

Regional Consultations for the preparation of the Strategic Plan of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 2017–2020

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) invites the civil society, social movements and academics to participate in the Participatory Regional Consultations for the development of the Strategic Plan of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 2017–2020.

The regional consultations have the following **objectives**:

- To create opportunities for reflection and debate with key actors in the human rights agenda for the development of the IACHR 2017–2020 Strategic Plan.
- To analyze the challenges and trends in human rights in the region over the next four years.
- To identify proposals and suggestions on concrete actions that contribute to the design of the new IACHR Strategic Plan.
- To identify expectations about the IACHR actions for promoting the observance, promotion and protection of human rights in the Americas.
- To ensure social participation in the definition of the work agenda and actions of the IACHR.

Four participatory regional consultations will be held, one per sub region:

Region	City	Date of consultation
North America	Washington, United States	February 10, 2017
Mesoamerica	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	February 17, 2017
South America	Lima, Peru	February 25, 2017
Caribbean	Kingston, Jamaica	March 3, 2017

PARTICIPATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONS

A. Previous registration

A **previous registration process** will be available in order to attend the requirements necessary for the realization of these events.

The following charter presents the agenda, the dates of the events, the deadline for registration, and the language in which every regional consultation will be held:

Region	City	Date of consultation	Deadline for registration	Language of the consultation
North America	Washington, United States	February 10, 2017	February 5, 2017	English
Mesoamerica	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	February 17, 2017	February 12, 2017	Spanish
South America	Lima, Peru	February 25, 2017	February 12, 2017	Spanish
Caribbean	Kingston, Jamaica	March 3, 2017	February 12, 2017	English

Registration will be open on the IACHR website until February 5 or 12, 2017, according to region.

The registration confirmation and the location of the consultations will be announced to organizations and participants via e-mail beforehand.

The total number of participants will be no more than 50 persons per consultation. If the number of registrations exceeds the events capacity, special consideration will be given to criteria such as thematic representation, gender balance and diversity of nationalities for the selection of participants.

Participation is for free and every participant will afford their expenses.

B. Registration at the event

Registration on the day of the consultation will be only available for those participants that received previous confirmation of registration.

C. Participation and live broadcasting

In order to facilitate the participation of organizations interested in the regional consultations, live *Webcast* streaming of every consultation will be available on a link posted by the IACHR.

Virtual participation will be enabled **on the day of the regional consultation**, previous request via e-mail to the following address: CIDHPlaneacion@oas.org. Please specify in the subject line of the e-mail: **Regional Consultation – Strategic Plan**.

Suggestions on proposals responding to guiding questions in accordance to the event methodology below will be accepted. Contributions and proposals will be presented to the directive consultation board and will be systematized in the summary document of the respective regional consultation.

WORK METHODOLOGY IN REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Public Consultations constitute an opportunity for reflection and debate with the civil society, social movements, and organizations –whether or not they are users of the inter-American human rights system–, academics, among others, in order to contribute to the process of preparation of the new IACHR 2017–2020 Strategic Plan.

Every regional consultation will have three main stages: opening and presentation of the work methodology, panel discussion, and working groups.

The opening roundtable will seek to contextualize the Strategic Plan development process, share information with participants, and present the consultation working methodology. Next, a panel discussion will analyze from a strategic perspective the challenges, scenarios, and trends in the area of human rights in the Americas over the next four years. Every organization will have from 3 to 4 minutes, depending on the number of registered participants, to set out their views and contribute to the debate.

In the interests of ensuring the participation of as many interested persons as possible, for this stage, participants should prepare their remarks in advance and prioritize the proposals they will present in this stage of the process, keeping in mind the following guiding question:

What will be the principal human rights challenges and trends in the region over the next four years?

Based on the ensuing debate discussions, bearing in mind contextual and institutional challenges, working groups will be organized to enable participants to put concrete proposals or suggestions for the Strategic Plan forward, in line with the mandates and functions of the IACHR.

Bearing in mind the challenges in the area of human rights and the institutional mandate of the IACHR, what are your concrete proposals for the IACHR Strategic Plan 2017–2020?

At the end of the event, each working group will present a round-up of the group's contributions and discussions.

Based on the consultations, the IACHR will draft a synopsis that will be sent to the commissioners for their discussions and validation of the IACHR Strategic Plan 2017–2020.

SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.	Accreditations
9:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m.	Opening session with IACHR officers
9:45 a.m.–10:00 a.m.	Presentation of the regional consultation procedure and topic for discussion
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.	Main human rights challenges and trends in the region over the next four years <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registered organizations (3-4 minutes each)
1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.	Working groups: Concrete proposals for the IACHR Strategic Plan

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Presentation of the results of each working group
5:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Closure: IACHR officers

INPUTS

The IACHR approved a **Concept Paper** for the Strategic Plan. In addition, the Strategic Plan draft will be sent to the organizations for the debate on the consultation day. Participants are expected to take it into account in their discussions and proposals.

ABOUT THE IACHR

The principal function of the IACHR is to promote observance and protection of human rights in the Americas. According to article 106 of the Charter of the Organization:

There shall be an Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, whose principal function shall be to promote the observance and protection of human rights and to serve as a consultative organ of the Organization in these matters.

An inter-American convention on human rights shall determine the structure, competence, and procedure of this Commission, as well as those of other organs responsible for these matters.

The main function of the Commission is to promote respect for and defense of human rights, and in the exercise of its mandate it has the following functions and powers (article 41 of the Convention):

- a. to develop an awareness of human rights among the peoples of America;
- b. to make recommendations to the governments of the member states, when it considers such action advisable, for the adoption of progressive measures in favor of human rights within the framework of their domestic law and constitutional provisions as well as appropriate measures to further the observance of those rights;
- c. to prepare such studies or reports as it considers advisable in the performance of its duties;
- d. to request the governments of the member states to supply it with information on the measures adopted by them in matters of human rights;
- e. to respond, through the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, to inquiries made by the member states on matters related to human rights and, within the limits of its possibilities, to provide those states with the advisory services they request;
- f. to take action on petitions and other communications pursuant to its authority under the provisions of Articles 44 through 51 of the Convention, and
- g. to submit an annual report to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

For more information:

<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr>

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