
CHAPTER I

IACHR ACTIVITIES IN 2020

A. Strategic Plan 2017-2021

1. On March 22, 2017, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) adopted its [Strategic Plan for 2017-2021](#).¹ Strategic Plan 21 is the principal institutional management tool establishing the priorities that the IACHR will pursue in order to successfully fulfill its mission and address the current and future challenges involved in upholding and protecting human rights in the Americas.

2. By weaving together its mandates, functions, and mechanisms, the IACHR defined the strategies that will guide its work in the coming years. For 2017-2021, the Inter-American Commission prioritized a series of topics and populations, some of which have been worked on by its Rapporteurships. Populations to be prioritized included: indigenous peoples; women; migrants; refugees; stateless persons; victims of human trafficking and internally displaced persons; Afro-descendants; children and adolescents; human rights defenders; persons deprived of liberty; lesbians, gays, bisexual, trans, and intersex persons; persons with disabilities; and older persons. The Plan looks at three priority thematic areas: the right to freedom of expression; economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights; and the right to memory, truth, and justice. The Strategic Plan also contains six cross-cutting themes: democratic institutionality; judicial independence and independence of the Public Prosecutors' Office, and access to justice; institutionality in human rights; security and violence; development and human rights; and gender equality and diversity.

3. Since the Strategic Plan 2017-2021 was adopted, there have been major achievements in each of the programs, as detailed in the [First Partial Report on the Strategic Plan](#) (with respect to 2017) and the [Second Report](#) (with respect to 2018), the [Third Report](#) (with respect to 2019), and the Fourth Report (with respect to 2020). For instance, in the program to reduce the procedural backlog, one of the Commission's priorities, there have been all-time records in the number of petitions reviewed at the initial, admissibility, and merits stages, and in the progressive development of international human rights law for the consolidation of inter-American standards. The Precautionary Measures Mechanism has been strengthened, through the adoption of [Resolution 2/2020](#) "Strengthening of the Monitoring of Precautionary Measures in Force," with a view to increasing follow-up on precautionary measures in force. The Friendly Settlements Mechanism has also been boosted, through the adoption of [Resolution 3/20](#) "Differentiated Actions to Address the Procedural Backlog in Friendly Settlement Agreement Procedures," as a result of which there has been an increase in expressions of interest and in the number of agreements signed. The IACHR has continued to enhance its integrated and coordinated work, which has helped it provide immediate, effective responses to human rights situations that have taken place in different countries in the region. As for monitoring, the

¹ In preparing the Plan, the IACHR consulted and/or received contributions from 536 people and 343 entities, as well as the member states.

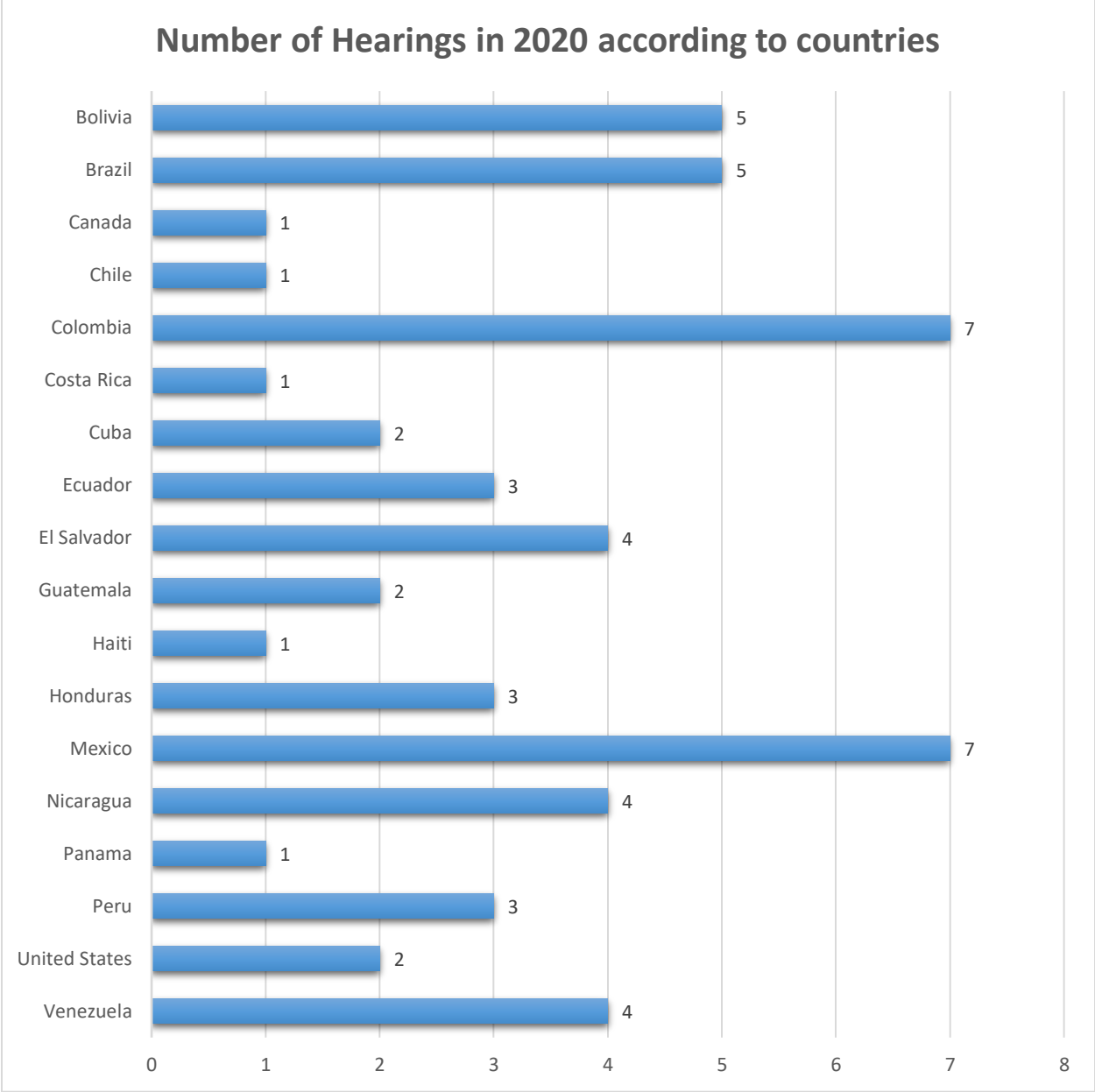
Commission performed an onsite visit to Chile, a visit to the Colombian-Venezuelan border to monitor the human rights situation in Venezuela, and a working visit to Peru amid the protests related to the country's recent institutional crisis. Technical cooperation, training, and promotional activities have all been bolstered, as well as ties to civil society, universities, national human rights institutions, and other international, regional, and subregional human rights organizations. New methodologies and initiatives for following up on IACHR recommendations have been developed, along with new special mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of recommendations. All of that reflected institution-building within the IACHR thanks to results-based management and frequent dialogue and participatory consultations with users of the inter-American human rights system.

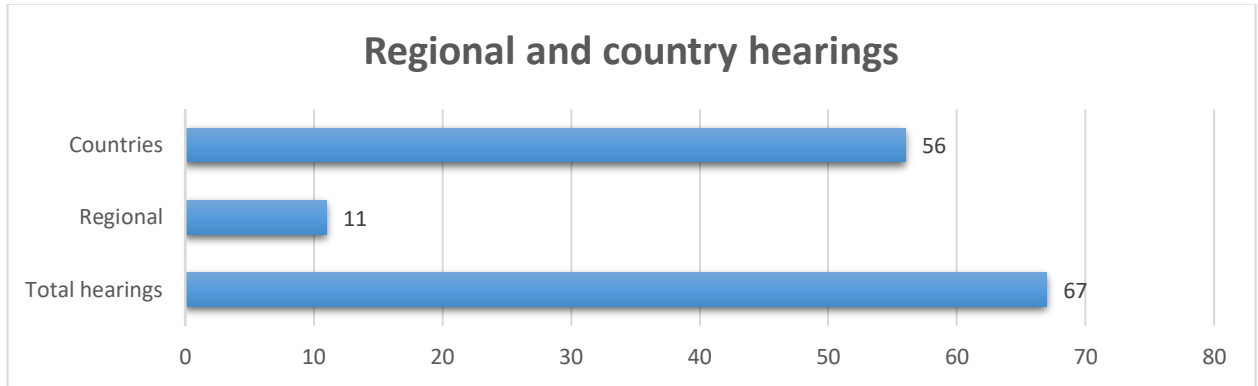
4. As regard 2021, the IACHR intends to continue implementing the Plan to achieve the targets and objectives proposed in each of the programs and strategic objectives, albeit with a special emphasis, above all, on reducing the procedural backlog; implementing fast-track mechanisms in crisis situations; reinforcing collaboration with the Caribbean and Central America; strengthening the new rapporteurships, technical assistance to States with implementing policies with a human rights perspective; bolstering the capacity of State actors and civil society to protect and defend the human rights of groups at greatest risk; and strengthening and redefining I.T. systems.

B. Periods of Sessions of the IACHR held in 2020

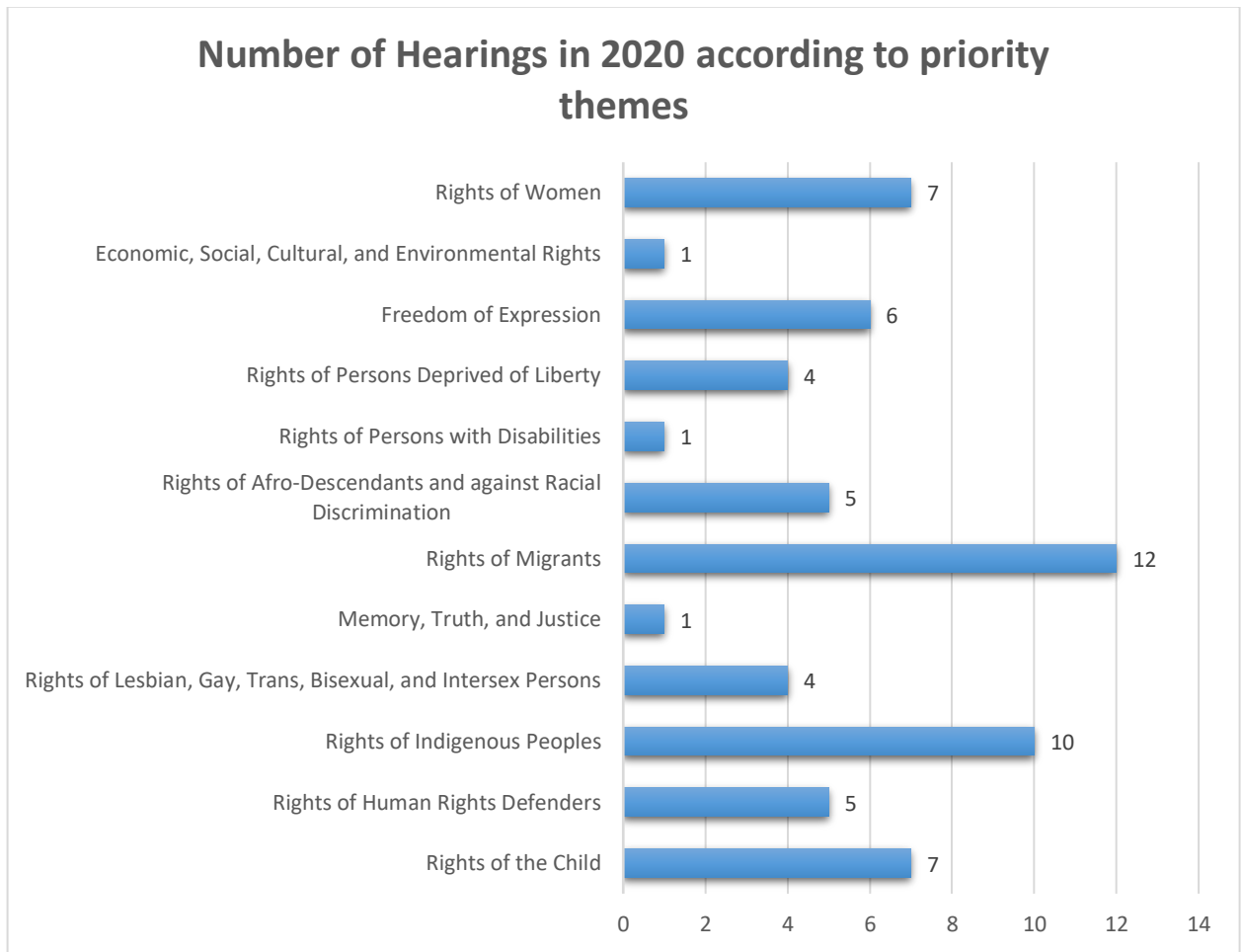
5. During 2020, the IACHR held four periods of sessions, one of which took place away from headquarters in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Holding sessions away from headquarters enables the IACHR to bring the mechanisms for defending, protecting, and promoting human rights closer to victims and peoples within its sphere of competence. It also expands the Commission's public presence in the region and fosters democratization of access to the inter-American human rights system. The remaining three periods of sessions were held virtually given the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. During those periods of sessions, the IACHR followed up and brought attention to a significant number of human rights situations through 46 hearings. The hearings dealt with issues related to the monitoring of regional and some subregional situations, and of 17 countries in particular: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, United States, and Venezuela. They also addressed new trends in human rights and follow up on recommendations issued by the IACHR.





7. The hearings covered 13 topics and 6 priority cross-cutting themes mentioned in the Strategic Plan. Worth underscoring, in this regard, is the trend toward greater intersectorality in the topics addressed in the hearings.



8. Additionally, over the four periods of sessions, a total of 99 work meetings were held on precautionary measures, cases and matters in friendly settlement procedures, follow-up on recommendations, proceedings before the Commission, and themes relating to 17 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States.

9. At the same time, numerous bilateral meetings were held with civil society organizations and States in the region to address different human rights issues of particular interest.

10. Details regarding each period of sessions and a summary of each hearing can be found at the links provided in the following Table:

Period of sessions	Dates	Location	Total number of hearings held	Number of working meetings held	Link to the Period of Sessions	Link to the Press Release	Link to hearings held
175th	March 2 to 8	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	19	28	Multimedia Section	Press release 056/20. Annex	Hearings
176th	July 7 to 15	Virtual	-	34		Press release 167/20.	
177th	September 25 to October 9	Virtual	27	29	Multimedia Section	Press release 253/20. Annex	Hearings
178th	December 3 to 15	Virtual	19	8	Multimedia Section	Press release 311/20. Annex	Hearings
TOTAL			65	99			

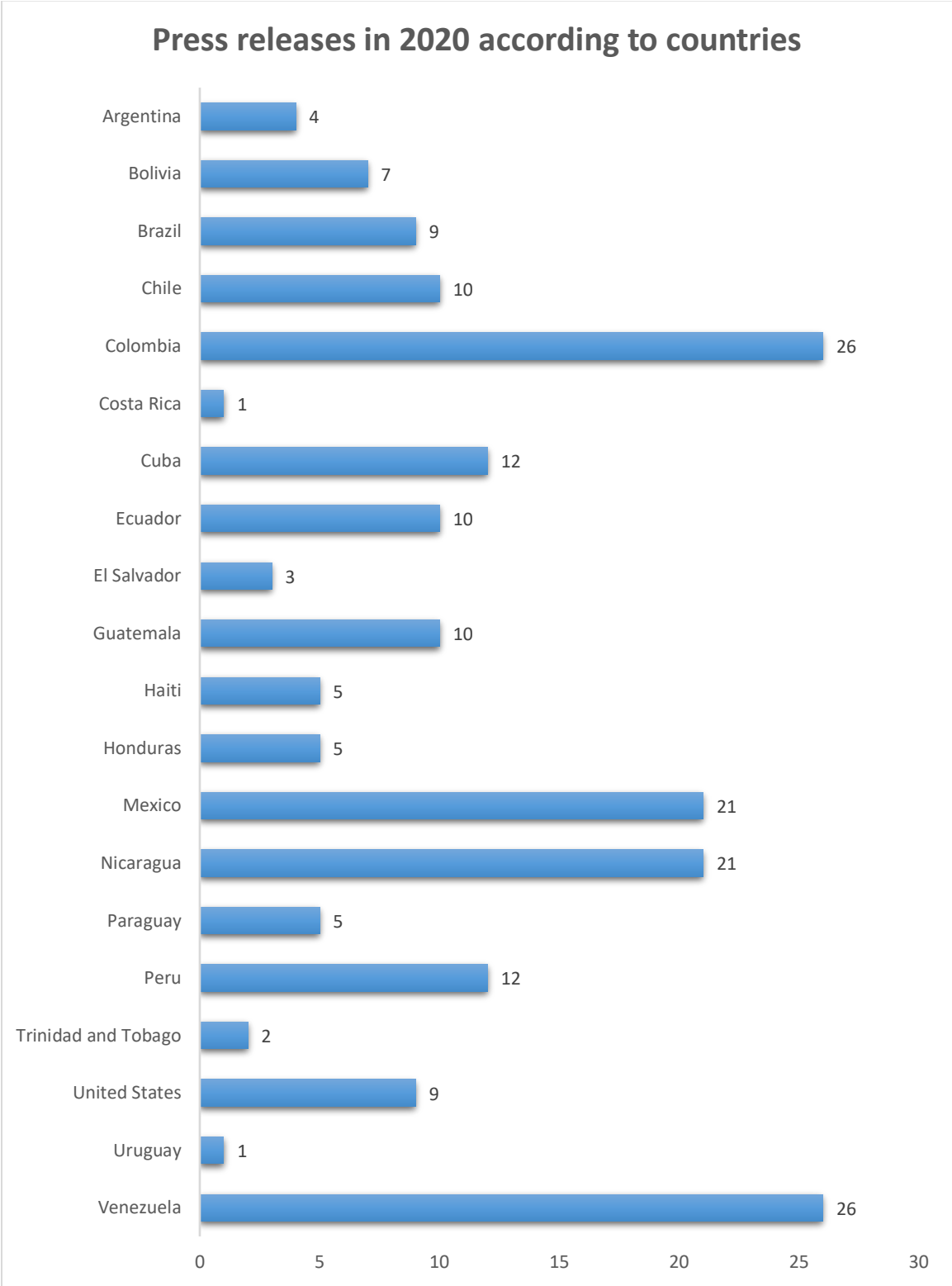
C. Resolutions Adopted

11. In 2020, the IACHR adopted four resolutions. [Resolution 1/2020 “Pandemic and Human Rights in the Americas”](#) was prepared with the support of the Special Rapporteurships on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights and for Freedom of Expression, and the Thematic Rapporteurships, and offers standards and recommendations with the conviction that measures adopted by the States to contain the pandemic must have full respect for human rights at their core. [Resolution 2/2020 “Strengthening of the Monitoring of Precautionary Measures in Force”](#) aims to guide efforts to monitor the implementation of precautionary measures granted, by assessing the actions adopted by States to protect the rights of beneficiaries that are at risk of being violated. [Resolution 3/2020 “Differentiated Actions to Address the Procedural Backlog in Friendly Settlement Agreement Procedures”](#) suggests streamlining and promoting friendly settlement procedures by establishing general guidelines and applicable principles for negotiations and the implementation of friendly settlement agreements. Lastly, [Resolution 4/21 “Human Rights of Persons with COVID-19”](#) sets forth the “Inter-American Guidelines regarding the Human Rights of Persons with COVID-19,” drawn up by the Rapid and Integrated Response Coordination Unit (SACROI COVID-19).

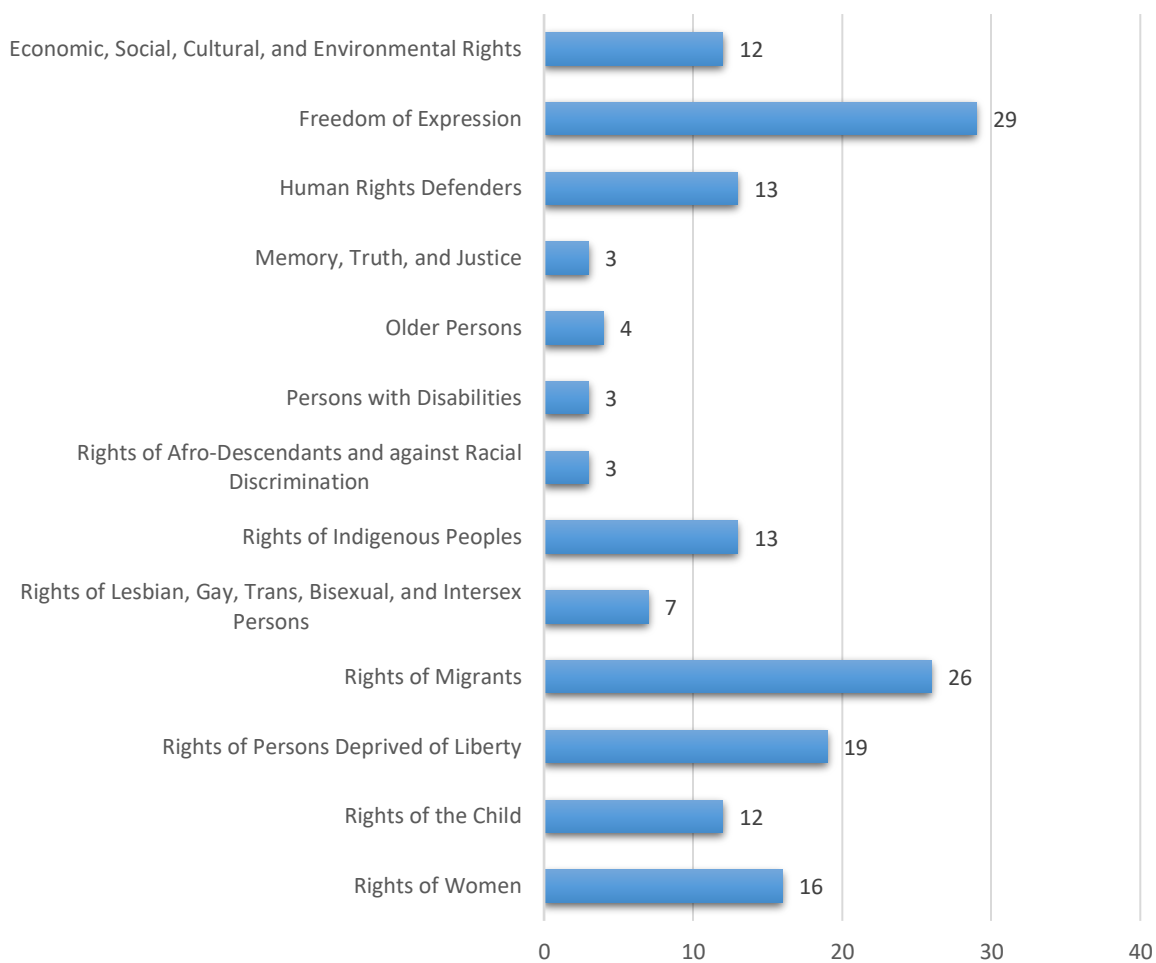
D. Press Releases Issued in 2020

12. During 2020, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) published 313 press releases. They dealt with priority topics in the region and contain pronouncements regarding worrisome human rights situations in the Americas as well as acknowledgments of best practices pursued in some States.

13. Through this mechanism, the Commission addressed the 13 priority issues and 6 cross-cutting themes identified in the Strategic Plan and pronounced on various aspects of the human rights situation in the region as a whole and, specifically, in 20 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. The press releases also addressed matters relating to technical cooperation and activities to promote human rights in the region. They also served to highlight major aspects and achievements in the way the IACHR goes about its work. It is worth mentioning that from the total of the press releases, 47 relate to human rights in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Press releases in 2020, according to priority topics



14. Through joint press releases, the IACHR also stepped up its collaboration with the United Nations human rights system and other regional human rights systems and subregional mechanisms. Thus, 10 press releases were issued jointly with other entities, such as the OAS Organization of American States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and independent experts from the UN among others.

15. Following is a list of all the press releases issued by the Commission in 2020.

No	Press Releases
1	1/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Jorge David Glas Espinel in Ecuador. Washington, D.C., January 4, 2020
2	2/20 - IACHR Calls on the State of El Salvador to Ensure the Rights of the Victims of the Internal Armed Conflict. Washington, D.C., January 10, 2020
3	3/20 - IACHR Extends Precautionary Measures in Favor of Víctor Ugas. Urges State of Venezuela to Comply with Precautionary Measures in Favor of Legislator Gilbert Caro. Washington, D.C., January 10, 2020
4	4/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Mary Elizabeth Carrasco Condarco and Juan Alipaz Aparicio in Bolivia. Washington, D.C., January 10, 2020
5	5/20 - IACHR Allocates Rapporteurships, Renews Executive Secretary's Mandate, and Launches Recruitment Procedure for Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression. Washington, D.C., January 10, 2020
6	6/20 - IACHR Expands Precautionary Measures in Favor of Ricardo Baltodano in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., January 13, 2020
7	7/20 - IACHR Releases Schedule of Activities for 2020. Washington, D.C., January 13, 2020
8	8/20 - IACHR Issues Observations Following Visit to Ecuador. Washington, D.C., January 14, 2020
9	9/20 - IACHR Conducts Working Visit to Costa Rica, Presents Report on the Forced Migration of Nicaraguans. Washington, D.C., January 14, 2020
10	R10/20 - IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur express deep concern over complaints of espionage of journalists, human rights defenders, judges, and political leaders in Colombia. Washington, D.C., January 16, 2020
11	11/20 - IACHR Supports Haiti in Current Political and Institutional Scenario. Washington, D.C., January 22, 2020
12	12/20 - IACHR Publishes Thematic Report on Violence and Discrimination Against Women and Girls in Latin America and the Caribbean. Washington, D.C., January 22, 2020

13	13/20 - IACHR announces integration of Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts for Bolivia. Washington, D.C., January 23, 2020
14	14/20 - REDESCA of the IACHR publishes Thematic Report on "Business and Human Rights: Inter-American Standards". Washington, D.C., January 27, 2020
15	15/20 - IACHR Grants Protection Measures in Favor of Elizabeth Velásquez, from Nicaragua&#8217;s Asociación Madres de Abril. Washington, D.C., January 27, 2020
16	16/20 - IACHR Holds Successful Third Meeting on Best Practice for National Human Rights Institutions. Washington, D.C., January 27, 2020
17	17/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Victims of La Saline in Haiti. Washington, D.C., January 29, 2020
18	18/20 - IACHR Issues Preliminary Observations and Recommendations Following On-Site Visit to Chile. Washington, D.C., January 31, 2020
19	19/20 - IACHR Releases Schedule and Call to Participate in the Public Hearings of the 175 Period of Sessions in Haiti. Washington, D.C., February 3, 2020
20	20/20 - IACHR regrets denied entry into Venezuela and announces that will meet with victims and organizations on the Colombian border. Washington, D.C., February 4, 2020
21	21/20 - IACHR Arrives at the Venezuelan &#8211;Colombian Border to Meet with Victims of Human Rights Violations in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., February 5, 2020
22	R22/20 - Brazil: UN and IACHR experts express concern over the complaint against journalist Glenn Greenwald. Washington, D.C., February 6, 2020
23	23/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Detainees at "Ramo Verde" in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., February 6, 2020
24	24/20 - IACHR Issues Protection Measures in Favor of Woman and Her Family&#8212;Victims of Violence Perpetrated by Her Ex-Partner&#8212;in Colombia. Washington, D.C., February 6, 2020
25	25/20 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Repeated Attacks on Sites of Memory in Chile. Washington, D.C., February 6, 2020

26	26/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Alfonso Alejandro Díaz and Alberto Alejandro Díaz in Mexico. Washington, D.C., February 6, 2020
27	27/20 - IACHR Urges El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico to Guarantee the Rights of Migrants and Refugees Traveling Through the Region. Washington, D.C., February 7, 2020
28	28/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Residents of Areas Bordering the Santiago River in Mexico. Washington, D.C., February 7, 2020
29	29/20 - IACHR Decides to Expand Precautionary Measures in Favor of Certain Media Workers and Journalists at Confidencial and La Costeñísima in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., February 7, 2020
30	30/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Women Human Rights Defenders in Cuba. Washington, D.C., February 7, 2020
31	31/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Relatives of Journalist Roberto Deniz de Armando in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., February 7, 2020
32	32/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of People at the Cabimas Pretrial Detention Center ("Retén de Cabimas") in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., February 7, 2020
33	33/20 - IACHR Reports on Outcomes of Its Work in 2019 and Presents Progress Report for the Third Year of the Strategic Plan 2017-2021. Washington, D.C., February 10, 2020
34	34/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of People Who are Deprived of Their Freedom at the Jorge Santana Public Penitentiary in Brazil. Washington, D.C., February 10, 2020
35	35/20 - IACHR Welcomes Signing of Friendly Settlement Agreement on Petition 1275-04 Regarding Juan Luis Rivera Matus in Chile. Washington, D.C., February 11, 2020
36	36/20 - IACHR Brings Peru Case before the IA Court. Washington, D.C., February 13, 2020
37	37/20 - IACHR Brings Chile Case before the IA Court. Washington, D.C., February 13, 2020
38	38/20 - IACHR Brings Chile Case before the IA Court.

	Washington, D.C., February 14, 2020
39	39/20 - IACHR Brings Ecuador Case before the IA Court. Washington, D.C., February 14, 2020
40	40/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Fernando González Vaillant, José Pupo Chaveco, and Roilan Zárraga Ferrer in Cuba. Washington, D.C., February 14, 2020
41	R41/20 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns murder of journalist Leo Veras in Paraguay and calls for decisive action to prevent and investigate crimes against journalists at the border. Washington, D.C., February 17, 2020
42	42/20 - IACHR Brings Mexico Case before the IA Court. Washington, D.C., February 18, 2020
43	43/20 - IACHR Brings Paraguay Case before the IA Court. Washington, D.C., February 18, 2020
44	44/20 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 1/20 on Case 13,776, Germán Eduardo Giraldo and Family, Colombia. Washington, D.C., February 18, 2020
45	R45/20 - IACHR and its Special Rapporteurships present the "Guidelines on the activities and functions provided in the mandates of the Special Rapporteurships of the IACHR". Washington, D.C., February 18, 2020
46	46/20 - IACHR Brings Argentina Case before the IA Court. Washington, D.C., February 19, 2020
47	47/20 - IACHR Renews Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Washington, D.C., February 19, 2020
48	48/20 - IACHR Brings Ecuador Case before the IA Court. Washington, D.C., February 24, 2020
49	49/20 - IACHR is Accepting Requests for Hearings for its 176th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., February 25, 2020
50	50/20 - IACHR Announces That It Will Still Be Holding Its 175th Period of Sessions in Haiti. Washington, D.C., February 26, 2020
51	51/20 - On International Women's Day, the IACHR calls on states to adopt comprehensive protection measures against gender-based violence based on an intersectional approach. Washington, D.C., March 6, 2020
52	R52/20 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns the murder of journalist Bryan Guerra and calls on the State of Guatemala to expedite the creation of a protection mechanism for journalists.

	Washington, D.C., March 11, 2020
53	53/20 - IACHR Announces Publication of Report No. 3/20 on Case 12.095, Mariela Barreto Riofano, Concerning Peru. Washington, D.C., March 12, 2020
54	54/20 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 2/20 on Case 12,915—Ángel Díaz Cruz and Others, Mexico. Washington, D.C., March 12, 2020
55	55/20 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression condemns increased criminalization and harassment of journalists, activists, and artists who exercise freedom of expression in Cuba. Washington, D.C., March 17, 2020
56	56/20 - IACHR ends its 175th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., March 18, 2020
57	57/20 - One Year After the Murder of Sergio Rojas, the IACHR Expresses Concern Over the Threats, Harassment, and Violence Experienced by Indigenous Leaders and Human Rights Defenders in Costa Rica. Washington, D.C., March 18, 2020
58	R58/20 - COVID-19: Governments must promote and protect access to and free flow of information during pandemic – International experts. Washington, D.C., March 19, 2020
59	59/20 - IACHR Announces Work System during COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., March 19, 2020
60	60/20 - IACHR and OSRESCER Urge States to Guarantee Comprehensive Protection for Human Rights and Public Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., March 20, 2020
61	61/20 - IACHR Urges the State of Nicaragua to Cease Violations of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Communities. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2020
62	62/20 - IACHR Condemns Murder of Social Leaders and Reiterates Its Concern Over the Human Rights Situation in Colombia. Washington, D.C., March 26, 2020
63	63/20 - IACHR Implements Rapid and Integrated Response Coordination Unit for COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis Management. Washington, D.C., March 27, 2020
64	64/20 - IACHR and its SRESCER Deeply Concerned about the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Venezuela, Call for Safeguards for the Rights of Venezuelans around the Americas. Washington, D.C., March 29, 2020

65	65/20 - IACHR Issues Digest of Admissibility Decisions. Washington, D.C., March 30, 2020
66	66/20 - The IACHR urges States to guarantee the health and integrity of persons deprived of liberty and their families in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington, D.C., March 31, 2020
67	R67/20 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns murder of journalist María Elena Ferral in Veracruz and expresses concern over persistence of violence against communicators in Mexico. Washington, D.C., April 3, 2020
68	68/20 - IACHR Presents Its Annual Report for 2019. Washington, D.C., April 6, 2020
69	R69/20 - Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR presents its 2019 Annual Report. Washington, D.C., April 7, 2020
70	70/20 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Alonso José Mora Alfonso at "Ramo Verde" in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., April 8, 2020
71	71/20 - The IACHR Calls on States to Provide Comprehensive Protection for the Lives of People with Disabilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., April 8, 2020
72	72/20 - IACHR and OSRESCER Express Serious Concern About the Human Rights Situation During the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., April 8, 2020
73	73/20 - IACHR adopts Resolution on Pandemic and Human Rights in the Americas. Washington, D.C., April 10, 2020
74	74/20 - The IACHR calls on Member States to adopt a gender perspective in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to combat sexual and domestic violence in this context. Washington, D.C., April 11, 2020
75	75/20 - IACHR Announces Special Group to Strengthen the Monitoring of Precautionary Measures in force. Washington, D.C., April 16, 2020
76	76/20 - IACHR Calls on the OAS States to Ensure That the Emergency Measures They Adopt to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic Are Compatible with Their International Obligations. Washington, D.C., April 17, 2020
77	77/20 - The IACHR urges States to protect the human rights of migrants, refugees and displaced persons in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Washington, D.C., April 17, 2020
78	R78/20 - IACHR and its SR FOE express concern about restrictions on freedom of expression and access to information in States' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington, D.C., April 18, 2020
79	79/20 - IACHR Launches Multimedia Site Containing Human Rights Standards, Recommendations, and Monitoring Information Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., April 18, 2020
80	80/20 - Two Years into Nicaragua's Human Rights Crisis, the IACHR Stresses its Permanent Commitment to Victims and Confirms the Consolidation of a Fifth Phase of Repression. Washington, D.C., April 18, 2020
81	81/20 - The IACHR calls on States to guarantee the rights of LGBTI people in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington, D.C., April 20, 2020
82	82/20 - IACHR Congratulates the State of Mexico on Its Full Compliance with the Friendly Settlement Agreement Signed Regarding Case 12.642, José Iván Correa Arévalo. Washington, D.C., April 20, 2020
83	83/20 - IACHR Extends Suspension of Deadlines for Petition, Case, and Friendly Settlement System by One Month in Response to COVID-19 Health Emergency. Washington, D.C., April 21, 2020
84	84/20 - IACHR Adopts Resolution to Strengthen and Expand Friendly Settlement Procedure. Washington, D.C., April 21, 2020
85	85/20 - IACHR Congratulates the State of Mexico on Its Full Compliance with the Friendly Settlement Agreement Signed Regarding Case 12.813, Blanca Olivia Contreras Vital and One Other. Washington, D.C., April 22, 2020
86	86/20 - IACHR Welcomes Progress Made in 2019 Toward Compliance with Friendly Settlement Agreements. Washington, D.C., April 22, 2020
87	87/20 - IACHR Concerned About Chilean Bill to Authorize House Arrest for Some Individuals Convicted of Serious Human Rights Violations Committed During the Dictatorship. Washington, D.C., April 22, 2020
88	88/20 - IACHR Urges States to Guarantee the Rights of Older People during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., April 23, 2020
89	89/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measure in Favor of Narly Gómez Jiménez and Her Daughter in Colombia, Noting that Both Face Serious, Urgent Risks. Washington, D.C., April 23, 2020

90	90/20 - IACHR Warns of the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children and Adolescents. Washington, D.C., April 27, 2020
91	91/20 - IACHR Unveils Tentative Launch Date for Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts to Support Investigations into Violence and Human Rights Violations in Bolivia. Along with Plans to Strengthen that Mechanism. Washington, D.C., April 28, 2020
92	92/20 - IACHR and its Special Rapporteurship on ESCER calls on the States to guarantee the rights of Afro-descendant Persons and prevent racial discrimination in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington, D.C., April 28, 2020
93	93/20 - IACHR Calls on El Salvador to Protect the Rights of Individuals Who are Deprived of Liberty. Washington, D.C., April 29, 2020
94	R94/20 - Joint declaration on freedom of expression and elections in the digital age. Washington, D.C., April 30, 2020
95	95/20 - IACHR Hails Progress Made During 2019 by States in the Americas to Implement the Recommendations Held in Published Merits Reports. Washington, D.C., April 30, 2020
96	96/20 - IACHR Unveils Shortlist for the Position of Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. Washington, D.C., April 30, 2020
97	97/20 - IACHR Calls on States to Respect Families' Right to Mourn their Dead During COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., May 1, 2020
98	98/20 - IACHR Announces 176th Period of Sessions in Online Format and Is Receiving Applications for Working Meetings. Washington, D.C., May 1, 2020
99	99/20 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 21/20 on Case 13.728—Amira Guzmán and Family. Colombia. Washington, D.C., May 4, 2020
100	100/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Juan Antonio Planchart Márquez. Held by the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., May 4, 2020
101	101/20 - IACHR Calls on States to Protect and Preserve the Work of Human Rights Defenders During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., May 5, 2020
102	102/20 - IACHR Congratulates State of Peru for Attaining Full Compliance with Friendly Settlement Agreement Signed in Case 12.078—Ricardo Semoza Di Carlo. Washington, D.C., May 5, 2020

103	103/20 - IACHR Warns of the Specific Vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Calls on States to Adopt Targeted, Culturally Appropriate Measures that Respect These Peoples' Land. Washington, D.C., May 6, 2020
104	104/20 - IACHR and Mexican State Sign Agreement to Reinstate the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI) for the Ayotzinapa Case. Washington, D.C., May 7, 2020
105	105/20 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 20/20, on Case 12,961 F—Miguel Ángel Chinchilla Erazo and Others, Honduras. Washington, D.C., May 8, 2020
106	106/20 - IACHR Presents Preliminary Observations and Recommendations Following Historic On-Site Visit to Monitor the Human Rights Situation in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., May 8, 2020
107	107/20 - IACHR Condemns Violence in Peruvian Prisons. Washington, D.C., May 8, 2020
108	108/20 - IACHR Decides to Extend Precautionary Measures in Favor of Human Rights Lawyer and Family of Beneficiary Ruth Matute in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., May 13, 2020
109	109/20 - IACHR Grants Protection Measures in Favor of Adolescent Victim of Rape and her Family in Colombia, Amid Violence Against Them. Washington, D.C., May 13, 2020
110	110/20 - On the eve of the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, the IACHR and various international experts call attention to the suffering and resilience of LGBT people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington, D.C., May 14, 2020
111	111/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of the Lof Buenuleo Mapuche Community in Argentina, Which It Deems to Be at Serious, Urgent Risk. Washington, D.C., May 14, 2020
112	112/20 - IACHR Calls on States to Protect the Rights of Venezuelans Who Return to their Country During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., May 16, 2020
113	113/20 - Two Years After Visit to Nicaragua, IACHR Condemns Lack of Compliance with its Recommendations and Calls on the State to Urgently Implement Them. Washington, D.C., May 16, 2020
114	114/20 - IACHR presents balance, impacts and results achieved by its Coordination and Timely Integrated Crisis Response Room for the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., May 16, 2020

115	115/20 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 23/20 on Petition 1275-04 A—Juan Luis Rivera Matus, Chile. Washington, D.C., May 18, 2020
116	116/20 - IACHR Stresses Call for Thorough Investigation into the Deaths of 47 Inmates on May 1 at the “Cepello” Penitentiary in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., May 18, 2020
117	117/20 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 22/20 on Case 12,909—Gerardo Bedoya Borrero, Colombia. Washington, D.C., May 19, 2020
118	118/20 - IACHR and its Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression Urge the State of Colombia to Conduct a Diligent, Timely, and Independent Investigation into Allegations of Illegal Surveillance Against Journalists, Justice Operators, Human Rights Defenders, and Political Leaders. Washington, D.C., May 21, 2020
119	119/20 - IACHR, OSFRE, and OSRESCER Express Serious Concern Over Violations of the Right to Information in Nicaragua and the Impact of These on Access to Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., May 27, 2020
120	120/20 - IACHR Warns About Health Crisis in Cantagallo Urban Indigenous Community, in Peru. Washington, D.C., May 27, 2020
121	121/20 - IACHR refers case on Haiti to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., May 27, 2020
122	122/20 - IACHR refers case on Uruguay to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., May 28, 2020
123	123/20 - IACHR Pays Tribute to the Memory of the Victims of the Mothers of April Demonstration and their Families in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., June 1, 2020
124	124/20 - IACHR and OSRESCER Urge States to Provide Effective Protection for People Living in Poverty and Extreme Poverty in the Americas during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., June 2, 2020
125	126/20 - Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Are “At Serious Risk” from COVID-19, Warn UN Human Rights and IACHR. Washington, D.C., June 4, 2020
126	127/20 - IACHR Publishes Country Report on Human Rights Situation in Cuba and Expresses Concern over Dissidents and Human Rights Defenders. Washington, D.C., June 4, 2020
127	R128/20 - United States: UN and OAS experts condemn use of force against journalists covering protests in the US.

	Washington, D.C., June 8, 2020
128	129/20 - The IACHR expresses strong condemnation for George Floyd's murder, repudiates structural racism, systemic violence against Afro-Americans, impunity and the disproportionate use of police force, and urges measures to guarantee equality and non-discrimination in the United States. Washington, D.C., June 8, 2020
129	130/20 - IACHR Calls for Guarantees for Democracy and the Rule of Law during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., June 9, 2020
130	131/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Leonardo David Chirinos, Concerning Venezuela. Washington, D.C., June 9, 2020
131	132/20 - IACHR Launches Inter-American SIMORE to Monitor Its Recommendations. Washington, D.C., June 10, 2020
132	133/20 - To Mark the Day of Children and Adolescents of the Americas, IACHR Calls Once More on States to Reduce the Inequalities That Affect Children and Adolescents in the Region. Washington, D.C., June 10, 2020
133	134/20 - IACHR Announces Publication of Report No. 85/20 on Case 12.374, Jorge Enrique Patiño Palacios, Concerning Paraguay. Washington, D.C., June 11, 2020
134	135/20 - IACHR Announces Publication of Report No. 84/20 on Petition 595-09, Jorge Alberto Montes Gallego and Family, Concerning Colombia. Washington, D.C., June 12, 2020
135	136/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Eduardo Rodríguez Torres, Concerning Venezuela. Washington, D.C., June 15, 2020
136	137/20 - On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, IACHR Announces Launch of New Section of its Website for the Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of Older People. Washington, D.C., June 15, 2020
137	138/20 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 86/20 on Case 12,732—Richard Conrad Solórzano Contreras, Guatemala. Washington, D.C., June 16, 2020
138	139/20 - IACHR Announces the publication of Friendly Settlement Reports Nos. 81/20, 82/20, and 83/20 on cases 11.626 A, B, and C, Fredy Oreste Cañola Valencia, Luis Enrique Cañola Valencia, and Santo Enrique Cañola Gonzales, Concerning Ecuador. Washington, D.C., June 17, 2020
139	140/20 - IACHR Announces Calendar of Working Meetings for 176th Period of Sessions and Issues Invitations to Meetings with States and Civil Society. Washington, D.C., June 18, 2020

140	141/20 - IACHR Announces the Publication of Report No. 80/20 on Case 13.370, Luis Horacio Patiño and Family, Concerning Colombia. Washington, D.C., June 19, 2020
141	142/20 - On the occasion of World Refugee Day, the IACHR observes serious challenges in the comprehensive protection of the rights of refugees and urges States to adopt effective and urgent measures in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington, D.C., June 20, 2020
142	143/20 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 29/20, Case 12.865—Djamel Ameziane, Concerning the United States. Washington, D.C., June 22, 2020
143	144/20 - IACHR Expands Precautionary Measures in Favor of Eight People Who are Deprived of Their Freedom in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., June 23, 2020
144	145/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of NOTIMATV Journalists in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., June 23, 2020
145	146/20 - Two Years After the Creation of MESENI, IACHR Recalls Nicaragua’s Pending Human Rights Obligations. Washington, D.C., June 23, 2020
146	147/20 - IACHR Announces the Publication of Report No. 111/20 on Case 12.674, Marcio Lapoente Da Silveira, Concerning Brazil. Washington, D.C., June 25, 2020
147	148/20 - On the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, IACHR Calls on States to Guarantee the Work of Mechanisms to Prevent and Combat Torture. Washington, D.C., June 26, 2020
148	149/20 - IACHR Condemns Resumed Use of the Death Penalty at the Federal Level in the United States after a 17-Year Lapse. Washington, D.C., June 26, 2020
149	150/20 - IACHR Announces the Publication of Report No. 110/20 on Petition 735-07, Ismael Mondragón, Concerning Mexico. Washington, D.C., June 26, 2020
150	151/20 - IACHR Rejects a Set of Recent Decisions by the Supreme Court of Justice of Venezuela That Threaten Democratic Institutions and Fundamental Freedoms. Washington, D.C., June 27, 2020
151	R152/20 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression expresses concern over criminal investigation initiated in Chile against members of Las Tesis. Washington, D.C., June 29, 2020

152	153/20 - IACHR Condemns the Kidnapping and Gang Rape of a 12-Year-Old Indigenous Girl in Colombia and the Lack of an Adequate Investigation into This Crime. Washington, D.C., June 29, 2020
153	154/20 - IACHR Announces 177th Period of Sessions in Online Format and Is Receiving Applications for public hearings. Washington, D.C., June 30, 2020
154	155/20 - On the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Pride Celebrations, the IACHR Welcomes Progress Regarding the Rights of LGBTI People in the Americas. Washington, D.C., June 30, 2020
155	156/20 - IACHR expresses concern for impeachment proceedings against four judges of the Guatemalan Constitutional Court. Washington, D.C., June 30, 2020
156	157/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of José Javier Tarazona Sánchez and His Family in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., July 1, 2020
157	158/20 - IACHR Welcomes Progress on Investigations into the Ayotzinapa Case. Washington, D.C., July 3, 2020
158	159/20 - IACHR Expresses Concern over the Rights of Young Venezuelans and Calls for Comprehensive Protection Measures to Be Adopted for This Population. Washington, D.C., July 3, 2020
159	160/20 - IACHR Presents Report on the State and Results of Efforts to Implement its Strategic Plan 2017–2021 During the First Half of 2020. Washington, D.C., July 7, 2020
160	R161/20 - Relatoría Especial condena doble asesinato de comunicadores Germán Vallecillo y Jorge Posas en Honduras: urge continuar la investigación en línea con la actividad periodística (available only in Spanish). Washington, D.C., July 9, 2020
161	162/20 - IACHR refers case on Ecuador to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., July 10, 2020
162	163/20 - IACHR refers case on Ecuador to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., July 10, 2020
163	164/20 - IACHR Unveils Shortlist for Interviewing for the Position of Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. Washington, D.C., July 13, 2020
164	165/20 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Ongoing Acts of Harassment and Stigmatization of Human Rights Defenders in Venezuela.

	Washington, D.C., July 15, 2020
165	166/20 - IACHR Vehemently Condemns Rape of Indigenous Girls and Adolescents and Calls on Colombia to Investigate Events with Due Diligence. Washington, D.C., July 17, 2020
166	167/20 - IACHR Concludes 176th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., July 18, 2020
167	168/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Members of the Yanomami and Ye'kwana Indigenous Peoples. Washington, D.C., July 20, 2020
168	169/20 - IACHR Welcomes Advance of Bill to Declare a National Day of Afro-Peruvian Women, Stresses the Importance of Further Bill Against Racism in Peru. Washington, D.C., July 20, 2020
169	170/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Maury Carolina Carrero Mendoza in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., July 21, 2020
170	171/20 - IACHR Issues Protection Measures in Favor of "Ángel," a Victim of Police Violence in Mexico. Washington, D.C., July 21, 2020
171	172/20 - The IACHR Updates the Goals of Its Specialized Academic Network, Continues to Work on Impact Observatory. Washington, D.C., July 22, 2020
172	173/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Silverio Portal Contreras in Cuba. Washington, D.C., July 22, 2020
173	174/20 - IACHR Concerned about Murders of Human Rights Defenders and Social Leaders During First Half of 2020 in Colombia. Washington, D.C., July 23, 2020
174	175/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Keilylli de la Mora Valle in Cuba. Washington, D.C., July 24, 2020
175	176/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Yirley Judith Velasco Garrido and her Family in Colombia. Washington, D.C., July 24, 2020
176	177/20 - Ahead of the International Day of Afro-Latin, Afro-Caribbean, and Diaspora Women, the IACHR Calls on States to Adopt Specific Measures to End the Multiple Discrimination Faced by Afro-Descendant Women in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., July 24, 2020
177	178/20 - IACHR Reminds Mexico of Its International Human Rights Commitments Concerning Citizen Security.

	Washington, D.C., July 25, 2020
178	179/20 - IACHR Concerned About Restrictions of the Rights of Migrants and >> Refugees in the United States During COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., July 25, 2020
179	180/20 - IACHR Adopts Resolution 4/20 Establishing Inter-American Guidelines on Human Rights of People with COVID-19. Washington, D.C., July 27, 2020
180	181/20 - ACHR Welcomes Senate's Approval of the Land Expropriation Bill in the First Instance as Part of the Friendly Settlement Process in the Case of the Y'akâ Marangatú Indigenous Community of Paraguay. Washington, D.C., July 29, 2020
181	182/20 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of migrants detained at Northwest Detention Center in the United States. Washington, D.C., July 29, 2020
182	183/20 - On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the IACHR Urges States to Identify and Protect Victims of Human Trafficking, Particularly Women and Girls. Washington, D.C., July 29, 2020
183	184/20 - IACHR Launches Questionnaire About Guidelines and Recommendations to Mitigate and/or Eliminate Risks for Human Rights Defenders. Washington, D.C., July 30, 2020
184	185/20 - IACHR Asks Colombia to Step Up its Efforts to Comprehensively Implement the Final Peace Agreement. Washington, D.C., July 31, 2020
185	186/20 - The IACHR Urges the State of Nicaragua to Protect the Rights of Nicaraguans Who Return to the Country in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., July 31, 2020
186	187/20 - IACHR condemns violent police actions in Brazil and urges it to adopt measures to combat social and racial discrimination. Washington, D.C., August 2, 2020
187	188/20 - IACHR Issues Precautionary Measures in Favor of Facundo José Astudillo Castro, Who Is Missing in Argentina. Washington, D.C., August 3, 2020
188	189/20 - IACHR Welcomes Signing of Friendly Settlement Agreement in Case 13.642-Edgar José Sánchez Duarte, Colombia. Washington, D.C., August 3, 2020
189	190/20 - IACHR Brings Peru Case before the IA Court.

	Washington, D.C., August 4, 2020
190	191/20 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 197/20 on Case 13,011—Graciela Ramos Rocha and Family, Argentina. Washington, D.C., August 6, 2020
191	192/20 - The IACHR Calls on the State of Bolivia to Step Up Efforts to Establish a National Dialogue and to Prevent the Escalation of Violence in the Context of Recent Demonstrations. Washington, D.C., August 7, 2020
192	193/20 - IACHR Extends Protection Measures in Favor of Katherine Martínez, Head of Prepara Familia, in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., August 7, 2020
193	194/20 - IACHR Brings Guatemala Case before the IA Court. Washington, D.C., August 7, 2020
194	195/20 - IACHR Expresses Concern over the Situation of People Deprived of Their Freedom in Brazil during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., August 8, 2020
195	196/20 - IACHR calls on the United States to implement structural reforms in the institutional systems of security and justice to counter historical racial discrimination and institutional racism. Washington, D.C., August 8, 2020
196	197/20 - IACHR Expresses Concern over the State of Health of Mapuche Prisoners on Hunger Strike in Chile, Calls for Greater, More Timely Dialogue to Address Their Demands, and Condemns All Forms of Violence in Araucania. Washington, D.C., August 12, 2020
197	198/20 - The Americas: Governments should strengthen, not weaken, environmental protection during COVID-19 pandemic. Washington, D.C., August 13, 2020
198	199/20 - IACHR Urges Threats to the Independence of Constitutional Court Judges in Guatemala to Cease. Washington, D.C., August 14, 2020
199	200/20 - IACHR Urges States of Pan-Amazon Region and Gran Chaco to Adopt Urgent Measures to Address Critical Predicament of Indigenous Peoples Resulting from COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., August 17, 2020
200	201/20 - IACHR Reports Implementation of Resolution 2/2020 on Strengthening of the Monitoring of Precautionary Measures in Force. Washington, D.C., August 17, 2020
201	202/20 - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights repudiates a severe attack against its autonomy and independence, as a principal organ of the Organization of American States. Washington, D.C., August 25, 2020

202	203/20 - IACHR Urges the United States to Stay the Execution of Lezmond Mitchell. Washington, D.C., August 25, 2020
203	204/20 - IACHR Welcomes Signing of Friendly Settlement Agreement Regarding Case No. 12.908, Jorge Adolfo Freytter, Concerning Colombia. Washington, D.C., August 28, 2020
204	205/20 - The IACHR calls for a respectful and truthful institutional dialogue between the Main Organs of the OAS. Washington, D.C., August 30, 2020
205	R206/20 - States of the Region must Accelerate Universal Internet Access Policies during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Adopt Differentiated Measures to Incorporate Groups in Vulnerable Situations. Washington, D.C., August 31, 2020
206	207/20 - IACHR adopts precautionary measures in favor of members of the Quilombo Rio dos Macacos Community in Brazil. Washington, D.C., August 31, 2020
207	208/20 - On the International Day of the Disappeared, the IACHR Urges States to Step Up Their Efforts to Search for Missing Victims. Washington, D.C., September 1, 2020
208	209/20 - IACHR Calls for Participation in Ex Officio Hearing Concerning Bolivia. Washington, D.C., September 1, 2020
209	210/20 - IACHR Announces 178th Period of Sessions in Online Format and Is Receiving Applications for public hearings. Washington, D.C., September 1, 2020
210	211/20 - IACHR refers case on Guatemala to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., September 8, 2020
211	212/20 - IACHR concerned about specific risks faced by Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas during the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington, D.C., September 9, 2020
212	213/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Two Detainees and One Person Whose Whereabouts Are Officially Unknown Following Arrest in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., September 9, 2020
213	214/20 - IACHR Extends Precautionary Measures in Favor of Two Mothers and One Sister from Nicaragua's Asociación Madres de Abril. Washington, D.C., September 9, 2020
214	215/20 - The IACHR Condemns Murders and Attacks Against Defenders in Guatemala.

	Washington, D.C., September 11, 2020
215	216/20 - IACHR calls on the States of the region to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, promote cultural change and adopt comprehensive reparation measures for people of Afro-descendant. Washington, D.C., September 12, 2020
216	217/20 - The IACHR Urges States to Ensure Adequate Services to Preserve the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women and Girls During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., September 14, 2020
217	218/20 - IACHR Chooses Pedro José Vaca Villarreal As Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. Washington, D.C., September 15, 2020
218	219/20 - IACHR Condemns Excessive Use of Police Force, Expresses Concern about Violence During Public Demonstrations in Colombia. Washington, D.C., September 16, 2020
219	220/20 - IACHR Announces Calendar of Public Hearings for 177th Period of Sessions and Issues Invitations to Meetings with States and Civil Society. Washington, D.C., September 16, 2020
220	221/20 - OHCHR and IACHR Concerned about the Situation of Persons Who Are Deprived of Liberty in Honduras. Washington, D.C., September 16, 2020
221	222/20 - New Report IACHR: 60 Years Promoting and Protecting Human Rights, in Photos (1959–2019). Washington, D.C., September 16, 2020
222	223/20 - IACHR Calls on Countries to Combat Corruption and Guarantee Human Rights Through Public-Sector Transparency and Accountability During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., September 16, 2020
223	224/20 - IACHR Announces Decision to Open Selection Process for the Executive Secretary Position and Thanks Secretary Paulo Abrão's Administration. Washington, D.C., September 17, 2020
224	R225/20 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns the murder of journalist Julio Valdivia in Mexico and reiterates concern on the persistence of attacks against the life and integrity of communicators. Washington, D.C., September 21, 2020
225	226/20 - On International Bisexual Visibility Day, the IACHR calls on States to guarantee the right to mental health of bisexual persons. Washington, D.C., September 23, 2020
226	227/20 - IACHR Announces the publication of Friendly Settlement Reports Nos. 214/20 and 215/20 on the Cases of Silvia Maria Azurdia Utrera and Carlos Humberto Cabrera Rivera, concerning Guatemala. Washington, D.C., September 23, 2020

227	228/20 - IACHR Condemns Acts of Violence during the Eviction and Arrest of Protesters at the Office of the Human Rights Commission of the State of México. Washington, D.C., September 23, 2020
228	229/20 - IACHR Condemns Execution of Lezmond Mitchell, Only Native American on Federal Death Row in the United States. Washington, D.C., September 24, 2020
229	230/20 - IACHR Announces the Publication of Report No. 212/20 on Case 12.981, Adán Guillermo López Lone and Others, Concerning Honduras. Washington, D.C., September 24, 2020
230	231/20 - IACHR Calls on States in the Americas to Implement Democratic, Participatory Citizen Security Policies That Center on Protecting the Individual. Washington, D.C., September 25, 2020
231	232/20 - IACHR Brings Guatemala Case before the IA Court. Washington, D.C., September 25, 2020
232	233/20 - IACHR Opens Selection Process for the Executive Secretary Position. Washington, D.C., September 25, 2020
233	234/20 - Six Years On, the IACHR Acknowledges Progress in the Investigation and the Search for 43 Missing Students from Ayotzinapa and Stresses Its Commitment to the Students' Families. Washington, D.C., September 26, 2020
234	R235/20 - En el Día Internacional del Acceso Universal a la Información, la Relatoría Especial para la Libertad de Expresión publica nuevo informe temático "Derecho a la Información y Seguridad Nacional" (available only in Spanish). Washington, D.C., September 28, 2020
235	236/20 - IACHR Publishes Report No. 213/20 on Case 13.319—William Fernández Becerra and Family, Colombia. Washington, D.C., September 28, 2020
236	237/20 - IACHR Publishes Report 216/20 on Case 11.824—Sabino Díaz Osorio and Rodrigo Gómez Zamorano, Mexico. Washington, D.C., September 29, 2020
237	238/20 - On the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the IACHR urges States to redouble efforts to reduce the phenomenon and protect all stateless persons in the region. Washington, D.C., September 30, 2020
238	239/20 - IACHR refers case on Honduras to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., September 30, 2020

239	240/20 - On the International Day for Older Persons, the IACHR Calls for Safeguards of the Rights of Older Persons and for the Eradication of Violence and Discrimination Against Older Women. Washington, D.C., October 1, 2020
240	241/20 - IACHR refers case on Honduras to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., October 1, 2020
241	R242/20 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns the murder of journalist Luis Alonso Almendares in Honduras and urges to investigate the relation to his journalistic work. Washington, D.C., October 2, 2020
242	243/20 - States in the Americas Must Take Urgent Action to Effectively Protect Mental Health and Ensure Universal Access to It in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., October 2, 2020
243	244/20 - IACHR refers case on Colombia to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., October 2, 2020
244	245/20 - IACHR refers case on Ecuador to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., October 5, 2020
245	R246/20 - The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression express concern about new legal threats to freedom of expression and indirect measures against the media and journalists in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., October 7, 2020
246	247/20 - IACHR and its Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression Seriously Concerned about the National Defense Ministry's Refusal to Comply with a Court Order for an Inspection of the Archives of El Salvador's Armed Forces. Washington, D.C., October 8, 2020
247	248/20 - The IACHR Stresses Its Call for the Abolition of the Death Penalty in the Americas On the World Day Against the Death Penalty. Washington, D.C., October 9, 2020
248	249/20 - IACHR Calls for Persecution of People Identified as Dissidents to End and for Democratic Guarantees to be Reestablished in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., October 10, 2020
249	250/20 - On the International Day of the Girl Child, the IACHR Urges States to Provide Increased Protection to Girls and Adolescents During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., October 11, 2020
250	251/20 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Increase in Violence in Colombia in Territories Where Illegal Armed Groups Are Operating. Washington, D.C., October 13, 2020

251	252/20 - IACHR issues precautionary measures in favour of Franco Peñaloza Hernández, Yazmín Yareli Sánchez, José Ángel Peñaloza Hernández and Paulina Lemus Hernández, disappeared in Mexico. Washington, D.C., October 13, 2020
252	253/20 - IACHR Completes 177th Period of Sessions Remotely. Washington, D.C., October 15, 2020
253	254/20 - IACHR Publishes practical guide to ensure respect for the grieving, funeral rites, and memorials of those who died during the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington, D.C., October 15, 2020
254	255/20 - IACHR Issues Precautionary Measures in Favor of Indigenous Mayan Poqomchi' Families from the Washington and Dos Fuentes Communities in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., October 19, 2020
255	256/20 - ACHR grants precautionary measures in favour of 12 women with breast cancer in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., October 19, 2020
256	257/20 - IACHR adopts precautionary measures in favour of Maikel Herrera Bones in Cuba. Washington, D.C., October 19, 2020
257	R258/20 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur considers inadmissible the delay in the detention process of indigenous journalist Anastasia Mejía Triquis in a pandemic context and calls on the State of Guatemala to respect and guarantee her right to personal liberty and due process of law. Washington, D.C., October 22, 2020
258	259/20 - On International Intersex Awareness Day, the IACHR Calls on States to Protect the Right to Health of Intersex Persons. Washington, D.C., October 26, 2020
259	260/20 - IACHR Publishes Report 256/20 on Petition 747-05, Y'akâ Marangatú Indigenous Community of the Mbya People, Concerning Paraguay. Washington, D.C., October 26, 2020
260	261/20 - IACHR refers case on Colombia to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., October 30, 2020
261	262/20 - IACHR Expresses Its Concern Over Reports of Sterilizations and Surgical Interventions Without Consent in Migrant Detention Centers in the United States. Washington, D.C., October 30, 2020
262	263/20 - This IACHR Extends Deadline for Submitting Applications for Executive Secretary Position. Washington, D.C., November 2, 2020
263	264/20 - IACHR refers case on Ecuador to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., November 3, 2020

264	265/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Person Deprived of Their Freedom in Colombia. Washington, D.C., November 4, 2020
265	266/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of 41 People Deprived of Their Freedom in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., November 4, 2020
266	267/20 - IACHR adopts precautionary measures in favour of Juana de la Rosa Lesaje Guadamuz and Roberto José Esteban in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., November 4, 2020
267	268/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures in Favor of Members of the Santa Clara de Uchunya Indigenous Community and of the Chairman of the Federation of Indigenous Communities in Ucayali, Peru. Washington, D.C., November 5, 2020
268	269/20 - IACHR Flags Obstacles for Fair Parliamentary Elections in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., November 11, 2020
269	270/20 - The IACHR Calls on the State of Peru to Protect Democratic Institutions and the Rule of Law After President's Impeachment. Washington, D.C., November 11, 2020
270	R271/20 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Extreme Concern about Violence against Journalists in Mexico and Calls on the State to Strengthen Protection Mechanisms and Measures to Combat Impunity. Washington, D.C., November 11, 2020
271	272/20 - IACHR calls on States to guarantee the human rights of women engaged in sex work in the context of the pandemic. Washington, D.C., November 12, 2020
272	273/20 - IACHR calls on Cuba to Adopt Means of Integral Protection Against Gender-Based Violence. Washington, D.C., November 13, 2020
273	R274/20 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Grave Concern about the Excessive Use of Police Force against Demonstrators and Journalists and about Arrests during Protests in Peru. Washington, D.C., November 13, 2020
274	275/20 - IACHR Condemns Human Rights Violations in the Context of Social Protests in Peru, Calls for the Ongoing Institutional Crisis to Be Solved Democratically, and Remains Available to Conduct a Working Visit When the Peruvian State Deems it Appropriate. Washington, D.C., November 16, 2020
275	276/20 - IACHR and REDESCA Express Solidarity with People Affected by Hurricane Eta in the Americas and Call on States and the International Community to Address Their Predicament. Washington, D.C., November 17, 2020
276	277/20 - IACHR refers case on Ecuador to the Inter-American Court.

	Washington, D.C., November 17, 2020
277	278/20 - IACHR Announces Creation of Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts for Bolivia on November 23. Washington, D.C., November 20, 2020
278	279/20 - IACHR Announces Calendar of Public Hearings for 178th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., November 20, 2020
279	R280/20 - The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur express grave concern over the increase in criminalization and harassment of activists, artists, and independent journalists in Cuba. Washington, D.C., November 23, 2020
280	281/20 - IACHR Condemns Excessive Use of Force and Urges Investigation of All Forms of Violence During Social Protests in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., November 23, 2020
281	282/20 - IACHR and OSRESCER Publish Thematic Report: “Trans and Gender-Diverse People and Their Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights”. Washington, D.C., November 24, 2020
282	283/20 - IACHR adopts precautionary measures in favour of family of human rights defenders in Cuba. Washington, D.C., November 24, 2020
283	284/20 - On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the IACHR calls on justice sector actors to strictly observe the Inter-American standards on sexual and gender-based violence. Washington, D.C., November 25, 2020
284	285/20 - IACHR Announces Working Visit to Peru in Response to Social Protests Around the Recent Institutional Crisis. Washington, D.C., November 25, 2020
285	286/20 - IACHR Rejects Arbitrary Operation Against the San Isidro Movement in Cuba and Reiterates State’s International Human Rights Obligations. Washington, D.C., November 28, 2020
286	287/20 - IACHR Publishes Report Entitled “People Who Have Been Deprived of Their Liberty in Nicaragua During the Human Rights Crisis That Began on April 18, 2018”. Washington, D.C., December 2, 2020
287	288/20 - IACHR adopts precautionary measures in favor of woman on death row in the United States of America. Washington, D.C., December 2, 2020
288	289/20 - The IACHR Calls on States to Adopt Measures to Guarantee People with Disabilities Full Legal Capacity from a Human Rights Approach. Washington, D.C., December 3, 2020

289	290/20 - IACHR Ends Working Visit to Peru. Washington, D.C., December 7, 2020
290	291/20 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Protection Measures in Favor of Yonarqui de los Ángeles Martínez García and Her Family in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., December 7, 2020
291	292/20 - IACHR Brings Guatemala Case before the IA Court. Washington, D.C., December 8, 2020
292	293/20 - IACHR grants protection measures to six migrant children in Trinidad and Tobago. Washington, D.C., December 9, 2020
293	294/20 - IACHR Publishes Report 334/20 on the Marcelo Ramón Aguilera Aguilar Case, Concerning Honduras. Washington, D.C., December 9, 2020
294	295/20 - IACHR and the Offices of its Special Rapporteurs Celebrate the International Human Rights Day, Recalling States' Duty to Protect These. Washington, D.C., December 10, 2020
295	296/20 - IACHR Announces Dates and Scope of its Working Visit to Mexico Concerning People in Situations of Human Mobility. Washington, D.C., December 11, 2020
296	297/20 - IACHR Publishes Report 333/20 on Case 13.421. Geminiano Gil Martínez and Family, Concerning Colombia. Washington, D.C., December 14, 2020
297	298/20 - The IACHR announces the finalists for the position of head of its Executive Secretariat. Washington, D.C., December 15, 2020
298	299/20 - IACHR Regrets the Death of Venezuelans, Including Children, and Urges States to Guarantee Access to Asylum and International Protection Procedures. Washington, D.C., December 15, 2020
299	300/20 - IACHR Welcomes Progress Made by Mexican State in Implementing Extraordinary Forensic Identification Mechanism. Washington, D.C., December 16, 2020
300	301/20 - IACHR Publishes Practical Guide on Access to the Right to Education for Children and Adolescents during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., December 16, 2020
301	302/20 - IACHR Adopts Precautionary Protection Measures for Members of the Munduruku Indigenous People in Brazil. Washington, D.C., December 16, 2020

302	303/20 - Migrants must be included in all COVID-19 recovery plans – UN and regional experts. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2020
303	304/20 - IACHR refers case on Brazil to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2020
304	305/20 - IACHR Announces 179th Period of Sessions in Online Format and Is Receiving Applications for public hearings. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2020
305	306/20 - IACHR adopts precautionary measures in favor of Christa Pike on death row in the United States of America. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2020
306	307/20 - IACHR Publishes Report: “Due Process in Procedures to Determine Refugee and Stateless Person Status and Grant Complementary Protection”. Washington, D.C., December 18, 2020
307	308/20 - IACHR adopts precautionary measures in favour of Niober García Fournier in Cuba. Washington, D.C., December 21, 2020
308	309/20 - The IACHR Again Calls on States to Guarantee Human Rights of People Returning to Venezuela during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Washington, D.C., December 22, 2020
309	310/20 - IACHR Issues Protection Measures in Favor of Missing Woman and Her Children in Honduras. Washington, D.C., December 22, 2020
310	311/20 - IACHR Concludes 178th Virtual Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., December 22, 2020
311	312/20 - IACHR refers case on Colombia to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., December 28, 2020
312	313/20 - Constitutional Process in Chile: IACHR and OHCHR Welcome Approval of Measures That Promote the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and People with Disabilities, and Ask to Ensure the Participation of Tribal People of African Descent. Washington, D.C., December 30, 2020
313	314/20 - IACHR and REDESCA publish Compendium on Labor and Trade Union Rights. Washington, D.C., December 30, 2020

E. The Social Participation Agenda

16. In 2020, the IACHR continued its practice of establishing periodic channels of dialogue with civil society and the academic sector by adapting its mechanisms to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

17. Numerous civil society organizations participated in the public hearings held as part of the 175th, 177th, and 178th periods of sessions that took place in Haiti (175th) and virtually (176th, 177th, and 178th). Open meetings were also conducted with civil society during the periods of sessions, in which the organizations contributed information regarding the human rights outlook in the countries of the Americas. Holding sessions away from headquarters increased access to the IACHR for civil society organizations from different parts of the region, expanding the role of actors involved in the inter-American human rights system. The virtual sessions also expanded the participation of civil society from the region in the open meetings: at the 176th, 177th, and 178th periods of sessions, seven open meetings were held with civil society, for which 250 organizations registered. Moreover, at the 177th period of sessions, 22 bilateral meetings were held, several of them with civil society.

18. During the onsite visit to Chile, which took place from January 25 to 31, 2020, the IACHR held numerous meetings with Chilean civil society organizations. The IACHR also met with civil society during its visit to the Colombian-Venezuelan border from February 5 to 7, 2020, as its delegation was prevented from entering Venezuela. As part of that visit, the IACHR held meetings with Venezuelan and Colombian civil society organizations in Bogotá and Cúcuta. Lastly, the IACHR met with civil society organizations during its working visit to Peru from November 29 to December 2, 2020.

19. As part of its 175th period of sessions held in Haiti, the IACHR carried out a consultation with experts to develop a practical handbook of guidelines and recommendations on preparing risk mitigation plans for human rights defenders in the region. Subsequently, in July 2020, the IACHR published a press release inviting the public to respond to a questionnaire regarding guidelines and recommendations on the preparation of risk mitigation and/or elimination plans for human rights defenders, thereby fulfilling its commitment to hold public consultations in order to obtain input from all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations.

20. Some of the initiatives aimed at preserving and expanding channels for dialogue with civil society throughout the pandemic, implemented through the SACROI COVID-19, include social forums held with civil society organizations in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay. It is also important to note the participation of representatives of civil society organizations from the region in virtual seminars organized through the SACROI COVID-19, as well as in the presentations of country and thematic reports delivered in 2020. Finally, with the launch of the Inter-American SIMORE in 2020, a new channel was established for civil society participation, in this case, in monitoring the IACHR's recommendations.

21. With respect to the 2020 Annual Report, the IACHR once again invited civil society organizations and other stakeholders from the 35 member states of the OAS to send information on the human rights system in the region for the preparation of chapters IV.A, IV.B, and V.

22. Regarding the special monitoring mechanisms, the IACHR continued to promote ongoing dialogue with civil society organizations and victims of human rights violations, as well as their families. In this vein, the ongoing presence in Mexico at periodic meetings with family members of the victims of the Ayotzinapa affair under the Special Follow-up Mechanism (MESA) is noteworthy. In relation to the Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI), the IACHR highlights the ongoing exchange of information with civil society organizations, as well as the strategy to provide technical assistance to Nicaraguan civil society organizations and strengthen their capacities through training sessions. Lastly, the Special Follow-up Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE) has worked in coordination with various key stakeholders, which include civil society organizations.

F. Technical Cooperation

23. The IACHR's work revolves around three main pillars: the individual petitions system; monitoring the human rights situation in member states; and advisory services and technical cooperation with states. With that structure, the Commission deems that, in the context of protecting the rights of all persons under the jurisdiction of the states of the Americas, it is essential to focus on persons, communities, and groups that, historically, have borne the brunt of discrimination and exclusion.

24. In that framework, the IACHR engages in technical assistance and cooperation activities with member states to help them draw up public policies with a human rights approach, offering ideas and responding to specific requests made by the states. The emphasis is on having the states achieve greater familiarity with, and use of, the inter-American human rights system, promoting the implementation of inter-American standards, and complying with their recommendations.

25. Indeed, the IACHR proposed that one of its priorities in 2020 would be to strengthen its technical cooperation capacities with member states, regional organizations, and other institutions. In particular, the strategies developed to manage the cooperation initiatives were geared to strengthening the institutional framework for human rights in the context of the health crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the IACHR moved forward throughout the year with both the drafting of instruments and inputs aimed at those in charge of public policymaking and the consolidation of ties needed to provide technical assistance and support for the states' institutional capacity building strategies and to develop cooperation with other institutions.

26. Especially noteworthy in that regard was the IACHR's publication of a "Compendium on Labor and Trade Union Rights."² This technical cooperation tool is geared to

² <https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/DerechosLaboralesSindicales-es.pdf>

strengthening skills and expanding the scope of the contents on the right to work. By systematizing inter-American standards, the compendium provides a tool to improve and strengthen legislation, public practices and policies that strive to promote labor rights with a human rights approach.

27. Likewise, the IACHR was presented with the third compendium of the series on the state's obligation to adjust its domestic regulatory framework in line with inter-American human rights standards. This is the first time that IACHR brings together and systematizes its human rights judgments using different mechanisms, both monitoring and individual petitions and cases. In particular, the compendium constitutes a technical cooperation tool to promote and facilitate adjustment of the regulatory framework by state authorities and civil servants at all levels of public administration, especially the justice sector, as well as a consultation and reference tool to be used by the academic community, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders of the inter-American system.

28. In the context of the pandemic and because of the gravity of the situation stemming from the impacts of COVID-19, a permanent survey was conducted from March to July on the responses and measures adopted by states to tackle the outbreak of the pandemic. This survey was posted on the specialized microsite of the Rapid and Integrated Response Coordination Unit on the COVID-19 Pandemic (COVID-19 SACROI) using a timetable and an interactive map. This tool, developed by the IACHR, makes it possible to identify, from a comparative perspective, the variations in the responses of the states in the region. The measures identified in the survey are similar among the countries and were adopted at different times and immediately, an aspect that makes it possible to reflect upon the design and implementation of effective policies to combat the health crisis.

29. In order to build the tool, information was gathered on 8 variables³ defined as state response measures that are common to each one of the 35 states of the hemisphere. The data were gathered openly and publicly from available sources, weighting the information published by state-owned or official government media. This survey of measures, in addition to identifying the time that each state responded to each identified category, makes it possible to place the events on a timeline by country and geographical area and examine the degree of response.⁴

30. In terms of cooperation agreements, throughout the year, the IACHR signed a total of five new inter-institutional agreements with the following: Office of the Human Rights Ombudsperson of Ecuador (*Defensoría del Pueblo de Ecuador—DPE*), Office of the Human Rights Ombudsperson of Peru (*Defensoría del Pueblo de Perú*), the International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights (*Centro Internacional para la Promoción de los Derechos Humanos—CIPDH*), the Legislative Directory Foundation (*Fundación Directorio Legislativo*), and Both Ends Believing. On the basis of these agreements, the IACHR promotes collaboration and cooperation between the inter-American community and the general public, use of the inter-American human rights system and its standards, and specialized cooperation on the basis of theoretical and

³ https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/sacroi_covid19/ReferenciasMetodologicas.pdf

⁴ https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/sacroi_covid19/cronov2.asp

practical tools aimed at contributing to and fostering inter-American standards on the Hemispheric Agenda for Human Rights.

31. As for cooperation accords and agreements, progress was made in expanding the Fellowship Program and the Associate Staff Program, as well as in academic training, promotion, and research. Along that line, during the year, 3 professionals joined the Executive Secretariat as part of the Associate Staff Program and 19 professionals as fellowship recipients according to the terms of cooperation agreements with the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Save the Children, and the Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Defense of the Rights of Boys, Girls, and Adolescents (*Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña por la defensa de los derechos de los niños, niñas y adolescentes—REDLAMYC*), one professional from each institution, respectively.

32. Likewise, during the year, the IACHR sent a Technical Cooperation Work Plan for implementation of the Peace Agreement in the state of Colombia. This Plan includes a series of specific strategies that provide themes and practical guidelines for steering and supporting the state's efforts and actions to promote and defend human rights.

33. Among the technical cooperation initiatives, the human rights training program for civil servants of the public sector of Saint Lucia is noteworthy. In that regard, the state was presented with a proposal whose first module was held on September 15 with an agenda that included an introduction to the inter-American human rights system and in particular the IACHR's working mechanism.⁵ In subsequent modules, specific issues agreed upon with the state concerned would be tackled, such as childhood, gender, disability, and nondiscrimination. In connection with the initiatives with the Caribbean countries, a request was also received from Trinidad and Tobago about institutional capacity building in human rights, and a follow-up on the Work Plan for cooperation with Haiti was conducted.

34. As part of the initiatives undertaken by the IACHR to establish closer ties with national human rights institutions (NHRIs), activities were carried out to improve channels of information and provide necessary technical assistance to boost the efforts the NHRIs were making to ensure effective enforcement of human rights in every country of the hemisphere. Among them, the following are noteworthy: actions to implement the Declaration of Commitment for Technical Cooperation signed in 2018 and different formalized bilateral cooperation strategies based on agreements. As a result of these initiatives, collaboration between the IACHR and NHRIs for mutual capacity building has been noteworthy. For example, with support provided to onsite and working visits, greater proximity has been achieved and systematization of information about the human rights situation and staff training has been shared.

35. In that process of strengthening closer ties with the region's NHRIs, the IACHR also held a high-level webinar with the participation of the NHRIs for the purpose of disseminating the work and main challenges encountered by NHRIs when promoting and protecting human rights during the pandemic. This event for the exchange of initiatives that were launched was attended by the following: *Defensoría de los Habitantes de Costa Rica; la Defensoría del Pueblo de Colombia; la Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala; la Defensoría Pública*

⁵ <https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1306306304848388096?s=03>

General Federal de Brasil; la Defensoría del Pueblo de Ecuador; la Defensoría del Pueblo de Bolivia; y la Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos del El Salvador.

36. Likewise, on September 24, 2020, the Fourth Meeting on Best Practices for NHRIs was held as part of the Regional Project on Human Rights and Democracy, organized and implemented along with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF).⁶ This event was organized to create a forum for dialogue and exchange about best practices, challenges, and analyses of the current human rights situation. This meeting also proposed monitoring each one of the NHRIs and tackling different aspects of diverse joint initiative cooperation activities with the IACHR in the use of its mechanisms. The meeting was attended by representatives of 10 NHRIs who signed the above-mentioned Declaration of Commitment: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama. Regarding this, commitment of the Office of the Ombudsman of Peru to the above-mentioned mechanism is noteworthy.

37. The IACHR stresses its willingness and readiness to provide technical assistance to states, regional organizations, social organizations, and other institutions for institutional capacity building and the drafting, implementation, and evaluation of public policies to consolidate and enforce human rights in the Americas on the basis of the inter-American standards.

Academic Network

38. In 2020, the IACHR was in the process of finalizing the selection of the participants in the Specialized Academic Network for Technical Cooperation (Academic Network), whose call for proposals was announced on July 22, 2020 in Press release No. 172/20, with the deadline for submitting proposals set for August 31, 2020. The IACHR thanked all the universities that submitted proposals for their participation.

39. It must be noted that a total of 26 proposals were submitted from learning institutions from eight countries of the region. At the start of 2021, the universities will be informed of the final results of this process.

40. Implementation of the Academic Network addresses Program 12 of Strategic Objective 3 of the IACHR Strategic Plan for 2017-2021, which promotes the establishment of an Academic Network specialized in the inter-American human rights protection system. This Network has been created to contribute studies, research, and other joint activities, in order to expand knowledge and provide information for the promotion and defense of human rights in the region. Owing to the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the invitation requested participating universities to also take into consideration the pandemic and post-pandemic scenario in their outputs.

⁶ <https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1311029931229544451?s=03>

41. This specialized Academic Network is being installed also to support the IACHR in its implementation of Program 5 of the Plan's Strategic Objective 2. This program intends to improve the scope and impact of the IACHR's work of monitoring the human rights situations of countries using a thematic approach and coordinating its diverse functions and mechanisms. The Network shall also facilitate the mapping of structural trends and situations in human rights and those appearing as a consequence of the pandemic. It shall also serve to create inputs that support the Strategic Plan's Special Program 21 to follow IACHR recommendations.

Honduras Special Technical Advisory Board (MESAT)

42. In 2020, the IACHR followed up on the implementation of the Honduras Special Technical Advisory Board (*Mesa Especial de Asesoría Técnica para Honduras—MESAT*). With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, a series of activities had to be rescheduled. Thus, the IACHR worked with the state of Honduras to extend the mechanism for fulfilling the commitments in 2021. Progress was also made in implementing some of the results not requiring a territorial rollout, among which technical advisory services in public policymaking, request for and access to information and documentation, and other additional technical contributions.

G. Relations with the Political Organs of the OAS

43. One of the functions of the IACHR is to provide advisory services to States on human rights matters; these services are provided through the IACHR's ties with the political bodies of the OAS: the General Assembly (GA) and the Permanent Council (PC) and its Committees, particularly the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). The IACHR lends support to OAS political organs in order to promote the necessary minimal human rights standards in resolutions, declarations, treaties, conventions, and other Inter-American instruments. It also maintains relations with other areas of the OAS.

44. In 2020, the IACHR was represented continuously at meetings of the OAS Permanent Council, the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, and the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs. The IACHR also responded to requests to submit information to the political organs of the Organization regarding implementation of resolutions, as well as other specific requests by the Member States, with the participation of the Commissioners, the Executive Secretary, Special Rapporteurs, and human rights specialists of the Executive Secretariat. Following is a list of those presentations, which are a reflection of the IACHR's fulfillment to advise the OAS on human rights matters:

- i. Presentation by Commissioner Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, President of the IACHR and Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child, at the regular meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) on February 13, 2020, under the item "Follow-up on the mandates from AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19), 'Promotion and protection of human rights': Rights of Children and Adolescents."
- ii. Presentation by Commissioner Stuardo Ralón, in his capacity as Rapporteur for Cuba, at the "Special Meeting to Share Lessons Learned and Exchange Good Practices to Advance a Regional Dialogue on the Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and

- Religion or Belief” of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) on February 20, 2020, under the item “Freedom of religion and belief: A global mission with regional specificity.”
- iii. Presentation of the 2019 Annual Report of the IACHR to the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly delivered before the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) by Commissioner Joel Hernández, President of the IACHR, at the virtual regular meeting held on April 30, 2020.
 - iv. Presentations by Commissioner Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, Rapporteur for Venezuela, and the Executive Secretary of the IACHR, Paulo Abrão, at the virtual regular meeting of the Permanent Council held on May 27, 2020, under the item “Report on the Onsite Visit to the Venezuelan border by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (from February 5 to 7, 2020.”
 - v. Presentation by Commissioner Julissa Mantilla, Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants at the Virtual Thematic Meeting of the Committee on Migration Affairs on the impact of COVID-19 on migrants, held on June 5, 2020.
 - vi. Presentation by Commissioner Flávia Piovesan, Rapporteur of the IACHR on the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Persons, at the virtual regular meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on June 11, 2020, under the item “Good practices by States in relation to LGBTI persons in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.”
 - vii. Presentations by the President of the IACHR, Commissioner Joel Hernández, and the Executive Secretary, Paulo Abrão, at the virtual regular meeting of the Permanent Council on June 24, 2020, under the item “Report on the 2019 Regular Fund Budget Execution by the IACHR,” the “Annual Report on Implementation of the IACHR Strategic Plan 2017-2021. 2019”; and on IACHR activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic ([CP/doc.5615/20](#)).
 - viii. Presentation by Commissioner Stuardo Ralón, Rapporteur of the IACHR on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty, at the virtual regular meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs held on June 25, 2020, under the item “Follow-up on the mandate contained in resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19) ‘Promotion and Protection of Human Rights’: Rights of persons deprived of liberty – Dialogue on good practices with respect to prison and penitentiary policies, and in psychiatric institutions, with particular emphasis on strategies and actions to ensure respect, guarantees, and protection for the rights of persons deprived of liberty.”
 - ix. Presentation by Commissioner Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child, at the virtual regular meeting of the Permanent Council held on July 22, 2020, under the item “Celebration of Americas Children and Youth Day.”
 - x. Presentation by Commissioner Julissa Mantilla Falcón, Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants, at the virtual regular meeting of the Permanent Council on August 14, 2020, under the item “Celebration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.”
 - xi. Presentation by Commissioner Joel Hernández, President of the IACHR, on the human rights situation in Venezuela at the virtual special meeting of the Permanent Council on September 29, 2020, entitled “Follow-up on the Situation in Venezuela.”

45. The President of the IACHR, Commissioner Joel Hernández, also delivered a presentation of the IACHR 2019 Annual Report at the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly (held virtually) on October 21, 2020.

46. In 2020, 13 meetings were held to review portfolios of petitions, cases, precautionary measures, friendly settlements, and follow-up on recommendations with the

following States: Argentina (April 17, June 2 and 3); Bolivia (August 21 and December 18); Canada (December 18); Chile (October 19); Colombia (May 4 and December 14); Ecuador (June 29, August 3 and August 12); Mexico (May 26 and 27); and Panama (February 6 and 7).

47. Also worth noting is the set of meetings held with groups of countries at the IACHR periods of sessions, which served as an opportunity for engagement, dialogue, and cooperation among the IACHR and the member states, allowing for a more fluid exchange and fulfilling the mandate of advising the Organization of American States and its member on human rights matters.

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

48. In 2020, the IACHR further developed its collaboration with the United Nations human rights system on several fronts. On the one hand, it continued various previous practices, such as delivering inputs for the Universal Periodic Review of Paraguay, St. Kitts and Nevis and it welcomed United Nations special rapporteurs, representatives of field offices of the Offices of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR), to take part in hearings during its 175th, 177th and 178th periods of sessions. Also worth highlighting are the activities pioneered with the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, and the joint participation with countries' civil society organizations in social forums. In addition, during the same period, 8 press releases were published, along with 8 joint letters with OHCHR or special procedures of the United Nations system.

49. Since 2018, the IACHR has been participating more frequently in sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. In 2020, it stepped up that form of collaboration. For the second time, the IACHR took part in the high-level segments of the sessions, on February 25.

50. Commissioner Hernández also participated in the urgent debate on current racially inspired human rights violations, systemic racism, police brutality, and violence against peaceful protests at the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council on June 25.

51. Similarly, Commissioner Hernández presented the findings of the IACHR related to Venezuela at the Interactive Dialogue on the Fact Finding Mission on Venezuela, which took place at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council on September 23.

52. A training program was also given by the Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights for OHCHR focal points on June 29.

53. Notably, in 2019 the IACHR signed a Roadmap with the United Nations Special Procedures for broadening and boosting cooperation. Throughout 2020, 15 joint initiatives were held, including communiques, letters, and public activities. In addition, a methodology was developed and applied for monitoring implementation of the actions envisaged in the Roadmap, which included the first meeting between the IACHR plenary and the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on November 11.

54. In the year covered by this report, the IACHR proceeded with its third year of implementing the Joint Action Mechanism to Contribute to the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, with OHCHR, following the progress made in 2017 with crafting its draft agenda and conducting public consultations and the first year of implementation in 2018, when the joint action mechanism was consolidated with specific proposals for actions to be undertaken in five priority areas: (1) Joint studies, (2) Monitoring and protection, (3) Advocacy, (4) Promotion, and (5) Technical assistance.

55. Over the past year, the two bodies took a series of joint steps, including joint national and regional pronouncements on situations of mutual concern; joint participation in monitoring, promotion, and training activities; and increased sharing of information and assessments of the human rights situation of defenders in the region, including important information in relation to precautionary measures.

56. The IACHR, together with UNHCR, also held the workshop on comparative experiences on internal displacement entitled “Latin America Regional Exchange Session: Regional Exchange on the Prevention of and Response to Internal Displacement,” with the participation of Commissioner Julissa Mantilla.

57. Other activities held with other bodies of the universal system included the ground-breaking cooperation with the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, which resulted in two widely viewed webinars: “Exchange on the protection of human rights and prevention of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity: The responsibility to protect,” with the participation of Commissioner Joel Hernández and the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, Karen Smith, on July 28; and the “Risk Analysis Workshop / Theoretical Segment – The Displaced Population in Central America,” with the participation of Commissioner Julissa Mantilla on July 29.

58. Likewise, the UNODC and IACHR collaborated through bilateral meetings and the technical event “The rule of law after COVID: Recover better for a more just world,” which took place on December 10.

59. Advancing the dialogue with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the IACHR and ICRC planned joint activities for 2021.

60. Beyond coordinating with the universal human rights system, in 2020, the IACHR also continued its cooperation with regional systems and subregional mechanisms for human rights. In particular, the IACHR organized an unprecedented meeting between regional organizations entitled “Dialogue Among Commissions in the Pandemic,” which was broadcast online and saw the participation of the chairpersons of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

61. The IACHR also participated in initiatives with the European Union, among which the High-level Policy Dialogue, to which Executive Secretary Maria Claudia Pulido contributed, is noted.

I. Activities to follow up on recommendations and impact

62. In the course of 2020, in the context of the Special Program to Monitor IACHR Recommendations (Program 21) of the [2017-2021 Strategic Plan](#), the Commission consolidated the strategies for supervising compliance with its recommendations. In this regard, it provided support to strengthen the mandate of the Follow-up of Recommendations and Impact Section (SSRI, following the Spanish-language acronym), established in 2018 to supervise compliance

with these decisions and to assess the impact and effectiveness of its projects and programs. The direct supervision of the SSRI by the Executive Secretary ([Executive Order No. 19-01, available in Spanish](#)) as of September 2019 made it possible in 2020 to expand the monitoring efforts of the entire Executive Secretariat of the IACHR in a more integral, cross-cutting, and coordinated approach across all its areas.

63. In keeping with Article 48 of the IACHR's Rules of Procedures, in 2020, the IACHR strengthened the procedures to follow up on its recommendations, as part of a broad strategy to increase the effectiveness and impact of the inter-American human rights system. In particular, the IACHR made progress implementing the methodologies established in the [General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations and Decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#), adopted in 2019, as a technical instrument that promotes the follow-up on each recommendation in a more specific and specialized manner. In the context of implementing these Guidelines, the IACHR helped bring the various users of the inter-American system together with a view to hammering out approaches aimed at ensuring effective compliance with the recommendations formulated by the Commission, and with the various agreements on implementation reached by the parties. In addition, the Commission continued to design the methodology for starting up the IACHR Impact Observatory, established in 2019 during its 173rd period of sessions as a collaborative platform aimed at systematizing and giving visibility to the impact of the IACHR's activities to defend and promote human rights in the hemisphere.

64. In addition, the Commission implemented other tools to improve the follow-up of recommendations and impact. Special mention can be made of both the start-up of the Inter-American SIMORE, and the results attained by the Rapid and Integrated Response Coordination Units (SACROIs, following the Spanish-language acronym) and the Special Mechanisms for Monitoring Recommendations, which results are described in the following sections.

Inter-American System for Monitoring Recommendations (Inter-American SIMORE)

65. In 2020, the IACHR made the [Inter-American SIMORE](#) available to the public, which is an online IT tool that systematizes the recommendations made by the Commission through its different mechanisms. This tool benefits the various actors involved in the inter-American human rights system such as member states, civil society organizations, academia, and autonomous agencies insofar as it offers a mechanism of accountability concerning compliance with international human rights obligations that promotes transparency and the democratization of monitoring processes. Moreover, the system is a tool that strengthens the supervision of measures adopted in order to comply, while at the same time making it possible to identify gains and challenges when it comes to guaranteeing and protecting human rights in the region.

66. In the course of 2020, the Commission launched the Inter-American SIMORE and positioned it as a priority channel for receiving and sharing information on the follow-up of recommendations. These actions have been carried out in different phases, namely: designing and preparing the tool, systematizing the data and building the system, launching and disseminating it, and training users. The whole process of implementing the tool has included the participation of the SSRI, the Technology and Systems Section (STS), and the OEA'S Department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS). Moreover, the implementation of the tool drew on the relationship of cooperation between the IACHR and the State of Paraguay, which was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding adopted in 2017. The support provided by the State of Paraguay enabled the Commission to use the source code of Paraguay's SIMORE Plus and to receive technical advice from authorities experienced in the use of the system.

67. The actions of the Commission around the Inter-American SIMORE have been aimed at getting users, especially representatives of member states, autonomous agencies, civil society, academia, and victims, to use both of the system's functionalities. First, the actions seek to have users access the Commission's recommendations that have been systematized and use special search criteria. And second, they are intended to get these persons to create accounts on the platform and upload the information on measures adopted to implement the recommendations found in country reports, chapter IV.B of the annual report, thematic reports, and resolutions adopted by the IACHR.

68. The preparatory actions taken by the Commission in 2020 to guarantee the implementation of the Inter-American SIMORE have included preparing the basic documents of the platform. These documents included SIMORE's [terms and conditions of use](#) (available in Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French); its [methodological annex](#), which explains the methodology used to build the system and for its use (available in English and Spanish), and the [user registration, modification and suspension policy](#) (also available in both languages). In addition, the Commission completed the classification of more than 4,700 recommendations made in its published merits reports, friendly settlement agreements, country reports, chapters IV.B of the annual reports, thematic reports, and resolutions. Each recommendation was classified on the basis of distinct search criteria related to the categories of year adopted, mechanism and sub-mechanism, population involved, issue or right addressed, geographic scope or country addressed, measures recommended, and level of compliance. The Commission also completed the design of follow-up of recommendations factsheets available on the Inter-American SIMORE platform for each of the recommendations set forth in the country reports, chapters IV.B of the

annual reports, thematic reports, and resolutions. As a result, persons with accounts in the tool can publish reports with information on the implementation, indicators, impacts, and challenges of recommendations.

69. In 2020, the Commission also ensured that the information would be systematized so as to be able to begin operations of the inter-American SIMORE. This phase included technological support from DOITS for uploading the data bases of classified recommendations and other documents available on the platform to the SIMORE. It also made it possible to execute the configurations of the recommendations search engine, and of the function for creating an account and uploading information, ensuring the security of the information contained in the tool.

70. With respect to the start-up of the Inter-American SIMORE, on June 10, 2020, the IACHR held a [webinar for its launch](#). It included the participation of the chief of staff to the OAS Secretary General, the Director General for Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, the Secretariat for Human Rights of Honduras, one member of ESCR-Net, and a researcher from the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Law. The following persons made presentations on behalf of the Commission: President and Commissioner Joel Hernández, First Vice President Antonia Urrejola, Commissioner Flavia Piovesan, and the former Executive Secretary of the IACHR Paulo Abrão. Both in the context of the launch and afterwards the Commission set in motion a communications strategy for publicizing the Inter-American SIMORE through its social media networks and in the context of the dialogues and meetings with the different relevant actors, such as representatives of member states, victims and petitioners in cases, civil society organizations, and academia. It also recorded a video [introducing the tool](#) and two tutorials that explain both [searching for recommendations](#) and [creating accounts](#) on the platform, all available to the public in English and Spanish. In addition, the Commission sent more than 300 communications inviting civil society organizations to use the tool, and also extended invitations to the OAS member states, announcing the launch of the platform and explaining its functionalities.

71. In 2020, the Commission also designed and implemented a strategy for providing training in the use of the SIMORE, aimed at potential users. During the year, the Commission held three virtual training sessions with a total of 113 public servants now trained. The first session was held September 8, with 54 public servants from 14 Spanish-speaking member states and the State of Brazil; the second was held on September 16 with 21 public servants from six English-speaking member states; and the third was held on October 20 with 38 public servants from 14 national human rights institutions from Spanish-speaking countries. Staff of the SSRI, the STS, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay conducted the trainings. In addition, the Commission designed a training strategy aimed at civil society for which a progressive training plan calls for inviting approximately 750 organizations to participate in the trainings. This plan will be implemented in 2021.

72. As regards the results of the strategy for publicizing the system and training potential users, in an initial stage the strategy promoted mainly the creation of accounts of relevant actors, as it is one step prior to uploading monitoring information. Accordingly, in 2020, 78 accounts were activated, as follows: 19 accounts for representatives of 5 member states; 42 accounts for representatives of 25 civil society organizations; and 17 accounts for representatives of 7 autonomous bodies of the region. With respect to the uploading monitoring information, at

this time, the State of Honduras published 13 follow-up reports with respect to measures of compliance adopted to carry out 10 recommendations made in the country report published in 2019.

73. The start-up of the Inter-American SIMORE will be a valuable instrument for promoting effective compliance with the Commission's recommendations. The Commission plans to continue the actions to consolidate the use of this tool as a relevant mechanism to follow-up the compliance with the international human rights obligations in the region.

Rapid and Integrated Response Coordination Units (SACROI)

74. In the course of 2020, the IACHR continued implementing its Rapid and Integrated Response Coordination Units (SACROIs) and updated its work plans aimed at having a more effective and timely impact in emerging human rights situations in the region. The operation of these units is based on the articulation and coordination of the Commission's different mechanisms, including its special rapporteurships. In the course of 2020, the IACHR defined various aspects of how they would work, in particular their composition, working methodology, and operating capacity. The IACHR approved a new working methodology to reinforce the role of these units as priority spaces that provide articulated, integrated, and coordinated accompaniment in responding to institutional crises and protests, as well as participating in the preparation of onsite visits, supporting the publication of reports, and devising strategic approaches to address specific critical situations. As part of this new working methodology, it was anticipated that each SACROI would have an operational group to accompany implementation of the activities in the Work Plan and the demands of the IACHR, to activate the SACROI, and to articulate and coordinate its demands and activities within the Executive Secretariat. In addition, for each SACROI it was decided that an action plan would be drawn up that should include the elements associated with the implementation of the Strategic Plan, Annual Action Plan, and other specific objectives and activities that justified its creation.

75. In particular, the Commission carried out actions aimed at maintaining the work of the SACROIs corresponding to Chile, Bolivia, Haiti and Brazil, countries visited by the IACHR whose country reports are pending publication.

76. With respect to the SACROI established in 2019 for Chile, to address the human rights situation in the context of the protests, the Commission made an onsite visit from January 25 to 31, 2020. The IACHR presented its preliminary observations on this visit in relation to the democratic institutional framework, human rights demands and deficits, the characteristics of the protests, the victims, looting, and damage suffered by the private sector and injuries suffered by state security officers, the state response, and the differentiated consequences on groups especially impacted.

77. With respect to the SACROI Bolivia, in December 2019, the IACHR and the Plurinational State of Bolivia signed an [agreement to support the investigation of acts of violence and human rights violations that occurred in Bolivia between September 1 and December 31, 2019](#) (available in Spanish). Based on the aforementioned agreement, in September 2020, the Commission approved the 1st Action Plan for this SACROI and, in November 2020, announced the

installation of an [Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts \(GIEI\)](#). The Action Plan approved by the Commission includes actions that are aimed at the IACHR supporting the installation and operation of the GIEI and facilitating the group's access to relevant information for the full performance of its functions. In addition, this Plan includes a strategy of coordinated and joint work with the Mission of the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights; permanent dialogue with the State and civil society organizations; monitoring of the general human rights situation in the country and priority thematic areas, among others.

78. Likewise, the purpose of the GIEI Bolivia is assist in the investigations into acts of violence and human rights violations that occurred in the country between September 1 and December 31, 2019 in the country. The creation of this group was officially announced on January 23 at the IACHR headquarters in Washington D.C., in a public event attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as well as other State and IACHR authorities. Finally, the GIEI-Bolivia was installed on November 23 in the city of La Paz and is made up of the experts Julián Burger, Magdalena Correa, Juan Méndez, Patricia Tappatá Valdez and Marlon Weichert; its Executive Secretary, Jaime Vidal, and a technical team on the ground. The GIEI-Bolivia will go about its work independently and impartially. To fulfill its objectives, the GIEI-Bolivia has been tasked with the following: establish plans to investigate into the acts of violence committed against people, organizations, and authorities in the country during the sociopolitical tensions, protests, and demonstrations that took place between September 1 and December 31, 2019; perform a technical analysis of the lines of investigation it develops; make relevant recommendations, helping ensure these are appropriate, exhaustive, and coherent with the applicable international human rights standards; propose the adoption of measures to guarantee the safety of those involved in these investigations; and carry out a technical analysis, making recommendations for a plan to assist and provide comprehensive reparation for the victims of the events in question. The GIEI has a six-month mandate from the date it sets up operations in the field, and this may be extended for as long as is necessary for it to fulfill its objective, if the parties agree. At the end of its mandate, the GIEI will inform the Plurinational State of Bolivia of the partial and final results of its work, making any recommendations it deems appropriate, and will prepare a final public report on its findings.

79. The SACROI established for Haiti – a country that the Commission visited in 2019 – continued monitoring the political and institutional situation of the country in 2020. As for the SACROI for Brazil, which the Commission visited in 2018, work is currently under way on the First Action Plan.

80. During the first quarter of 2020, the IACHR decided to deactivate the SACROIs for Guatemala, Honduras, and Ecuador. These countries were visited by the IACHR in previous years. As a result of the visits to Guatemala and Honduras, the IACHR published country reports and continues monitoring their human rights situation. In the case of Ecuador, on January 14, 2020, the Commission presented the observations from the visit it made to that country October 28-30, 2019, which referred to the economic measures adopted by the State and the issues linked to the outbreak and development of protests and the impact on human rights. In addition, the Commission decided to deactivate the SACROIs for Venezuela and Nicaragua, although the human rights situation in those countries continues to receive priority attention through its special mechanisms, the MESEVE and MESENI, respectively.

81. Also during 2020, the Commission observed human rights situations in the Americas that merited the establishment of four SACROIs. Three SACROIs were created with respect to countries: Colombia, to closely monitor the human rights situation in the country, in response to the high number of murders and attacks on social leaders and human rights defenders; the United States, in response to the situation of mass protests in the country, triggered by several deaths, including the murder of George Floyd, which reflects structural racism and systemic violence against Afro-descendants; and Peru, to monitor the human rights situation in the context of the institutional crisis following the declaration of vacancy of the presidency. A SACROI COVID-19 was also created, the first of a thematic nature.

82. The SACROI created in March 2020 for Colombia is aimed at closely monitoring the human rights situation there, with a timely, coordinated, and integrated response among the different areas that make up the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR. The creation of this SACROI responded to the worsening violence and human rights violations in the country, especially against social leaders and to the detriment of those who have been forced to displace as a result of the violence. In the context of this SACROI, the Commission has issued pronouncements on the assassinations of human rights defenders and social leaders. In addition, on June 23, 2020, the Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders and the Rapporteur for Colombia made a virtual presentation of the report on “Situation of human rights defenders and social leaders in Colombia.”

SACROI COVID-19

83. On March 27, 2020, in response to the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic the IACHR announced the installation of a SACROI COVID-19 – the first thematic one – and approved its work plan. This SACROI is aimed at strengthening the institutional capabilities of the Commission for protecting and defending fundamental freedoms and human rights in the context of the pandemic, especially the right to health and other economic, social, cultural and environmental rights (ESCER).

84. The SACROI COVID-19 closely monitors the human rights situation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, reinforcing integral and intersectoral approaches to bolster the protection of human rights. Accordingly, it compiles evidence on its impact; monitors the actions adopted by the states of the region; identifies urgent cases in the system of petitions and cases and precautionary measures to give them timely attention; proposes actions in relation to the member states with a view to the effective protection and defense of human rights in the context of COVID-19; identifies opportunities for providing technical assistance for the states to design and implement policies and actions with a human rights focus; follows up on its recommendations; engages in activities for dissemination and capacity-building; and furthers the dialogue and articulation with specialized international organizations and civil society organizations, among other actions. The SACROI COVID-19 operates with a crisis-response team, is coordinated by the Executive Secretary, and is made up of the special rapporteurs and all other personnel of the Executive Secretariat assigned to it.

85. The main results of the SACROI COVID-19 include the publication of [Resolution 1/2020 on “Pandemic and Human Rights in the Americas,”](#) which has 85 recommendations for the states of the region, and the adoption of [Resolution No. 04/20 “Human Rights of Persons with](#)

[COVID-19](#),” which establishes the “Inter-American Guidelines regarding the Human Rights of Persons with COVID-19.”

86. Resolution 1/2020 on “Pandemic and Human Rights,” adopted April 10, 2020, makes an appeal to the OAS member states to adopt immediately, across the board, a human rights perspective in every strategy, policy, or state measure aimed at confronting the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, including any plans for social and economic recovery that may be put in place. According to the resolution, such plans should unconditionally respect inter-American and international human rights standards, particularly in respect of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights (ESCER), and should ensure the workings of the state apparatus. This decision constitutes an integral approach on the part of the Commission to the pandemic, pulling together standards of the inter-American human rights system and putting a set of recommendations to the states of the region to ensure a human rights perspective in efforts to tackle COVID-19.

87. In addition, Resolution 1/2020 indicates that the measures that result in restrictions of rights or guarantees should be consistent with the *pro homine* principle as well as the principles of proportionality and temporality, and they should seek the strict attainment of public health objectives and integral protection. One special section of the recommendations refers to especially vulnerable groups such as older persons, persons deprived of liberty, women, indigenous peoples, persons in human mobility, children and adolescents, LGBTI persons, Afrodescendent persons, and persons with disabilities. Accordingly, the Commission notes that when the states of the region issue emergency measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic they should offer and apply intersectional perspectives and pay special attention to the needs and the differential impact of such measures on the human rights of the groups that have historically suffered discrimination or that are especially vulnerable.

88. Resolution No. 4/2020 on “Human Rights of Persons with COVID-19,” adopted July 27, 2020, includes a series of guidelines for the states to carry out their obligations to respect and ensure the human rights of persons with COVID-19 from the perspective of the indivisibility of human rights. These guidelines include integrating an intersectional and multidisciplinary approach that recognizes and affirms human dignity, eliminating all forms of discrimination. The guidelines focus on implementing actions to protect the right to health care of persons with COVID-19, including the right to consent in relation to health care, the right to equality and non-discrimination, the right to privacy in relation to data use, the right of access to information, protection of other economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, and the right of access to justice. The resolution also recommends prioritizing the right to life of persons with COVID-19 in public policies, the disposition of resources, and cooperation. In Resolution No. 4/2020, the Commission also makes an appeal to protect the rights of persons with COVID-19, in relation to the intervention of private actors; to protect the rights of health care workers and other caregivers, and protection for the ability of family members to grieve, and generally for the rights of the family members of victims who have died of COVID-19. In addition, the guidelines note that from the outset of the global health emergency efforts in the Americas to stop the virus and its disease have been hampered by the context of the hemisphere prior to the pandemic. In this connection it notes that in the countries of the hemisphere persons with COVID-19 run a special risk of not having their human rights assured, in particular the rights to life and to health, due to the inadequate deployment of health and medical facilities, goods, and services.

89. Other results of the SACROI COVID-19 include the publication of nearly 50 press releases related to the human rights situation and COVID-19, with respect to various countries and especially vulnerable groups, with both a country-specific and a thematic approach, as well as the presentation of an initial assessment of actions, outcomes, and impacts, published May 16, 2020. In addition, Practice Guide No. 1 was published, on What are the standards for ensuring respect for the grieving, funeral rites, and memorials of those who died during the COVID-19 pandemic? In addition, Guide No. 2 and Guide No. 3 are in the final phase of approval, on How to guarantee access and the right to education for children and adolescents during the pandemic, and Access to justice in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, respectively.

90. With a view to disseminating information on the framework for action of the SACROI, a [multimedia microsite](#) was produced and is expected to be continuously updated. This microsite has published an ongoing account of the states' responses and measures adopted to address the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the form of a chronology and an interactive map. The tool makes it possible to get a comparative perspective of the region and identify the variety of responses by the states. The measures identified in the survey reflect similarities among the countries and were adopted at different moments and immediately, which allows one to analyze the design and implementation of effective policies for fighting the health crisis. The data were collected from sources available to the public. Moreover, the microsite allows one to put the events in a timeline by country and geographic zone, and to analyze the degree of the response. The microsite also disseminates the [13 videos](#) that were elaborated regarding different issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Videos were made on: a) The right to mourning; b) Poverty; c) The right to information and data transparency; d) The rights of children and adolescents; and e) The human rights of COVID patients.

91. The results of the SACROI COVID-19 include the production of informational bulletins, disseminated through social networks and the multimedia site; bilateral dialogues with states; and virtual seminars and social forums. The forums were aimed at maintaining and expanding channels of dialogue with civil society; disseminating the activities of the IACHR in the context of the SACROI; receiving up-to-date information on the human rights situation in each of the countries; monitoring the actions taken by the states to address the pandemic and its various impacts; and following up on the recommendations made in Resolution 1/2020, to which end organizations were convened from, for example, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay.

92. In addition, in the context of the SACROI COVID-19, since its establishment in March 2020 to December 2020, at least 363 tweets have been published concerning the SACROI COVID-19. Out of this number, 77 were related to declarations on allegations, observance of guidelines, and adoption of positive measures. Likewise, 158 were related to the promotion of activities, such as webinars, public hearings and working meetings; 47 were related to press releases; 18 were aimed at disseminating Resolutions No. 1 and 4 of 2020, and 63 were related to monitor news in the region. It should be noted that the Commission also held 23 [webinars](#) on various topics.

93. In the system of petitions and cases, priority was accorded to processing 59 petitions being studied. These petitions correspond to the situation of persons deprived of liberty (20 petitions); persons who cannot return to their countries (8 petitions); complaints due to the

failure to adopt measures to protect the population (18 petitions); reports of risks due to the lifting of quarantine measures (9 petitions); and discrimination (4 petitions). In the context of the precautionary measures mechanism, as of December 31, 2020, 344 requests for precautionary measures had been received related in one way or another to COVID-19. To date, 336 have been evaluated, for a rate of evaluation greater than 97%. In addition, several requests have been granted and extended in relation to the pandemic context on: (1) two indigenous groups in Brazil; (2) migrants deprived of liberty in the United States; (3) person disappeared in relation to measures that restrict rights in the context of the pandemic in Argentina; (4) person deprived of liberty in Colombia with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; (5) cancer patients in the context of COVID-19 in Venezuela, and (6) execution of the death penalty in the United States.

94. The Commission also approved three action plans for the SACROI COVID-19. The first action plan was approved April 15; the second action plan on June 10; and finally, the third action plan was approved on August 7. The last one provides for continuity in the work of monitoring the results and impact of Resolution 1/20 on Pandemic and Human Rights in the Americas. The last one is also related to the publication of press releases on the human rights situation in the context of the pandemic with a country-specific or thematic perspective; producing informational bulletins; holding bilateral dialogues with states and social forums; and holding virtual seminars, among others. It also provides for drawing up a report on human rights and COVID-19.

95. As regards the impact of the SACROI COVID-19 and the recommendations in Resolution 1/2020, various authorities in different states of the region, including judicial bodies, have adopted decisions and resolutions in which reference has been made to the recommendations issued by the IACHR in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. The IACHR published a report taking stock of the results and impacts of the SACROI COVID-19 in April 2020 and has monitored the impact of the recommendations set forth in the resolution, systematizing in a data base the impact in the media, as well as the measures and resolutions adopted by authorities in the states of the region. In addition, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic the Commission took actions to ensure that the Inter-American SIMORE offers the states and civil society in the region a useful platform for monitoring the recommendations issued by the Commission in its Resolution 1/20 “Pandemic and Human Rights in the Americas.” Accordingly, the actors involved in the inter-American human rights system are able to inform and publicize the various actions taken to ensure and protect human rights in the context of the pandemic. The Commission also sent approximately 376 letters to civil society organizations in the region inviting them to monitor the recommendations of Resolution No. 1/2020 using the Inter-American SIMORE.

96. As part of the actions of the SACROI COVID-19, the IACHR articulated and supported the efforts of civil society organizations in Argentina in the context of the social forum that was established in the country for holding a roundtable to monitor the recommendations of Resolution 1/20 on the pandemic and human rights.

Special Follow-up Mechanisms

97. In the context of its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan the IACHR has given impetus to establishing special mechanisms for follow up on the implementation of its recommendations, a

novel practice in the context of international human rights law. For the IACHR, such mechanisms support a holistic analysis of the IACHR's recommendations and decisions. They facilitate the presentation of up-to-date information to the international community on any given situation or specific case; provide for a presence of the Commission on the ground; support systematic and periodic monitoring of priority issues; and expand the dialogue with parties and the search for consensus-based solutions, among others. This results in in-depth and specialized following up by the Commission of compliance with the human rights commitments and obligations taken on by the states.

98. In 2020, the IACHR continued the monitoring actions of the [Special Follow-up Mechanism for Nicaragua \(MESENI\)](#) from its headquarters in Washington, DC. In addition, it continued to provide support and technical assistance to the Mexican State for the investigation of the Ayotzinapa case, through the Special Follow-up Mechanism on the Ayotzinapa Case (MESA). The Commission further undertook actions aimed at implementing the [Special Follow-up Mechanism for Venezuela \(MESEVE\)](#) and it continued to attain products in the context of the Special Technical Counseling Committee for implementing the IACHR's recommendations in respect of human rights (MESAT) with respect to Honduras.

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

99. Since the IACHR first became aware of the reports of the disappearance of 43 students at a teacher-training institute in Mexico, the Commission adopted Precautionary Measure 409-14 and asked the State to take measures to conduct a search, investigate, and give attention to the victims. Subsequently, with the consensus backing of the State and the families' representatives, the IACHR established an Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (hereinafter "GIEI," for the Spanish acronym), which provided technical assistance to the state authorities and presented two reports with recommendations to the State. Later, the Commission found it necessary to create a Special Follow-up Mechanism on the Ayotzinapa Case (hereinafter the "MESA") to monitor implementation of the GIEI's recommendations. In addition, this Mechanism has issued two reports with recommendations to the Mexican State related to the central issues of the precautionary measure. Later, at the request of the family members and the Mexican State, the MESA installed the Technical Accompaniment Group (hereinafter the "GAT"). The GAT has permanent presence in Mexican territory, which has made it possible to sustain a closer dialogue with the family members of the disappeared students as well as provide technical assistance to the State and more closely monitor the precautionary measure and the recommendations of the GIEI and the Mechanism.

100. In 2020, after the request put to the Mexican State by the IACHR in December 2019⁷, the MESA undertook the steps necessary to enter into an international agreement to re-establish the GIEI. The negotiation process sought to enshrine the inter-American standards for guaranteeing the independence of the GIEI and to provide it with the powers necessary for carrying out its mandate. Accordingly, the international agreement was signed by the IACHR, the Mexican State, and the representatives of the disappeared students and their families, plus the Presidential Commission for the Truth and Access to Justice in the Ayotzinapa Case (hereinafter

⁷ IACHR, [IACHR Suggests that Mexico Restore the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts for Ayotzinapa](#), December 17, 2019.

the “COVAJ”) as honorary witnesses.⁸ In this context, the GIEI has been able to continue doing its work of supporting and providing technical assistance for the Mexican State’s investigation into the Ayotzinapa case. In October 2020, the GIEI submitted a new investigative and cooperative report on its findings related to the case.

101. The IACHR renewed its MESA-GAT 2020 Work Plan. The plan objective is verifying and providing technical assistance for attaining the recommendations made by the GIEI and the MESA in relation to MC 409-14 in the areas of search, investigation, attention to victims, and structural and non-repetition measures. It also is aimed at providing technical assistance and support in capacity-building in areas related to disappearance and searching for persons, attention to victims, integral reparation, and other issues related to human rights in relation to which its assistance might be required.

102. In this framework, through the GAT team, the MESA has participated regularly in the sessions of the COVAJ with the aim of following up on the progress in the investigation into the Ayotzinapa case. The MESA has further accompanied the state authorities in the search exercises undertaken by the Special Unit for the Investigation and Litigation of the Ayotzinapa Case, and has held meetings with the victims’ representatives to learn of the status of the health protocols. The GAT team has participated in 14 meetings during 2020. As regards the structural measures, the GAT has participated in the sessions on follow-up and installation of the Extraordinary Forensic Identification Mechanism, and has provided technical support to the National Search Commission in the construction, follow-up, and implementation of the Standard Search Protocol.

103. The simultaneous work of the GIEI and the MESA has made it possible for the IACHR to provide the continuous accompaniment that the case merits. The assistance and participation in the investigation is done through the GIEI, while the permanent presence of the MESA in Mexico makes possible timely monitoring of compliance with the precautionary measure.

104. In the press releases of July 2, 2020⁹, and September 26, 2020¹⁰, issued to mark six years since the occurrence of the facts, the IACHR recognized the progress in the investigation. It also recognized the forensic identification of the student Christian Rodríguez¹¹, the establishment of responsibilities, and the impetus given to the search activities, and called on the Mexican State to continue its efforts to clarify the facts and determine the students’ fate or whereabouts.

⁸ IACHR, [IACHR and Mexican State Sign Agreement to Reinstate the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts \(GIEI\) for the Ayotzinapa Case](#), May 7, 2020.

⁹ IACHR, [IACHR Welcomes Progress on Investigations into the Ayotzinapa Case](#), July 2, 2020.

¹⁰ IACHR, [Six Years On, the IACHR Acknowledges Progress in the Investigation and the Search for 43 Missing Students from Ayotzinapa and Stresses Its Commitment to the Students’ Families](#), September 26, 2020.

¹¹ IACHR, <https://twitter.com/cidh/status/1280670469960667138>

105. Finally, regarding non-repetition measures related to the events that led to the disappearance of the Ayotzinapa students, the MESA accompanied two meetings of the National Search System, participated in the working sessions for the creation of the Homologated Search Protocol (PHB), and in the training sessions for its implementation to the different actors involved in the search for missing persons. The MESA has participated in the working sessions of the follow-up group that promotes the installation of the Extraordinary Forensic Identification Mechanism, publishing a press release on this matter on December 16, 2020¹².

Special Follow-up Mechanism on Nicaragua (MESENI)

106. The Commission has carried out specific tasks to monitor the human rights situation in Nicaragua mainly since the beginning of the crisis that broke out due to the repressive response of the State, which entailed serious human rights violations in the context of social protests held in April 2018. On May 3, 2018, the IACHR announced that it was establishing a Rapid and Integrated Response Coordination Unit (SACROI) to monitor the situation in the country due to the reports of persons killed and wounded in the context of the repression directed against the protests. The Commission immediately made a working visit, from May 17 to 21, 2018, and, with respect to that visit and subsequent developments in the crisis, issued [Preliminary Observations](#) on May 21, as well as a report, on June 21, on [“Gross human rights violations in the context of social protests in Nicaragua.”](#) The Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI Nicaragua), installed by the IACHR on July 2 in order to assist and with the objective of assisting and supporting the investigations into the violent events in Nicaragua as of April 18, issued its [Final Report GIEI Nicaragua](#) on December 21, 2018. Since those reports were issued, the Commission has been conducting periodic monitoring of the recommendations contained in them, and of the precautionary measures granted in relation to the State of Nicaragua.

107. On June 24, 2018, the Commission also installed the Special Follow-up Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI), on the ground. The work of the MESENI was impacted by the decision of the State of Nicaragua to suspend its presence on the ground, as well as any further visits by the Commission to the country, and to consider the Nicaragua GIEI’s mandate to have concluded as of December 19, 2018. Despite that decision, the MESENI continues its uninterrupted monitoring of the human rights situation in Nicaragua from the headquarters of the IACHR in Washington DC. As a result of the monitoring and follow-up done by the MESENI, the Inter-American Commission has included Nicaragua in the chapters IV.B of the annual reports for both [2018](#) and [2019](#), and on November 30, 2020, it published its [Report on Persons Deprived of Liberty in Nicaragua](#). It should be noted that during this year, the Commission also announced the launch of the [multimedia site](#) with the main findings and recommendations made to the State of Nicaragua in this Report. The Commission will also include Nicaragua in Chapter IV.B of its 2020 Annual Report, which will be published next year.

108. In the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the almost complete lack of cooperation on the part of the State of Nicaragua, the MESENI’s monitoring work has had to be done without working visits or in-person meetings. Accordingly, the MESENI has acted by using digital tools, mostly with local civil society, as well as civil society in exile. In that context, during

¹² IACHR, [IACHR Welcomes Progress Made by Mexican State in Implementing Extraordinary Forensic Identification Mechanism](#), December 16, 2020.

2020, four letters have been sent requesting information from the State of Nicaragua, as per Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights. In addition, 65 meetings have been held with civil society groups via videoconference; testimony has been taken from 118 persons who are family members of victims of human rights violations, or who themselves are victims; and five hearings have been held on the human rights situation in the country. In all, 223 persons have been trained in eight activities on matters related to systems for the protection of human rights and transitional justice. These activities were designed – both the format and the contents – in coordination with local organizations. These personas have been students, human rights defenders, journalists, representatives of the peasant movement, and people in exile.

109. In terms of communication, the MESENI has worked periodically on press releases regarding the human rights situation in Nicaragua. In 2020, the IACHR published [21 press releases](#) on the subject. Along the same lines, the MESENI continues issuing [monthly bulletins](#) in which it reports the relevant facts on the human rights situation in the country and the work of the mechanism. Similarly, the MESENI stays active through the Commission's [social networks](#) addressing situations that require quick pronouncements on the situation in the country, in the context of its mandate.

110. Particularly, two years after the human rights crisis began in Nicaragua the Commission recognized, in a [press release issued on April 18th](#), the deployment of a fifth stage of repression characterized by the most intense and systematic attack on public liberties since the outset of the crisis. Similarly, two years after the March of the Mothers of May, on May 30, 2020, the IACHR, in a [press release](#), recalled the memory of the victims killed in that incident as well as their family members. In addition, two years after the installation of the MESENI, on June 24, 2020, , the IACHR recalled, in another [press release](#), the obligations of the Nicaraguan State that are pending implementation related to the recommendations issued, and it reported on the work it had done. The Commission elaborated this press release performing its functions of monitoring, follow-up, and protection.

111. With regard to protection mechanisms, the Commission has issued ten precautionary measures in the course of 2020 to protect the rights to life and integrity, as well as other rights that are seriously threatened, in the context of state repression in the human rights crisis affecting Nicaragua. Special mention should be made of the precautionary measure adopted on November 2, 2020, on behalf of 41 persons deprived of liberty. This precautionary measure was granted in the context of arbitrary and illegal detentions and of proceedings that do not guarantee the right to a fair trial, which is enshrined in the American Convention on Human Rights, presumably in retaliation for acts of protest or because the protected personas were identified as opponents. In addition, that precautionary measure considers that the prison conditions and baseline conditions of persons deprived of liberty, such as age or health problems, put those persons at special risk during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Special Technical Counseling Committee (MESAT) for compliance with the human rights recommendations of the IACHR

112. The Special Technical Counseling Committee (MESAT) for compliance with the Commission's human rights recommendations was installed in November 2019 to provide technical advice to the State of Honduras on implementing the IACHR's recommendations,

pursuant to Article 41(e) of the American Convention on Human Rights and in accordance with the Commission's mandate. The main objectives of the MESAT have been: (1) to provide technical assistance on human rights-related matters previously agreed upon between the parties; (2) to offer technical assistance to Honduras with implementing IACHR recommendations; (3) to follow up on compliance with the recommendations made by the IACHR in its Preliminary Observations and country reports; and (4) to provide technical assistance with legislative initiatives and public policies on human rights.

113. Based on these objectives, the IACHR agreed with the government of Honduras on a series of activities products and actions to be achieved with the support of each of the Commission's specialized rapporteurships. During the first visit to Honduras, in November 2019, in the context of the MESAT, several of the agreed-upon products were achieved. On that occasion, taking as the basis the agreement with the rapporteurship on the rights of women, the report "Violence and discrimination against women and girls: Best practices and challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean" was launched; and a training workshop was held entitled "Inter-American Standards: Violence and discrimination against women, girls, and adolescent females." In addition, in reference to the products agreed upon with the Follow-up of Recommendations and Impact Section, a workshop was held on the use of the Inter-American SIMORE, which was attended by representatives of the Honduran State with the aim of promoting the use of the tool. It is important to highlight that the first upload of information on compliance with recommendations in the Inter-American SIMORE was done by representatives of the State of Honduras, with the aim of updating the measures adopted with respect to the 2019 country report.

114. At the same time, during 2020, the IACHR has been working with the government of Honduras on implementing other products agreed upon with the various rapporteurships, some of which have not been possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

115. Even so, in the course of this year some of the products agreed upon were elaborated. In 2020, technical assistance was provided to the Honduran authorities by the Follow-up of Recommendations and Impact Section. This relationship of cooperation was established by sending a technical assistance note to the state authorities with a view to strengthening the monitoring of recommendations that the Commission made to the Honduran State in the country report published in 2019. Mention should also be made of the production of the section of the annual report on monitoring the recommendations in the country report; that section is included in chapter 5 of the annual report.

116. In addition to the activities and results that were completed, others have met with partial implementation. These include the drawing up of comments concerning the implementation of the Law on Protection for Human Rights Defenders, Journalists and other Media Workers, and Judicial Officers in keeping with inter-American standards; comments on the draft National Policy on the Rights of Children and Adolescents and its Action Plan; the implementation of technical advisory services for drawing up a legal framework to protect the rights of the child; and the preparation of a report on the economic, social, cultural and environmental rights of the indigenous peoples and Afro-Hondurans.

Special Follow-up Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE)

117. In October 2019, the Commission installed the Special Follow-up Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE) with the aim of strengthening its monitoring activity in Venezuela and responding in due time to the new challenges posed by the serious human rights crisis. In the course of 2020, the MESEVE continued carrying out its activities monitoring the human rights situation in Venezuela, offering timely responses aimed at preventing and denouncing human rights violations.

118. Since its creation, MESEVE has constantly monitored the human rights situation in Venezuela, making an important effort to approach victims and civil society organizations. In this regard, from February 4 to 8, 2020, MESEVE conducted an on-site visit to the Colombian-Venezuelan border to verify the human rights situation in Venezuela. There, it met with victims of human rights violations and held meetings with various international organizations with a presence in Colombia dedicated to working on the human rights of migrants. Thus, the IACHR held numerous meetings with deputies, journalists in exile, groups of victims living in Colombia, and others who moved from Venezuela, particularly from the states of Táchira and Zulia. The Commission also held working meetings with international organizations such as the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

119. In the framework of said visit, from the city of Cúcuta, a Commission's team collected documentary information, audiovisual material and nearly 70 testimonies from people who denounced human rights violations that occurred in Venezuela, in addition to 130 virtual testimonies received from its headquarters. On February 8, 2020, the IACHR continued its monitoring work from the city of Bogotá, holding meetings with organizations that defend the rights of migrant girls and women, and that have documented the gender-differentiated impact of the complex humanitarian crisis that Venezuela is experiencing. Following the visit to the Colombian-Venezuelan border, MESEVE prepared a preliminary report with findings and recommendations. This preliminary report was presented in a webinar with more than 300 participants on May 8, 2020.

120. Within the framework of its monitoring and in terms of communication strategy, it is worth noting that in September 2020, the MESEVE launched its [micro-website](#), which contains information related to the IACHR's activities, reports and precautionary measures with respect to Venezuela. Likewise, the MESEVE has made an important effort to ensure that the human rights situation in Venezuela is a priority on the Commission's social networks. Thus, as part of its monitoring activities, the Mechanism published at least 115 tweets addressing the human rights situation of different groups, such as persons with disabilities, journalists, migrants, women, persons deprived of liberty and persons with chronic diseases, among others. Likewise, during 2020, it published [26 press releases](#), of which 14 are referred to the granting or extension of precautionary measures. The Mechanism further held 18 virtual sessions in which at least 186 persons gave testimony. In addition to documenting human rights violations, these testimonies have made it possible to identify areas of particular concern and to monitor them. In addition, during 2020, the mechanism also completed the preparation of chapter IV.B on Venezuela for the Commission's 2020 Annual Report. Based on the monitoring activities, in 2020, the MESEVE carried out an exercise to make visible the human rights situation of several groups in a situation

of special vulnerability in different regions of Venezuela. This exercise has been made through an articulated work with the different rapporteurships of the Commission, including the Special Rapporteurship for Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights; as well as the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression. Among others, MESEVE promoted pronouncements on the situation of journalists, persons deprived of liberty, human rights defenders and representatives of the National Assembly, as well as on the human rights situation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.