on monitoring and its respective action plans, in coordination with all other areas of the IACHR; to implement the Inter-American System for Monitoring the Recommendations of the IACHR (Inter-American SIMORE); to follow up on the merits reports published pursuant to Article 51 of the American Convention; to assist in the preparation of the country reports and thematic reports; to coordinate the special mechanisms for monitoring the recommendations of the IACHR; and to develop the capacities for promoting effective follow-up to its recommendations and decisions; among others.

65. As regards the function of following up on individual cases provided for in Article 48 of the IACHR's Rules of Procedure, throughout 2018 work was done to develop and strengthen the methodologies for monitoring its recommendations: The form for requesting annual information was changed, including the preparation of a methodology for the parties to send in information; the chapter of the Annual Report on monitoring recommendations in individual cases was reworked; analytical criteria were developed for analyzing compliance with the recommendations in these cases, and for the monitoring system; and the number of follow-up actions was increased with a view to building consensus-based paths for carrying out the recommendations.

66. In 2018, a proposal was adopted to redesign Chapter II.D of the IACHR's Annual Report, devoted to follow-up in individual cases. The memorandum with the proposal approved by the IACHR includes new criteria for classification, the suggestion to classify the level of compliance by recommendation, highlighting the challenges and progress made in the year, and preparing individual data sheets for monitoring the cases.

67. In addition, the number of working meetings in the context of at the IACHR's periods of sessions for follow-up on merits reports published (Article 51) increased significantly in 2018. There were 15 such working meetings in 2018, a 434% increase over 2017. The number of portfolio meetings held with the

states increased, as did the number of meetings with petitioners, and a strategy was devised for establishing contact in cases in which the IACHR had not been receiving information in recent years. At the annual seminar with the CARICOM countries priority was placed on following up on recommendations in 2018. Proactive actions deployed have resulted in a more than 200% increase in 2018 in the levels of response by the states and petitioners in relation to follow-up on cases in which merits reports have been published, with special emphasis on responses from the English-speaking countries. In addition, the IACHR prepared the portfolio of cases in the stage of follow-up to its recommendations, including preparing specific studies on death penalty cases with published merits reports, and on cases involving violence and discrimination against women, adolescent females, and girls.

68. As for follow-up on recommendations, in order to coordinate actions and share good practices, the IACHR also strengthened its ties with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the networks of national institutions of human rights and offices of human rights ombudsperson (*defensores de pueblo*), academic networks, and civil society. In this regard, 15 promotional activities and talks were carried out, as well as trainings geared to state officials, human rights ombudspersons, social leaders, and members of civil society in the region. In the context of establishing alliances with academic networks, a Declaration of Understanding was signed with the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (Heidelberg, Germany). The Commission is also working with a project for preparing data sheets on IACHR case-law (merits reports and friendly settlement reports) with the Democracy and Human Rights Institute (Instituto de Democracia y Derechos Humanos) of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (IDEHPUCP).

69. In the course of 2018 the IACHR began the work to implement the Inter-American Monitoring System of Recommendations of the IACHR (Inter-American SIMORE), with the [cooperation of the State of Paraguay](#). It will have the data base of all the recommendations made by the IACHR, via its different mechanisms, to the OAS member states. To develop this platform the IACHR has worked on systematizing information, including a base of recommendations made in thematic reports, country reports, and merits reports that have been published, bringing together a total of 4,113 recommendations made to all the states of the region. In the context of implementing the plan, a “Comparative Study Document of Information Indexing Models – Recommendations Tracking Systems” was prepared, and a proposal for indexing the information on the IACHR’s recommendations in the SIMORE.

70. From June 25 to 27, 2018, the staff of the IACHR was also given training, and the technical conditions for installing the system were verified. In addition, the system was presented to more than 50 persons, including representatives of the permanent missions to the OAS. On that occasion, the State of Paraguay delivered the system’s source code to the IACHR. On September 12, 2018, the IACHR held a webinar with ESCR-Net and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay with the objective of presenting Paraguay’s SIMORE Plus and analyzing the proposal for constructing the Inter-American SIMORE, so that the new tool is as useful as possible. As of this writing, a prototype of the system is being developed.

71. The resolution on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was adopted in the context of the 2018 OAS General Assembly. It recognizes the efforts of the IACHR to start up a digital system for monitoring recommendations in the context of its [2017-2021 Strategic Plan](#) and urges the Commission to continue developing its capabilities to follow up on its recommendations (AG/DOC.5641/18).

72. In addition, in the context of its [2017-2021 Strategic Plan](#) the IACHR has made a fundamental decision to consolidate and create special mechanisms for monitoring recommendations. Such mechanisms, which represent a novel initiative in the context of the inter-American human rights system, facilitate a more holistic analysis of the decisions and recommendations of the IACHR, give public exposure to a case or situation, offer periodic and systematic follow-up on the theme/country, as well as closer accompaniment of the victims and their family members. In addition, they make it possible to promote more prompt and effective state implementation of the recommendations. In 2018, the IACHR maintained the Special Follow-up Mechanism on the Ayotzinapa Case (MESA), adopted in relation to Mexico. In addition, it installed the Working Group on the Implementation of Public Policies for Human Rights in the Dominican Republic, the Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI), and the Special Monitoring Team (ESE: Equipo de Seguimiento Especial)

on the assassination of members of the team of media workers from the daily newspaper El Comercio, at the border between Ecuador and Colombia.

Special Follow-up Mechanism on the Ayotzinapa Case (MESA)

73. In 2016 the Commission installed the Special Follow-up Mechanism on the Ayotzinapa Case (MESA: Mecanismo Especial de Seguimiento al Asunto Ayotzinapa), entrusted with following up on Precautionary Measure 409-14, granted in favor of the students at the teacher training school Escuela Normal Rural “Raúl Isidro Burgos,” in Ayotzinapa, Mexico, and the recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI). On June 6, 2018, the Mechanism submitted the [Balance Report](#) of its first year, and on November 28, 2018, the Commission submitted the [Final Report](#) of the Mechanism’s Work Plan in the context of its seventh official visit to Mexico. Both documents describe the actions taken by the State of Mexico to clarify the whereabouts of the disappeared students through the search effort; the investigation to clarify the facts; the attention given to the victims and family members; and the measures of non-repetition, all in light of the atrocious events that occurred the night of September 26 and 27, 2014, in Iguala, Guerrero.

74. In the course of 2018, the Mechanism made four visits to Mexico and held meetings with the participation of representatives of the State and the victims. In addition, engagement among the parties involved was accomplished, facilitating the exchange of information. In addition, two public hearings were held, as well as working meetings, and questionnaires were drawn up directed to the State inquiring about the progress made in the investigation with respect to the issues prioritized by the parties and covered by the precautionary measures, and which were set out in a timeline. All the questionnaires were answered by the state authorities in due course. In addition, the process of reading through 618 volumes of the judicial record was culminated, and the IACHR raised additional issues with respect to the lines of investigation that should be expanded and deepened, which were considered and pursued by the State. In June 2018, the MESA submitted its Performance Report in Washington, D.C., where it made known the results of the first phase of this work of following up on the precautionary measure and the recommendations of the GIEI. In early September 2018, the IACHR visited the Escuela Normal of Ayotzinapa and presented the Performance Report to the students’ family members and the civil society representatives who are accompanying them.

75. In December, the MESA presented its Final Report to the State, the family members, and their representatives. That report picks up on the findings and recommendations as regards searching, investigating, and addressing the needs of the victims that were indicated in the Performance Report and includes others stemming from the information received in 2018. During the years of work of the MESA, both the family members and civil society recognized its significance and historical value for providing ongoing and specialized follow-up on the case.

Working groups on Implementing Public Policies for Human Rights in the Dominican Republic

76. In 2018 the IACHR installed the [Working Group on Implementation of Human Rights Public Policies in the Dominican Republic](#), entrusted with following up on the recommendations made by the IACHR in its 2015 country report and in Chapter IV of the 2016 Annual Report. It is a complementary tool in the IACHR’s strategy, implemented mainly in response to the demand from Dominican civil society to address historical challenges in the area of human rights differently.

77. The Working Group addressed 12 issues regarding commitments in relation to the acquisition of nationality, migration, policies for fighting all forms of discrimination, and policies on women’s rights and gender equality. According to the Work Plan agreed upon with the State, the [First Working Group](#) meeting was held on July 24 and 25, 2018 in Washington D.C., and the [Second Working Group](#) meeting was held on November 20 and 21 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The IACHR noted the creation and consolidation of this forum for civil society participation along with the state authorities to address proposals on the issues defined. It also recognized the unprecedented, candid, and productive dialogue with the State and civil society in relation to the progress made and challenges ahead for implementing the recommendations on the human rights situation in the Dominican Republic. In 2019, the IACHR will publish the results attained in its annual follow-up report.

Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI)

78. On June 24, 2018, the IACHR installed, in Managua, the [Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua](#). For the IACHR, this Mechanism represented the lengthiest field mission deployed in its history. For six months, its installation on site made it possible to keep the international community informed and, above all, it made it possible to accompany Nicaraguans in the context of a serious human rights crisis and the accelerated deterioration of the rule of law in Nicaragua. It did so by monitoring the situation, following up on recommendations and precautionary measures, and helping with capacity-building efforts in civil society.

79. The MESENI was installed with the mandate to follow up on the recommendations made by the IACHR both in the [Preliminary Observations](#) and in the final [Report](#) on its visit to the country. During its presence on the ground, the Mechanism made a record first hand of the serious human rights situation in the country and engaged in a rigorous technical effort to consolidate the data recorded and published by the IACHR, which have also been fundamental for the political organs of the Organization of American States (OAS) to keep tabs on the crisis in Nicaragua.

80. The Inter-American Commission's response to the situation in Nicaragua – mainly with the working visit in May and the subsequent installation of the MESENI – was fundamental for making known the serious human rights violations that occurred in the context of the protests that began on April 18, as well as to keep the international community informed. Based on the work of the MESENI, the IACHR reported on the situation in Nicaragua in 28 press releases and [three reports](#) to the OAS Permanent Council:¹

- a. July 11, 2018. [Remarks by the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#), Paulo Abrão, to the Permanent Council of the OAS.
- b. October 19, 2018. [Remarks by the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#), Paulo Abrão, to the Permanent Council of the OAS.
- c. December 27, 2018. [Remarks by Commissioner Esmeralda Arosemena, Vice President of the IACHR](#), at the special session of the OAS Permanent Council for reporting on the human rights situation in Nicaragua

81. In 2018 the Commission made six technical visits and four working visits in the context of this Mechanism. In July, Commissioner Antonia Urrejola, country rapporteur for Nicaragua, travelled to Managua for the installation of the Mechanism and the GIEI; from [September 18 to 20](#), Commissioner Joel Hernández, Rapporteur for Persons Deprived of Liberty, visited Nicaragua to take stock of the situation of persons deprived of liberty; from October 14 to 18, Commissioner Luis Ernesto Vargas Silva, Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants, made a [working visit to Costa Rica](#) to monitor the situation of Nicaraguans seeking asylum and in need of international protection. [From October 25 to 27](#) Commission President Margarette May Macaulay looked into the violations of the rights of women, women human rights defenders, and persons of African descent.

82. The MESENI also monitors the precautionary measures granted for persons at grave risk to their lives or physical integrity in the context of the crisis in Nicaragua. In the course of 2018, the IACHR granted 29 resolutions on precautionary measures protecting 137 direct beneficiaries. Moreover, as part of its mandate the MESENI provided on-the-ground technical assistance to the Commission on Verification and Security (CVS: Comisión de Verificación y Seguridad), which was instituted in the Agreement of the National Dialogue Roundtable (Mesa de Diálogo Nacional). In this regard, it assisted the CVS in the release of 65 persons detained in the context of the protests and accompanied three observation missions to the roadblocks (*tranques*) in Jinotepe, Juigalpa, and Masaya. In addition, the IACHR, through the MESENI, fostered capacity-building for Nicaraguan civil society on international human rights standards.

¹ On June 22, 2018, prior to the installation of the MESENI, Commissioner Antonia Urrejola presented the [Report resulting from the IACHR's May visit to Nicaragua](#) to the Permanent Council of the OAS.

83. Also in 2018, the MESENI technical team conducted a total of 10 trainings in Managua, Matagalpa, and Costa Rica, training 273 persons. In collaboration with Amnesty International, on December 8 a High-Level Dialogue was held at the headquarters of the IACHR with organizations from Nicaraguan civil society and international organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and members of the Working Group of the OAS Permanent Council with the objective of discussing the national context and a strategy for international advocacy in light of Nicaragua's deteriorating human rights situation.

84. On December 19, the State of Nicaragua reported its decision to temporarily suspend the presence of the MESENI in Nicaragua, and of visits by the IACHR to Nicaragua, as of that date. The [IACHR communicated](#) that the MESENI continues monitoring the human rights situation in Nicaragua from headquarters in Washington with the aim of seeing to the protection of the life and physical integrity of persons, and defending the freedom of expression of the Nicaraguan people. To that end, it continues to maintain permanent contact with civil society organizations, social movements, state actors, and victims of human rights violations.

Special Monitoring Team (ESE: Equipo de Seguimiento Especial)

85. On July 25, in Quito, the IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (RELE) installed the [Special Monitoring Team](#) (ESE), established to follow up on precautionary measure MC-309-18 with respect to journalists Javier Ortega Reyes and Paúl Rivas Bravo and worker Efraín Segarra, of the "El Comercio" daily newspaper of Quito, who were assassinated at the Ecuador-Colombia border in April 2018.

86. The ESE and the states of Ecuador and Colombia, in consultation with the family members and their representatives, agreed upon a Work Plan. The ESE held working meetings with the parties involved at Commission headquarters on June 15, 2018. In addition, the ESE and the RELE made a working visit to Ecuador from July 24 to 27, 2018. Subsequently, it visited Colombia from September 24 to 26, 2018. Pursuant to its objectives, especially providing technical assistance and monitoring of progress in the investigation and punishment of those responsible for the facts, the ESE has revised the procedures being pursued separately in Ecuador and Colombia, making specific recommendations. The IACHR is grateful to both states for the facilities and cooperation provided, and to the civil society organizations that have accompanied the whole process.

87. In 2019, the IACHR will continue implementing initiatives, actions, and novel mechanisms for promoting the effective monitoring of its recommendations. The IACHR recognizes the importance of continuing to improve the workings of the mechanisms for effectively monitoring the different scenarios and specific moments in the human rights situation of each country in the region. To this end, it is essential to continue maintaining constructive channels of dialogue with states, civil society, and all those involved in the inter-American human rights system.