



Foreword

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Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique
President of the I/A Court H.R.

On behalf of the Judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as well as its Secretariat, I have the honor of presenting the 2022 Annual Report which describes the most significant tasks accomplished by the Court during the year and the most relevant developments in its Case Law on human rights.

In 2022, I assumed the presidency of the Inter-American Court, which I accepted with humility and with the commitment to give the best of myself to guide this institution, which is responsible for the protection of human rights in a continent of more than 600 million people. I greatly appreciate the confidence placed in me by my colleagues, the Judges who elected me to head this Court over the period 2022-2023. I am also grateful to Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto for his services as Vice President during 2022. In 2023, Judge Eduardo Ferrer MacGregor Poisot will assume the vice presidency of the Court for that year.

I would like to take advantage of these lines to express my confidence in the work of my colleagues who initiated their mandate in 2022, Judge Nancy Hernández López, Judge Verónica Gómez, Judge Patricia Pérez Goldberg and Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch; their legal opinions will be crucial to the Court's upcoming work. I would also like to highlight that this composition of the Court brings it close to the parity required in all decision-making organs, thus permitting a greater democratic representativeness.

Despite the post-pandemic challenges, the Inter-American Court has been able to combine its in-person activities with virtual sessions, thus establishing a court that conducts its work in a hybrid manner. Within the framework of an "open-door court," the Inter-American Court was able to resume its visits to the States, a crucial element for its interactions as an organ of justice, in order to maintain an active dialogue with the diverse social and institutional actors. Organs of justice should always be open entities that have no fear of relations and dialogue with the States so that judges may have a first-hand perspective of the continent's challenges. Accordingly, in August, the Court held a Regular Session in Brasilia following an invitation from Brazil, and another in Uruguay, later the same month.

In 2022, our Court increased the number of sessions held during the year. Nine Regular Sessions and three special sessions were held, which represented a total of 23 weeks of collegiate meetings.

During the sessions, the Court held 32 public hearings on Contentious Cases, 12 on monitoring compliance with Judgment, 3 on Provisional Measures, and 1 on Provisional Measures and monitoring compliance; it also conducted 3 procedures. In addition, 25 judgments on Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations and Costs, and 9 interpretation Judgments were handed down. The Court also issued 45 orders on monitoring compliance with Judgment.

With regard to its Case Law during the year, it should be noted that the Court has continued to rule on innovative issues, and also to consolidate important international standards concerning human rights, judicial independence, and freedom of expression and subsequent liability for the exercise of this right, limiting the possibility of the use of criminal law to protect the honor public officials. The Court determined the differentiated approaches that States should apply based on the special needs of different population groups deprived of liberty to ensure that the execution of sentence respects their human dignity. It also developed political rights and the freedom of expression of opposition political parties, and State responsibility for the repression and elimination of individuals due to political ideology. In addition, it had the opportunity to examine in greater detail the right of women to a life free of violence, obstetric violence, and the differentiated gender-based impacts on women family members of victims of forced disappearance. Furthermore, it developed the labor rights and specific labor protection obligations for persons with disabilities, as well as for older persons, and it reiterated important standards concerning restriction of the use of capital punishment, as well as requirements and limits for pre-trial detention to be legitimate, among other important topics.

I would like to highlight three initiatives during 2022. First, the Court implemented a new procedure for notifying judgments in an act with the participation of the parties, open to the press and the general public. Second, it established judge rapporteurs by country in order to follow up more closely on the procedure of monitoring compliance with Judgment, and it has begun to systematize the Case Law on monitoring compliance. Third, on October 10, 2022, an Ethics Code for the Court's judges was issued.

Starting in 2022, the Court began to implement the policy of a "green court." This vision of sustainable justice involves a reduction in the use of paper, a decrease in the carbon footprint, and the use of technologies that seek to make its judicial task sustainable and inclusive. The change to sustainable energy includes the installation of solar panels at our seat, and the exclusive use of electric vehicles. The Court is grateful to the German cooperation agency for its contribution to the realization of the green court.

I would also like to emphasize that the Court has reinforced its training procedures. In 2022, it organized 21 human rights training events on different Case Law topics using diverse resources and methodologies. In this way, more than 1,800 people received training. The Inter-American Court also resumed the in-person training activities that, owing to the pandemic, had been transformed into virtual sessions. Thus, between May and December 2022, the Court organized 13 in-person training events in four States parties.

Journalists and the media are a very important public in an "open-door Court" strategy. In addition to improving existing information dissemination channels, the Court has reinforced its daily communication with the region's journalists through the creation of a network (the Dialoga Network), incorporating more than 6,500 journalists and communicators in the region who regularly receive and share information on the work of the Court. To increase dissemination of information and awareness of its Case Law in the media sector, in-person and virtual meetings between Judges and journalists were organized in 17 States parties.

To fulfill its task of disseminating information on its work, the Court has made 33 publications available to the public, including Case Law Bulletins, infographics, and conference proceedings.

In the context of our policy of rapprochement with the Caribbean region, we visited the Caribbean Court of Justice and took part in the First Hemispheric Meeting of Regional Courts in Trinidad and Tobago. As a result of the meeting, the Port of Spain Declaration was issued, which includes actions relating to joint activities and dialogue between the international courts of our region.

At the close of 2022, I would like to express my appreciation to all those who make the work of the Inter-American Court possible and reaffirm our commitment to continue fulfilling the mandate given to us by the American Convention on Human Rights: the defense and protection of the human rights of everyone on our continent without distinction.

Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique

President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

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