



OAS | More rights
for more people

MANAGEMENT REPORT

SECRETARIAT FOR
ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND
EQUITY

2021

SARE

GUARANTEEING

"MORE RIGHTS FOR MORE PEOPLE"

IN THE AMERICAS



OAS Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Organization of American States. Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity. Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE): SARE's Management Report 2021. p.; cm. (OAS. Official records; OEA/Ser.D/XXVI.46)

ISBN 978-0-8270-7550-4

1. Human rights. 2. Equality. 3. Justice, Administration of. 4. Social integration. 5. Social policy. 6. Civil society. I. Title. II. Series.

OEA/Ser.D/XXVI.46

GUARANTEEING

“MORE **RIGHTS** FOR MORE **PEOPLE**”

IN THE AMERICAS



OAS | More rights
for more people

Luis Almagro

Secretary General

Néstor Méndez

Assistant Secretary General

Maricarmen Plata

Secretary for Access to
Rights and Equity

Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian

Director of the Department of
Social Inclusion

Coordination: Esperanza Ramos
Nicole Levoyer

Graphic Design: Nicole Levoyer

We would like to thank Adam Siegel, Álvaro Botero, Clara Burjel, Claudia González, Jean Ricot Dormeus, Mariana Herrera, Mariette Vidal, Mercedes Carrillo, Paulina Corominas, Roberto Rojas, Sarah Meneses y Sara Mia Noguera for their contributions.

ISBN: 978-0-8270-7550-4

This is a publication of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS). OAS publications are independent of specific national or political interests. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Organization of American States (OAS).

It is not allowed the total or partial reproduction of this publication, nor its computer processing, nor its transmission in any way.

© General Secretariat of the Organization of American States 2021

To request permission to reproduce or translate parts or all of this publication, please contact GS/OAS SG/OEA 17th St. & Constitution Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006 USA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) _____ 2

Strategic Objectives _____ 4

Key Programs _____ 5

- Promotion of Hemispheric Dialogue _____ 5
- Promotion of Technical Cooperation _____ 11
- Systematization and Generation of Information and Knowledge _____ 24
- Follow Up of Resolutions, Declarations and Conventions _____ 27
- Promotion and Expansion of the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in OAS Activities 2021 _____ 37

Financial Resources _____ 46

Partners _____ 48

Communication _____ 49

01

SARE

SECRETARIAT FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND EQUITY

The Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) was created in 2015, with the objective of supporting Member States in their efforts and initiatives to improve the conditions of access to rights and promote greater equity in the region. SARE seeks to promote and expand the work agenda of the General Secretariat in the field of social inclusion, prioritizing work in favor of populations in vulnerable situations, the protection of economic, social, and cultural rights, and citizen participation.

Through the Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) and the Section of Relations with Civil Society, SARE develops initiatives for political dialogue, technical cooperation, follow-up to regional normative frameworks on access to human rights and equity, and at the same time, promotes greater incidence and participation of civil society in OAS activities.

Throughout 2021, member States identified the importance of efforts aimed at a post-Covid-19 recovery with a focus on the areas of work of SARE. In the second year of the pandemic, the continuous economic, social and access to rights effects are all evident, but disproportionately in Groups in Situations of Vulnerability (GSV).

GSVs do not have all the conditions to mitigate the effects that came along with the pandemic, such as job losses or increased spending on health care. Therefore, this pandemic has highlighted the weaknesses in public health and social protection systems and the increase in the situation of vulnerability faced by persons with disabilities, people of African descent, indigenous peoples, LGBTI people, older persons, asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees with protection needs, among others.

Despite the negative impacts of the pandemic, in recent years SARE has managed to explore and develop suitable mechanisms that offer greater support to Member States to improve social protection systems. Initiatives have also been promoted to offer solutions to national institutions in charge of social policies that allow them to implement programs with an intersectional approach to reduce the gaps and discrimination faced by GSVs¹ around access to basic rights such as the right to work, education, adequate food, and health.

¹ *Groups in a situation of vulnerability refers to the group of persons who, on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, cultural identity, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, migratory status, refugee, returnee, stateless person or internally displaced person, disability, genetic characteristic, bio-psycho-social conditions or any other, have historically been discriminated against and recognition, enjoyment or exercise of their rights denied or violated (definition based on the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance). Available in:* https://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/inter_american_treaties_A-69_discrimination_intolerance.asp

With this 2021 Management Report, SARE reiterates its commitment to continue working with its partners by supporting member States in the development and adoption of inclusive public policies that eliminate the gaps caused by discrimination, achieve the necessary conditions for the full exercise of human rights and build more just and inclusive societies together.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2021 OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND EQUITY (SARE)

SARE's Strategic Plan 2020-2021 is aligned with the objectives of the OAS Comprehensive Strategic Plan 2016-2020. This Plan established the following:

Mission

Work together with OAS Member States in **building more inclusive and equitable societies, promoting access to rights, the empowerment of vulnerable groups, and citizen participation.**

Vision

To be the hemispheric reference in terms of dialogue, technical cooperation, design and implementation of policies and initiatives with a rights-based approach to social inclusion with equity.

To carry out its work, SARE prioritizes initiatives that have equity as a goal, social inclusion as a process, and the promotion of the full exercise of human rights as a strategy. This work is carried out with emphasis on the populations that are in a situation of greater vulnerability and on the transversal intersectionality of these groups.

02 | Strategic Objectives

- 1 Promote **hemispheric dialogue and technical cooperation** with and among OAS Member States on issues related to access to rights, social inclusion with equity, the empowerment of groups in situations of vulnerability, and citizen participation, to strengthen the capacity of state institutions in charge of these areas.
- 2 Generate **knowledge bases**, build capacities, and manage and disseminate information on public policies, laws, programs, and good practices of Member States aimed at promoting social inclusion with equity, the empowerment of groups in situations of vulnerability, citizen participation and access to justice.
- 3 Contribute to the **observance of human rights** in the region by monitoring the norms and standards of the inter-American system.
- 4 **Strengthen the capacities of civil society** and other social actors and facilitate their participation and articulation in OAS activities.
- 5 Intensify **the institutional strengthening efforts of SARE** to guarantee optimal working and budgetary conditions that allow it to effectively fulfill its mandates and responsibilities.²

To implement these objectives and continue its results-based management, SARE has organized its work under the strategic programs presented below. During 2021, these programs have guided the work carried out by SARE to respond to the mandates established by the OAS Member States and to the challenges that the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery has generated in the region.

² See SARE Strategic Plan 2020-2021 at the following link:
http://www.oas.org/es/sadye/publicaciones/SARE_Strategic_2020_ENG.pdf

KEY PROGRAMS | 03

Program 1:

Promotion of Hemispheric Dialogue and Access to Rights, Social Inclusion with Equity, Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups, and Citizen Participation

Within the framework of this program, SARE supports meetings of high authorities to promote the exchange of information, promising practices and priorities for regional cooperation. It should be noted that the forums supported or promoted by SARE focus on promoting dialogue aimed at concrete results such as the adoption of "declarations", "action plans", "guidelines", among others. Within this program and during 2021, progress was made in the following processes:

Ministerial Meetings on Social Development (REMDES)

DSI of SARE exercises the role of Technical Secretariat of the Ministerial Meetings on Social Development (REMDES, for its acronym in Spanish), and of its Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES). In this space, member States share information to review, design and implement social policies and social safety nets and economic inclusion to overcome poverty and inequality. In addition, during the REMDES, the Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development of the region establish commitments to advance in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas, the Protocol of San Salvador, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Among the achievements made in 2021 in the implementation of the Guatemalan Action Plan adopted by the 24 delegations that participated in the IV REMDES, the following stand out:

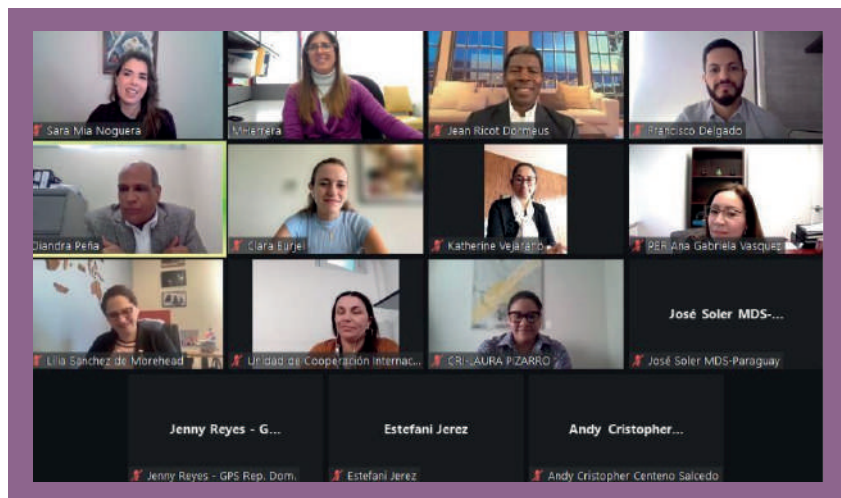
- ❖ Approval of the "Work Plan 2021-2022 of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES)", approved by the Committee on Solidarity Cooperation Policies for Development during the meeting held on April 13, 2021 for the implementation of the Plan of Action of Guatemala (2019-2022) that contemplates activities around the priorities for action defined in the Declaration adopted at the IV REMDES on issues such as multidimensional

poverty, strengthening social protection systems and promoting regional cooperation in the field of social development. The Dominican Republic is the host country of REMDES planned for the month of November 2022.

- ❖ Active participation of the following institutions: Cabinet of Coordination of Social Policies of the Dominican Republic, Department of Employment and Social Development of Canada, Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica, Ministry of Social Development of Guatemala, Secretariat of Welfare of Mexico, Ministry of Social Development of Paraguay, Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru and the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay, in the design, planning and implementation of the Guatemalan Plan of Action through the Working Groups created for the implementation of the Plan:

Working Group 1 (WG1) - "Measurements of multidimensional poverty and the design of public policies focused on guaranteeing well-being and the enjoyment of a good quality of life".

Working Group 2 (WG2) - "Social protection systems that lead to social development through the reduction of poverty and inequality and expand social protection with a comprehensive approach".



Meeting of CIDES Working Group 2 held on December 13, 2021

- ❖ Launch of the Migration Report "Establishing a new regional course of action. The complex motivations and costs of Central American migration", through a virtual event coordinated jointly by DSI of SARE and the World Food Programme (WFP) held on 23 November 2021.

You can access the recording of the Facebook broadcast using the following link: <https://fb.watch/cOgB3vLEKW/>



Cover page of the Report

Plan of Action for the Decade of People of African Descent in the Americas 2016-2025

According to ECLAC, the Afro-descendant population in Latin America currently amounts to 134 million people, representing 21% of the region's total population.³ Afro-descendants are among the most vulnerable groups in the hemisphere as a result of poverty, underdevelopment, social exclusion, economic inequalities, which are closely linked to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance.

In 2016, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Plan of Action for the Decade of People of African Descent in the Americas 2016-2025 and member States committed to gradually adopt administrative, legislative, judicial, and budgetary measures to ensure that Afro-descendant populations in the Americas enjoy their economic, social, cultural civil and political rights.

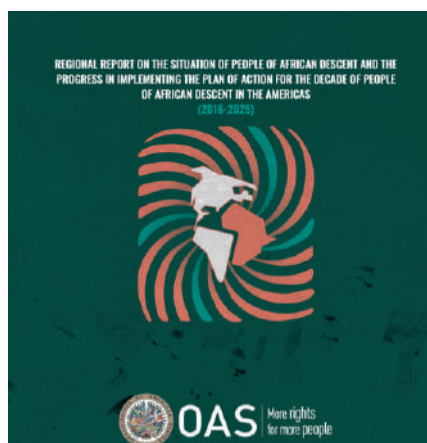
In 2018, as part of the implementation of the Plan of Action, the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for Afro-descendant Populations (RIAFRO, for its acronym in Spanish) was created, whose mission is to promote dialogue, coordination, and permanent collaboration among national authorities, with the aim of seeking the implementation of policies for people of African descent, in accordance with international and regional obligations in the Americas.

³ Afro-descendants and the matrix of social inequality in Latin America, 2020, available in English at the following link: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46871-afrodescendants-and-matrix-social-inequality-latin-america-challenges-inclusion>

As part of the follow-up to the Plan of Action for the Decade of People of African Descent in the Americas 2016-2025, the II and III Inter-American Meeting of High Policy Authorities for the Afro-descendant Population were held. RIAFRO is composed of representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

During 2021, SARE organized or participated through DSI in the following activities to promote the rights of people of African descent:

- ❖ Support, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat, the monthly meetings of RIAFRO Management Committee.
- ❖ Launch of the Report on the Current Status of People of African Descent and progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade (2016-2025). View the report [here](#).
- ❖ Organization of the Webinar COVID 19 and Afro-descendant Population: Advances, Challenges, within the framework of the IV Inter-American Week of People of African Descent.
- ❖ Organization of the Webinar to mark the "International Day of People of African Descent" on August 26, 2021. View the event [here](#).
- ❖ Strategic alliance with the Training Centers of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Ministry of Equality of Spain
- ❖ Training public officials and civil society on the Afro-descendant agenda in the Inter-American System



Cover page of the Report on the State of the Situation of People of African Descent and progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade (2016-2025)

Among the achievements in 2021, it is important to highlight that with the work carried out since its creation and even with the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been possible to consolidate the visibility of RIAFRO as a reference in terms of access to rights of people of African descent both among member States, civil society, academia and international aid workers.

Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2017-2021

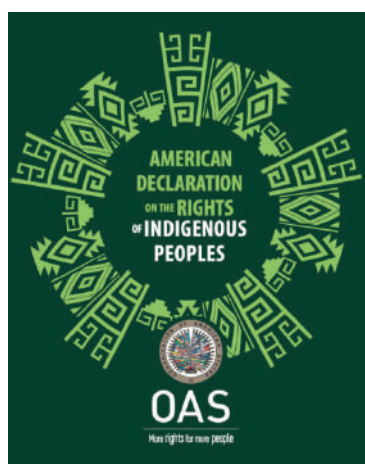
According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Latin America is home to 58 million people belonging to 800 indigenous peoples, representing 9.8% of the regional population.⁴ Compared to non-indigenous people, indigenous peoples have a higher incidence of poverty and destitution, lower possibilities for higher mobility and high mortality rates. Indigenous peoples have been discriminated against, marginalized, and excluded from society at large despite the legislation that exists to protect their human rights.

In 2016, the OAS General Assembly approved the American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – after 17 years of negotiation. The Declaration is the OAS instrument that promotes and protects the rights of the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

In 2017, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021). The main objective of the plan is to contribute to the full recognition, exercise, and enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples at the national and hemispheric levels through the support of the Organization of American States and other instances of the inter-American system.

From the Secretariat of Access to Rights and Equity, during 2021 the following achievements were attained related to the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples:

- ❖ Supporting in the celebration of the IV Inter-American Week of Indigenous Peoples.
- ❖ The creation of the communication campaign on the American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- ❖ Training public officials and civil society on the [American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).



Cover page of the document: "American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"

⁴ ECLAC, *The Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples in Latin America, 2020*. Available at the following link: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/46698/S2000893_en.pdf

Committee on Migration Affairs (CAM)

The Committee on Migration Affairs (CAM) is the organ of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), which addresses migration issues in the Americas, considering the different dynamics throughout the migration cycle, and realities that occur at the hemispheric level.

It also enables Member States to engage in an informed and constructive dialogue on the causes of international migration and the responses required to better address the challenges posed by this phenomenon and maximize the opportunities it generates.

CAM has as one of its mandates, the accountability of institutions of the inter-American system that are responsible for carrying out activities related to international migration in a transversal manner.

During 2021, as the Technical Secretariat of the Committee on Migration Affairs (CAM) DSI supported the organization of the thematic sessions of this Commission.

Topics addressed in the thematic sessions of the CAM (2021):

- CIDI/CAM/OD-66/21: "Access to social benefits, pensions and agreements between countries for transfers of pensions to social and health services for vulnerable populations between host countries".
Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021
- CIDI/CAM/OD-67/21: "Attention to victims of trafficking and smuggling of migrants".
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021
- CIDI/CAM/OD-68/21: "Contributions of migrants to host countries" and "Public policies and best practices in the region to combat discrimination, xenophobia and racism".
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021
- CIDI/CAM/OD-69/21: "The Impact of Migration on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Specific Challenges with Respect to Their Physical and Financial Capacity" and "Migration and Climate Change".
Date: Friday, June 25, 2021
- CIDI/CAM/OD-70/21: "Special Migratory Situations in the Region" and "Follow-up on Measures to Address the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Migrants in the Americas."
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Program 2:

Promotion of Technical Cooperation

SARE's initiatives under this program have focused on supporting technical cooperation activities among Member States, facilitating dialogue, knowledge transfer and the exchange of experiences with a perspective of access to human rights, inclusion, and intersectionality. Since 2020, the differentiated approach has been emphasized in the responses of member States for the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery by GSV: indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, LGBTI people, people of African descent and young people and older adults. The following are SARE technical cooperation initiatives that correspond to this program:

Program to support the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS, for its acronym in Spanish) - Joint UNIT SG/OAS-UNHCR

By the end of 2021, more than one million people from Central American countries and Mexico have been displaced. Social conflicts, gender-based violence, climate change and the impact of COVID-19 are factors that have exacerbated underlying vulnerability and accelerated mobility. Natural disasters, floods and droughts disproportionately affect people in poverty and in insecure environments.

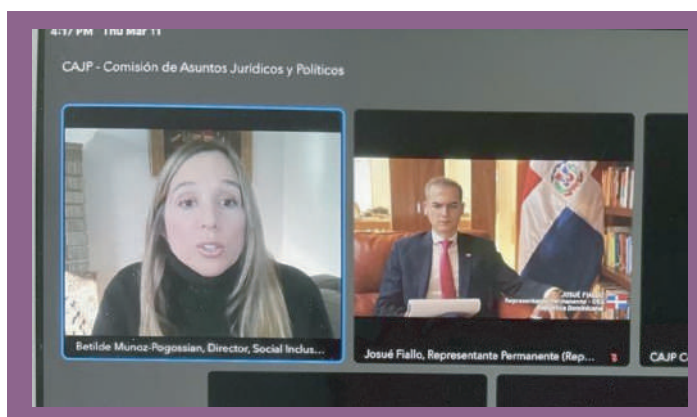
To address forced displacement in Central America and Mexico, Central American States: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and Mexico are part of the [Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions \(MIRPS\)](#). The MIRPS was established in the Declaration of San Pedro Sula, in October 2017, and is a pioneering initiative in the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and a concrete contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees. It also reflects a clear expression of collaboration between governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, regional and international agencies, and development banks. The MIRPS serves as a practical tool to mobilize support for international cooperation.

DSI/SARE and UNHCR are part of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Comprehensive Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS). This regional cooperation framework promotes mechanisms of shared responsibility for prevention, protection and solutions for refugees, applicants for refugee status, internally displaced persons and returnees with protection needs in Central America and Mexico.

Member States: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama.

In 2021, the main achievements achieved as technical secretariat of the MIRPS were:

- ❖ Five (5) plenary meetings with the National Technical Teams of the MIRPS member States in support of the Guatemalan-led Pro-Tempore Presidency organized to review progress in the implementation of the regional work plan and the national action plans of each MIRPS State.
- ❖ The organization of a session of the Committee on Legal and Political Affairs (CAJP) on the results achieved in the implementation of the MIRPS in which UNHCR, and the Permanent Mission of El Salvador participated as Pro-Tempore Presidency of MIRPS 2020 and the Foreign Ministry of Guatemala as Presidency Pro tempore 2021.

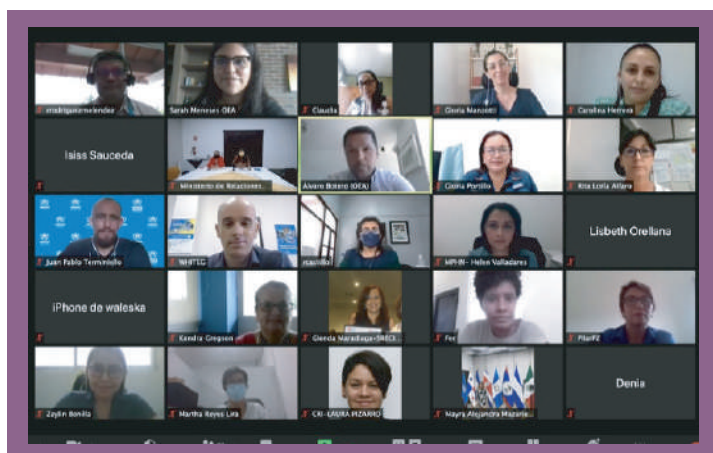


Intervention of Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian at the CAJP

- ❖ Four (4) MIRPS working groups formed that focus on priority areas: (i) forced internal displacement; (ii) admission, reception, and processing of persons in need of international protection; (iii) local governance and (iv) employment and livelihoods. These working groups composed of the National Technical Teams of the MIRPS States held 16 sessions during the year to exchange experiences, good practices and lessons learned with independent experts, from agencies of the United Nations System and from countries and organizations that are members of the MIRPS Support Platform. DSI, as part of the MIRPS Technical Secretariat, attended the sessions of the groups and contributed by generating 4 reports with recommendations for action in the areas of interest of the Working Groups.



Cover page of the document: "MIRPS Working Group Report on Internal Displacement"



Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS in session of the Working Groups

- ❖ First Solidarity Event towards the Forced Displaced and the communities that host them in the Central American and Mexican region held on June 10, 2021, in San José, Costa Rica, organized by the government of Spain, as Presidency of the MIRPS Support Platform, the government of Guatemala as Pro-Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS and the government of Costa Rica as Pro-tempore Presidency of SICA, with the support of the joint Technical Secretariat MIRPS composed of UNHCR and the OAS. In this conference, it was possible to mobilize the international community to find solutions to the displacement that affects Central America and Mexico. Cooperating countries, multilateral organizations, international organizations, development banks, the private sector and civil society assumed new commitments in humanitarian and development support, with contributions up to one hundred and ten million dollars (US\$110 million).

*MIRPS
Solidarity Event*



Speech by the Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro, during the First Solidarity Event

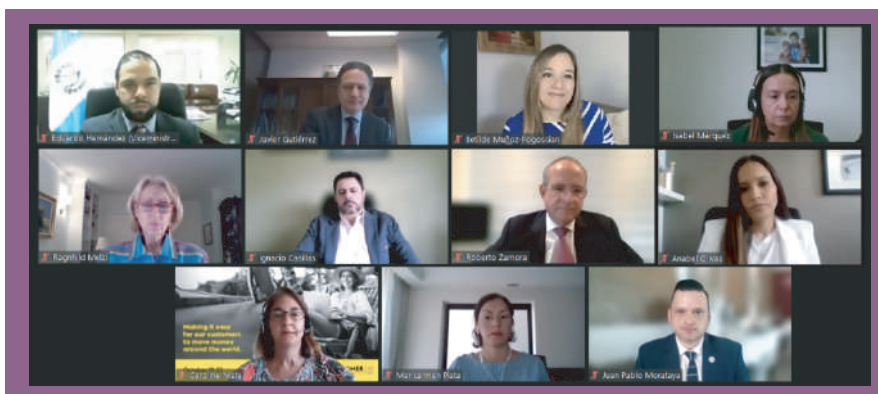
- ❖ During the MIRPS Solidarity event, the MIRPS FUND, created within the framework of the OAS, was made accessible to international cooperation. As a result, the Government of Spain and other governments have made contributions, for the first time, which has enabled the MIRPS States to carry out actions for the benefit of people forced to move from Central America and Mexico.

President of the Government of Spain (PPT of the MIRPS Support Platform), President of the Republic of Costa Rica and President of the Republic of Guatemala (PPT of the MIRPS) - from left to right.

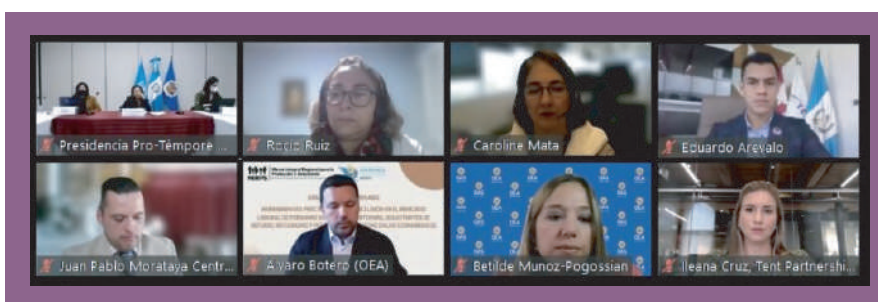


Statement by the President of the Republic of Guatemala, in his capacity as Pro-Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS

- ❖ Two (2) business roundtables to bring the private sector closer together in proposing solutions to forced displacement complementary to the efforts of MIRPS member States. The first virtual round table dealt with the opportunities and positive effects of the inclusion of displaced persons in the local economies of Central America and Mexico, and the second had as its main theme a discussion on the practical tools for the inclusion of internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and returnees in the labor market of Central America and Mexico economies. These round tables were organized with the support of the Department of External Relations and Institutions of the OAS from which 7 areas of action emerged to deepen public-private actions within the MIRPS.



First Round Table



Second Round Table

- ❖ Cooperation agreement between Rotary International and the OAS General Secretariat to support the inclusion of returnees in Central America and Mexico within the framework of the MIRPS.



Signing of the Cooperation Agreement between Rotary International and the GS/OAS

- ❖ Second Inter-American Course on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Returnees in Need of Protection, Stateless Persons, and Victims of Trafficking in the Americas, organized in conjunction with UNHCR and IOM, and with the support of the Government of Canada. The course had a broad and active participation of more than 50 representatives of the Permanent Missions and Observer States to the OAS, as well as officials at the national level of the OAS member States. The video summary of the Inter-American Course is available [here](#).
- ❖ [Fourth Annual Report of the MIRPS](#) presented during the IV Annual Meeting held on November 30, 2021, in the city of La Antigua, Guatemala. DSI supports the development of the contents of this Fourth Annual Report of the MIRPS that compiles important advances in the implementation of the national commitments of Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and El Salvador during 2021. It also documents the advances made at the regional level of the four MIRPS working groups, partnerships with civil society, the private sector and the platform to support MIRPS; and the strategic positioning of MIRPS Republic of Guatemala, as President Pro Tempore of the MIRPS.



The IV Annual Meeting was attended by Ministers and Vice-Ministers of the 7 Member States of the MIRPS, member States of the Support Platform, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the President of the Republic of Guatemala, and the Secretary General of the OAS. His intervention is available [here](#).

Save the Date "IV MIRPS Annual Meeting"



Press conference in the framework of the "IV MIRPS Annual Meeting"

- ❖ "Declaration of the City of Antigua Guatemala": Responding to the structural causes of displacement and strengthening alliances and comprehensive responses for protection and solutions for displaced persons, applicants for refugee status, refugees and returnees with protection needs in Central America and Mexico" was adopted on November 30, 2021, during the IV MIRPS Annual Meeting of the East. The political pronouncement of the 7 Member States of the MIRPS establishes a roadmap for next year with commitments in various priority areas.



*IV MIRPS Annual Meeting,
chaired by Guatemala*

*Official photograph of the IV
MIRPS Annual Meeting*



Project: Strengthening the Capacities of the Government of Costa Rica and the Host Communities for the Reception of Nicaraguan Migrants and Refugees

The main objective of this project is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Costa Rican government and host communities to facilitate the reception and successful integration of migrant and refugee populations. This project was funded by Spain and the Republic of Korea.

Beneficiary countries: Costa Rica

Main Activities:

During the first stage of implementation of the project, the OAS has provided the government of Costa Rica:

- (1) Recommendations to national and subnational authorities on the reception and integration of migrants and refugees.
- (2) Training of government officials and members of host communities in the reception and integration of migrants and refugees.
- 3) Alternatives for socio-economic integration.

Main Achievements:

- Report "Costa Rica: Characterization and analysis of policies on international migration and refugees" presented and delivered to the authorities of Costa Rica Available [here \(spanish version\)](#).



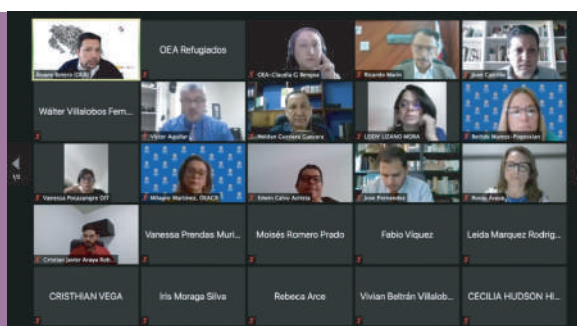
Cover page of the Report



Presentation of the Report "Costa Rica: Characterization and Analysis of Policies on International Migration and Refugees".

- Exchange of experiences between authorities of Colombia and Costa Rica in the field of reception at the border.
- 2 Training workshops on priority issues for the Costa Rican authorities organized: the first on migration information systems and the second on the rights of migrants and refugees organized in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO). More than 80 government officials from various agencies participated in these workshops, such as officials from the General Directorate of Migration, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN), labor inspectors from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of Costa Rica, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, among others.

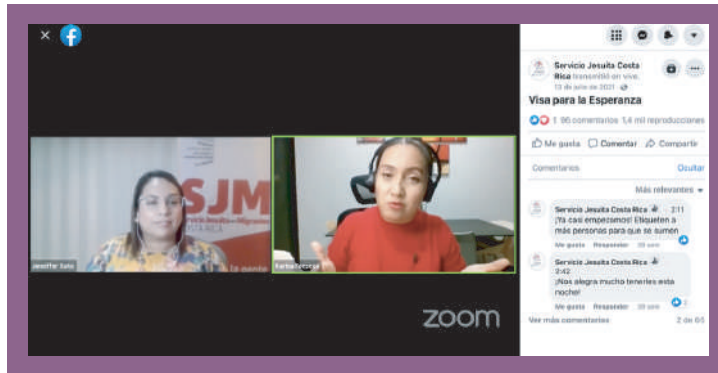
Workshop on Migration Information Systems



Workshop on the rights of migrants and refugees



- A workshop to exchange experiences with local authorities "Building inclusive cities for migrants, refugees and host communities", organized in conjunction with the Institute of Municipal Development and Advice (IFAM), with more than 120 officials from local and municipal governments.
- Organization of 3 virtual community meetings to generate knowledge about inclusive cities, access to rights and the promotion of local integration of migrants and refugees, mostly from Nicaragua. The 3 Encounters had 3,600 views.



Virtual Community Meetings

- A training program in business and digital skills of the CANVAS model developed and taught to 12 Nicaraguan migrant entrepreneurs, in cooperation with the Trust for the Americas.

12 Nicaraguan migrant entrepreneurs trained in business and digital skills of the CANVAS model, in cooperation with the Trust for the Americas.



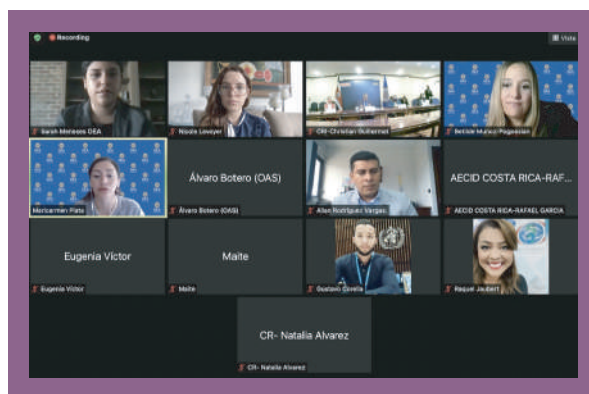
- Presentation to authorities of the government of Costa Rica on the results achieved during the execution of the project.



Costa Rican government officials attending the results presentation



Post-project presentation



Virtual presentation of the results of the project by DSI/SARE team

DISSEMINATION IN SOCIAL NETWORKS

DSI supported the dissemination of MIRPS activities through 153 posts on social networks that generated an average of 1,000 impressions and an average of 65 interactions with users. Also generated were 4 Press Releases of the most outstanding milestones of the MIRPS including the Solidarity Event, the Annual Meeting of the MIRPS, the adoption of the Declaration of La Antigua Guatemala, and contributions to the MIRPS FUND.

Other activities carried out within the framework of this program:

- Participation of Betilde Muñoz Pogossian, Director of DSI, in the event "Part of a new community. The Integration of Venezuelan Migrants and Refugees in South America", organized by IOM and the Migration Policy Institute (MPI)
- Event "Welcome to Venezuelan migrants, innovations in integration policies in Colombia", organized in cooperation with the Migration Policy Institute (MPI).
- Presentation of the Report "Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on evicted people, indigenous people, and sex workers in nine countries in Latin America and the Caribbean", in cooperation with the R4V platform. The report is available [here \(spanish version\)](#).
- Launch of the study "[Charting a New Regional Course of Action: The Complex Motivations and Costs of Central American Migration](#)", organized in conjunction with the World Food Programme.
- Participation of Betilde Muñoz Pogossian, Director of the Department of Social Inclusion, in the event "Business meetings for sustainability", organized by Red Integrarse.
- Two virtual conversations with women leaders of Venezuelan organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean organized in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration.

Consumer Safe and Health Network (CSHN)

The CSHN is an interdisciplinary inter-American mechanism specialized in promoting, at the national and hemispheric levels, the protection of the rights of consumers in monitoring the safety of consumer products and the impact on their health and well-being.

In 2010, the OAS Member States created the Consumer Safety and Health Network to strengthen national and regional cooperation capacities and contribute to the early detection of dangerous consumer products and the adoption of coordinated actions among the competent agencies to combat their circulation in markets.

The protection of consumer rights by monitoring the safety of consumer products requires coordinated action between the competent bodies to combat the movement of dangerous consumer products on the markets.

The COVID-19 pandemic has completely and suddenly transformed people's way of life; including how they make the purchase of consumer products. The area of e-commerce has been growing over the years in the Americas, however, since the pandemic began, the online business presence has increased. Business websites grew by 800% in Colombia and Mexico, and by 360% in Brazil and Chile.⁵ There is an increasing number of consumers within the region who are shopping online and therefore it is necessary to ensure that consumers are kept informed in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to ECLAC, in Latin America and the Caribbean, by 2029, 430 million people were Internet users (equivalent to 67% of the population).⁶

Beneficiary countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay.

The activities carried out during 2021 were:

- ❖ Support Uruguay, the presidency of the RCSS 2020-2021, in the execution of the annual work plan.
- ❖ Negotiate a complementary agreement between the Superintendence of Industry and Commerce of Colombia and the OAS to develop SIAR 2.0.
- ❖ Work with Colombia to launch a new and improved version of the Inter-American Rapid Alert System (SIAR 2.0)

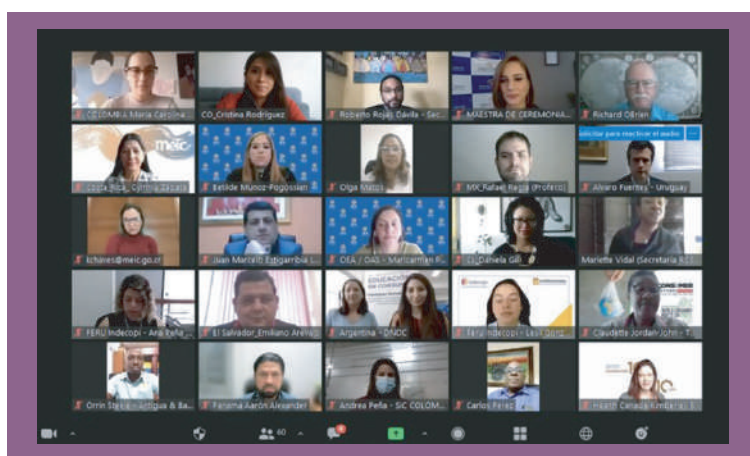
⁵ ECLAC, Data and facts on digital transformation, 2021. Available in spanish at the following link: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/46766/S2000991_es.pdf

⁶ ECLAC, Data and facts on digital transformation, 2021. Available in spanish at the following link: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/46766/S2000991_es.pdf

- ❖ Collaborate with DOITS in recreating an updated version of the Consumer Safety and Health Network website.
- ❖ Support to the Network in the coordination and implementation of communication campaigns on social networks on the surveillance of dangerous products.
- ❖ Hire an affordable interpretation service for meetings of the Steering Committee, which includes Jamaica, and the Network in general to encourage more active participation of English-speaking countries.
- ❖ Support the incoming presidency of the RCSS in 2022, Colombia in the organization of the VIII Plenary Meeting of the Consumer Insurance and Health Network and the International Workshop on Product Safety.

In 2021, the Consumer Insurance and Health Network achieved the following achievements:

- ❖ 1 new platform of the Inter-American Rapid Alert System (SIAR 2.0). [Go to website](#)
- ❖ 1 new website for the Consumer Safety and Health Network. [Go to website](#)
- ❖ 2 communication campaigns for the Network: The first was in March on Consumer Rights Day and the second was a virtual campaign on product safety during the week leading up to Black Friday in November.
- ❖ 1 interpretation service contracted.
- ❖ Fulfilled the VIII Plenary Meeting of the Consumer Safety and Health Network and the International Workshop on Product Safety that took place in November 2021



VIII Plenary Meeting of the Consumer Insurance and Health Network

- ❖ The elaboration of the CSHN work plan for 2022
 - For the first time, the CSHN established working groups to focus on 4 priority areas for Network members including: Communications, Strategic alliances with other multilateral organizations, Consumer Protection in Digital Environments, and Risk management of potentially harmful or unsafe products.
- ❖ The elaboration of paragraphs "Consumer Protection in the Americas" approved by the 51st Regular Session of the General Assembly (AG/RES. 2975 (LI-O/21)).

Program 3:

Systematization and Generation of Information and Knowledge

Under this strategic program, SARE provides OAS member states with information that may be key when reviewing, designing, and implementing public policies, programs, and initiatives aimed at guaranteeing greater equity and the full realization of human rights in the region.

Virtual Fair of Good Practices for Groups in Situations of Vulnerability in the Context of the COVID-19.

Given the need to continue serving the groups most affected by the impacts of the pandemic and to contribute to the Member States, in 2021, the DSI organized the Contest of Good Practices for Groups in a Situation of Vulnerability in the Context of the COVID-19.

The objective of the virtual contest was to showcase and share existing good practices to respond to and address groups in situations of vulnerability in the context of COVID-19 in OAS member states.

The good practices shown in the Virtual Fair are the winners of the contest of Good Practices for Groups in Situations of Vulnerability in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

[More information here](#)

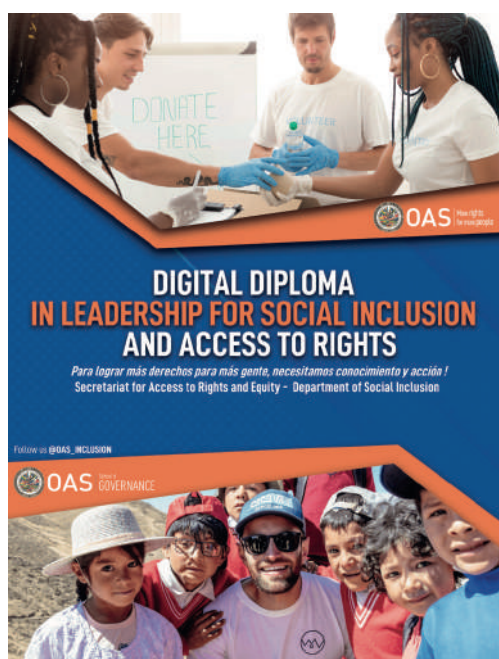
Beneficiary countries: All Member States

First Edition Digital Diploma in Leadership for Social Inclusion and Access to Rights

The First Edition of the Digital Diploma in Leadership for Social Inclusion and Access to Rights was carried out by the DSI with the support of the OAS Civil Society Section, the Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons With Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS) and under the umbrella of the OAS School of Governance.

This is an initiative that emerged to help reduce inequalities by strengthening leadership skills for political change and social participation from an intersectional approach to access to rights, aimed at key actors in this agenda at the national and regional levels.

The general objective of the Digital Diploma was to update participants on the main knowledge and practices in terms of the International and Inter-American framework on human rights of groups in historical situations of vulnerability, as well as the debates on the matter, and experiences and practices related to the exercise of human rights in the region, political leadership and social activism. As a result, participants had the opportunity to develop and strengthen their leadership skills in political advocacy, strategic communication, and negotiating and proposing public policies, which are oriented to full inclusion, equity, social justice and the exercise of all rights of citizenship in the region.



Digital Diploma Concept Note

The Digital Diploma took place from March 9 to April 21, 2021 and was aimed at government officials, members of civil society organizations, and other key social actors in the social inclusion and human rights agenda at the regional level. The first edition of the Digital Diploma, its contents and speakers, received excellent evaluations from the participants. Furthermore, the objectives set were achieved in the sense that it has fostered a community of leaders at the regional level committed to the agenda of inclusion and rights.

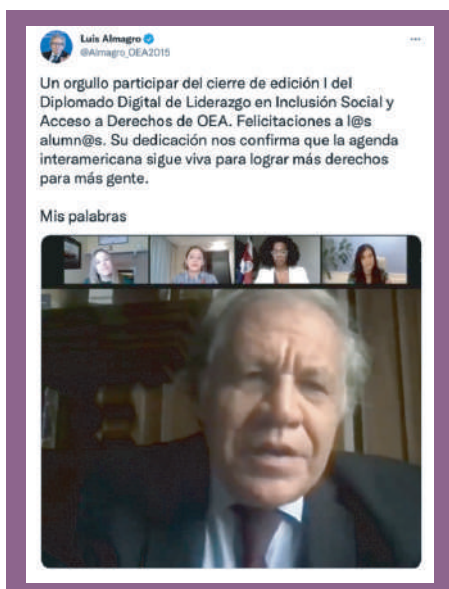
Main achievements:

- More than 400 applications were received.
- 202 scholarships of the 100% were granted to people from 23 countries in the Americas (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela).
- The people who were selected belonged to key Institutions for the Inclusion and Equity agenda:
 - 34% State
 - 19% Civil Society Organizations
 - 47% Other social actors
- Spanish-English interpretation, sign language and automatic subtitling were provided thanks to the financial support of the Government of Canada.
- Creation of a community of leaders at the regional level committed to the inclusion and rights agenda.
- The Graduation Ceremony was attended by the OAS Secretary General (Luis Almagro), the Vice President of Costa Rica (Epsy Campbell), the OAS Goodwill Ambassador for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Patricia Velásquez) and the Vice Minister of Culture of Panama (Gabriel González).

- The speakers of the 12 sessions gave their presentations free of charge .
- The Communication Plan for the dissemination of the Digital Diploma (before, during and after) maximized the digital reach of this initiative through tweets with videos, flyers, photographs of the sessions and panelists, etc. In addition, the students of the Digital Diploma contributed to dissemination of the Digital Diploma through their own social networks by sharing:
 - Personalized acceptance letter
 - Photographs of the sessions
 - Screenshot of their photos in the graduation video.

[More information here \(Concept note\)](#)

Beneficiary countries: All Member States



Graduation Ceremony of the 1st Edition of the Digital Diploma.



Tweet about the Welcome Session of the 1st Edition of the Digital Diploma.

Program 4:

Follow Up of Resolutions, Declarations and Conventions

The objective of this program is to strengthen the capacities of the technical bodies that follow-up the implementation of resolutions, declarations and Conventions of the Inter-American System of Human Rights. To this end, SARE promotes the expansion of the activities of these bodies and their cooperation with other political bodies of the OAS, the member States, and other international organizations. In addition, SARE supports dialogue among these technical bodies in order to promote cooperation among them and to establish a more intersectional and cross-cutting working methodology.

Mechanism for Monitoring and Compliance of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Within the inter-American human rights system, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) enshrines the obligation to exercise economic, social, cultural and environmental rights (ESCER) namely, the right to work and just, equitable and satisfactory working conditions, trade union rights, the right to social security, health, a healthy environment, food, education and the benefits of culture.

The "Protocol of San Salvador" is a binding legal instrument that has been signed by 20 countries and 16 have ratified it. Article 19 of the Protocol provides for the monitoring of the progressive implementation of ESCER through a system of national reports of the States Parties to the Protocol. This monitoring is possible thanks to the work of the Working Group entitled to examine the Periodic Reports to the Protocol of San Salvador (WGPSS). The Group is composed of four experts proposed and elected by the States Parties to the Protocol, two independent experts proposed by the States Parties and appointed by the Secretary General of the OAS and the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, and Cultural and Environmental Rights (SRESCE) of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).



OAS | WGPSS

The DSI of SARE performs the role of Technical Secretariat of the WGPSS, supporting the group as established in its regulations in technical assistance, in its sessions, in its hearings and meetings, in the preparation and review of documents, notes and publications and in its relationship with the States Parties to the Protocol and other OAS bodies.

The main achievements of the Working Group during 2021 are:

- ❖ Three technical assistance provided to the following States Parties to train and support their officials in preparing the consolidated national report for the third cycle of national reports:
 - El Salvador, February 17 and 18, 2021.
 - Panama, June 15 and 16, 2021.
 - Uruguay on September 1 and 2, 2021.

- ❖ Six meetings in which more than 150 government representatives were present to whom 45 observations and recommendations from the WGPSS were transmitted regarding the national reports submitted to the WGPSS by the following States Parties:
 - Colombia
 - Costa Rica
 - Ecuador
 - Honduras
 - Paraguay
 - Perú

- ❖ Two periods of sessions on June 9 and December 2 in which the experts of the Group agreed to develop new guides from the Guides series "Measuring all the gaps" and to publish the second one: "Practical guide for the operationalization of the indicators of the Protocol of San Salvador from a Transversal Look at the Indigenous Peoples".



WGPSS meeting with government representatives of Honduras on May 28, 2021

Experts of the WGPSS gathered in the XII Period of Sessions of the Group, on June 9, 2021.



Committee for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS for its acronym in Spanish)

The Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS, for its acronym in Spanish) and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2026 (PAD) are the main legal instruments in the Inter-American System that promote social inclusion and the exercise of the rights of people with disabilities. These legal frameworks encourage member States to gradually establish, and within a reasonable time, the administrative, legislative, judicial measures, as well as the public policies necessary to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

To support member States in the implementation of these instruments, the DSI of the SARE, has established two lines of action: a) monitoring-process of regulatory frameworks and; b) promoting the exercise of rights of persons with disabilities.

A) Monitoring of regulatory frameworks

Article VI of said Convention provided for the establishment of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) to monitor the commitments assumed by the 19 States Parties to the CIADDIS⁷ and promote cooperation and exchange of experiences. The SARE, through its Department of Social Inclusion, also performs the role of Technical Secretariat of the referred Committee and is in charge of coordinating the activities inherent to the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disability 2016-2026.

B) Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities

According to the World Bank, there are approximately 85 million people living with a disability in Latin America and the Caribbean, which represents 14.7% of the regional population.⁸ Persons with disabilities are more likely to experience lower levels of education, poorer health outcomes, higher poverty rates and are more likely to be unemployed than persons without disabilities.

The line of action for the promotion of rights of persons with disabilities is oriented towards social awareness and the generation and strengthening of capacities of government authorities or entities, judicial operators, legislators, civil society organizations, the business and academic sector and areas of the OAS General Secretariat in general, to adopt inclusive public policies, mainstream the disability perspective and eliminate the gaps caused by discrimination. The objectives of this line of action are: 1) to train the different public and private actors and decision-makers within the member states regarding the rights and dignity of Persons with Disabilities, social inclusion and intersectionality, as well as, the Inter-American Disability Rights'

⁷ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

⁸ *Inclusión de las personas con discapacidad en América Latina y el Caribe: Un camino hacia el desarrollo sostenible, 2021, available in Spanish at: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099140012012142009/pdf/P1753830860ccc05c0a4400a141537f3421.pdf>*

social inclusion and intersectionality, as well as, the Inter-American Disability Rights' regulatory framework, and 2) to provide technical support and advice to government authorities regarding public policies and legal reforms related to the rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In the area of persons with disabilities, the Department of Social Inclusion, in a coordinated effort with the Member States, has been carrying out activities that promote the full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life in society. Within this context, meetings are held periodically with national government authorities, representatives of international organizations, academic institutions and civil society organizations with the aim of disseminating the regulatory frameworks on the rights of persons with disabilities; sharing successful experiences of inclusion; entering into cooperation agreements; evaluating the progress and difficulties registered in the region; and providing institutional support in events of awareness or promotion of rights, and provide technical advice, among other actions.

The Department of Social Inclusion management of the issue of disability includes six lines of action:

- 1** Monitoring of the main normative instruments of the Inter-American System on persons with disabilities:
 - Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS, for its acronym in Spanish).
 - Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD, for its acronym in Spanish).
- 2** Establishment of institutional alliances for the generation of activities and projects that contribute to the social inclusion of people with disabilities.
- 3** Establishment of cooperative relationships with external organizations and other dependencies of the GS/OAS.
- 4** Promotion of cooperation links with civil society.
- 5** Technical support to OAS Member States.
- 6** Coordination of disability mainstreaming activities.

Main results

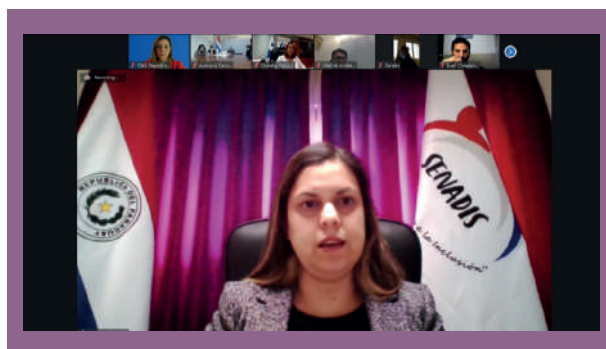
The main results achieved during 2021 are presented below, in line with the axes indicated.

- ❖ Organization and successful achievement of **15 meetings of a technical nature held between July 19 and September 2, 2021 with the participation of High-Level Authorities** (Vice President, Ministers, Vice Ministers, Secretaries/National Directors of Disability) of the States party to the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS), in which the evaluation groups of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS, for its acronym in Spanish) gave feedback on progress and challenges identified to remove barriers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the region.



Marvin Rodríguez Cordero, Vice President of Costa Rica

Mariela Ramírez, Minister and Executive Secretary for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities of Paraguay



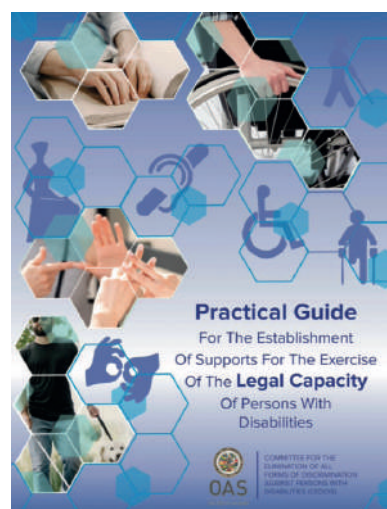
Miriam Huacani Zapana, Vice Minister of Equal Opportunities of Bolivia

- ❖ Organization and successful achievement of **3 plenary meetings of the CEDDIS with the participation of 18 OAS member States** for the approval of the evaluation reports of the national reports on the implementation of the CIADDIS and of the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD) and for the exchange of experiences among member states:
 - I. Twelfth Regular Meeting of CEDDIS (October 25-27, 2021)
 - II. Eighth Special Meeting of CEDDIS (November 5, 2021)
 - II. Ninth Special Meeting of CEDDIS (December 13, 2021)
- ❖ Launch of the **Compendium of Government Responses from 13 countries for the care of persons with disabilities in the Americas in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic** (December 9, 2021)



Cover of the compendium "Attention to Persons with Disabilities in the Americas in the Framework of the Covid-19 Pandemic"

- ❖ Launch of the **Practical Guide for the Establishment of Support for the Exercise of the Legal Capacity of Persons with Disabilities** (December 13, 2021)



Cover of the Practical Guide

- ❖ Presentation of the **Compendium on Legal Frameworks of 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (the publication is available in Spanish) developed by the Inter-American Development Bank with the support of the Department of Social Inclusion/OAS (December 13, 2021).

- ❖ Inter-institutional cooperation through the participation of the DSI in external events for the promotion of the rights of people with disabilities:
 - Virtual Seminar "**Higher Education and Disability: Contributions and pending of International and Regional Organizations**" organized by the University Program of Human Rights and the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (August 19, 2021)
 - II Conversation of the Subsidiary Technical Group on Emergency and Security Systems organized by the OAS Department of Public Security (September 8, 2021)
 - Forum "**Being inclusive: what can it bring us**" organized by the Fundación AM Compañía de Danza de Habilidades Mixtas (September 19, 2021).
 - 1st edition of "**Accessibility by Law**" webinars organized by the State Reference Center for Personal Autonomy and Technical Assistance (CEPAT) of Argentina (October 8)
 - Regional Seminar on ICT Accessibility, organized jointly with the National Communications Entity of Argentina (ENACOM), the National Information Technology Office (ONTI) of Argentina and the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) (October 20, 2021) .
- ❖ Support for the **Group of Countries Friends of Persons with Disabilities** made up of delegations from 14 member states in 5 meetings for the planning of activities aimed at strengthening the rights agenda of persons with disabilities.
- ❖ Co-organization of 3 Webinars on Inclusive Education for Teachers and Educational Authorities, Families and Persons with Disabilities within the framework of the Program for Inclusive Education in the Americas.

The Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons

In 2050, according to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), about 65% of older persons will live in low and middle-income countries. ⁹ In 2015, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons. This Convention is the first legally binding instrument in the world on the subject and its purpose is to promote, protect and ensure the recognition and full enjoyment and exercise, under conditions of equality, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons, in order to contribute to their full inclusion, integration and participation in society.

The SARE, under this program of its 2020-2021 Strategic Plan, carries out the agenda of rights and social inclusion of older persons, having the Convention as a framework for action.

⁹ PAHO, Aging and Health, 2021, available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ageing-and-health>

The results achieved in 2021 related to the social inclusion of older persons were:

- ❖ The training of public officials and civil society on the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons.
- ❖ The establishment of a strategic alliance with the Pan American Health Organization to promote the Decade of Healthy Aging.

Promotion of the rights of young people

According to the United Nations report on young people published in 2020, the young population represents 16.5% of the total population in Latin America and the Caribbean.¹⁰ Youth experience higher unemployment rates and lower wages than older generations which affects the exercise of their rights. In this context, in 2016, the OAS General Assembly, approved resolution [AG/RES. 2887 \(XLVI-O / 16\) "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights"](#), with the objective of strengthening the promotion and protection systems to guarantee the full exercise of the rights of children and adolescents in the region and to promote inclusive public policies with special attention to groups in situations of vulnerability.

The SARE, through its Department of Social Inclusion (DSI), focuses its work on the inclusion of young people in vulnerable situations, working with Member States to strengthen promotion and protection systems to create and promote inclusive policies that reduce the situation of vulnerability faced by young people. In 2019, the OAS General Secretariat signed a cooperation agreement with *Junior Achievement (JA) Worldwide Inc.*, a non-profit organization with more than 100 years of experience preparing young people for employment and entrepreneurship. Under this agreement, activities have been carried out that promote the social inclusion of young people who are in situations of vulnerability.

In economic and social terms, the pandemic had a strong impact on young people. Young people lost their jobs, or were forced to cut back on their work hours. In terms of education, young people without access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the Internet could not keep up with their education as their peers who do have access, putting them at a disadvantage in the future.

Beneficiary countries: All Member States

Main activities:

- ❖ In 2021, the Groups in Situations of Vulnerability Section continued its cooperation with Junior Achievement (JA) Worldwide Inc., a non-profit organization with more than 100 years preparing young people for employment and entrepreneurship. Under this agreement, activities have been carried out that promote the social inclusion of young people who are in situations of vulnerability.

10 WHO (2021), Ageing and health is available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ageing-and-health>

Main achievements:

- ❖ Strengthening of the working relationship between JA Americas and the OAS to influence the lives of the most vulnerable youth in the Americas.

Promotion of the rights of LGBTI people

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people are in a particularly vulnerable situation, as they face discrimination, stigmatization and intimidation due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. In 2013, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. This is the first inter-American instrument and the only one in the world that includes LGBTI persons as subjects of international protection.

In 2016, the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the United States, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay decided to found the LGBTI Group in the OAS, which aims to strengthen collaboration on OAS issues that impact people LGBTI, in order to contribute to dialogue and the exchange of good experiences between countries. Currently this group is made up of the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the United States, Mexico and Uruguay.

Canada chaired the Core Group from January to June 2021 and Chile from July to December 2021. The GSV Section, as in previous years, provided advice and kept the Core Group informed of its activities related to LGBTI people.

Beneficiary countries: All Member States

Main activities:

- ❖ In October 2021, the Groups in Situations of Vulnerability Section shared with the Core Group the work done to date on the LGBTI portfolio, including its support for the Open for Business report on the case for economic inclusion of LGBTI people in the Caribbean, the project in Haiti **"Strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations in Haiti to reduce stigma against people living with HIV and other vulnerable groups, including LGBTI people"**

Main achievements:

- ❖ Consolidation of the working relationship between the Department of Social Inclusion and the LGBTI Core Group of the OAS to improve the lives of LGBTI people in the Americas.

❖ PROJECT

Strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations in Haiti to reduce stigma against people living with HIV and other vulnerable groups, including LGBTI people.

In 2021, the Section for Groups in Situations of Vulnerability supported the project. This project aimed to support UNAIDS and Housing Works in setting up an Observatory to monitor stigmatization and the status of the rights of People Living with HIV with an intersectional approach; and strengthen CSOs in planning and developing programs that educate people about discrimination against People Living with HIV and other vulnerable groups such as LGBTI people and other key populations.

Beneficiary countries: Haiti

Main activities:

- In June 2021, the Groups in Situations of Vulnerability Section supported the training of members of civil society organizations working with people living with HIV, LGBTI people and people from other vulnerable groups to plan and develop programs to educate people on discrimination against people living with HIV with an intersectional approach.

Main achievements:

- 9 organizations trained in a 2-day civil society workshop focused on various topics that mix CSO priorities such as administration, finance, defense and governance with sessions on the Inter-American Human Rights System and terminology relevant that affects key populations, such as intersectionality.
- According to a survey conducted after the workshop, 94% of participants found the information shared very useful and will help them plan and implement programs to reduce stigma against people living with HIV.

Program 5:

Promotion and Expansion of the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in OAS Activities 2021

Due to their presence on the ground, civil society organizations and other social actors are in a key position to support the work of the Organization and Member States in promoting human rights in the region. The participation of civil society, including local organizations and broad networks of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and social actors, in the activities of the OAS has contributed to achieving the hemispheric goals in strengthening democracy, protecting human rights, promoting integral development and multidimensional security, as well as other ongoing initiatives within the OAS, that are part of the inter-American agenda. Mutual trust and understanding between civil society organizations (CSOs), social actors and the OAS have increased significantly over the years, which has been reflected in an increase in the level of participation of CSOs and social actors in initiatives, projects and activities carried out by the institution.

To date, 642 CSOs have registered with the OAS, and more than 600 cooperation agreements have been signed with different organizations. During the period covered by this report, the work of the Section of Relations with Civil Society focused on five areas: 1) carrying out dialogues with the Coalitions of CSOs; 2) special session of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC); 3) guaranteeing the conditions for the participation of civil society in the fiftieth first regular session of the OAS General Assembly; 4) managing the registration of civil society organizations with the OAS; and 5) generating an expansion of civil society participation in OAS activities.

It should be noted that the activities were still carried out in the complex context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought challenges to adapt to the virtual environment, a traditionally face-to-face participation of civil society in the Organization's activities.

❖ Dialogues with Coalitions of Civil Society Organizations

In order to strengthen relations with civil society, maintain a constant dialogue with them and encourage their participation, the Civil Society Relations Section held two Virtual Dialogues with the 31 Permanent Coalitions. The first was held on August 5 and 6, 2021.

During the first day, the Coalitions discussed the participation and advocacy of civil society organizations; obstacles, good practices, opportunities, and recommendations to strengthen the Coalition system. There was an initial intervention by the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Tania Reneaum Panzi, to open the dialogue.



First dialogue with coalitions of civil society organizations

On the second day, they discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on groups in situations of vulnerability; the main impacts, the contributions of civil society on the issue, the main challenges, and the recommendations to be provided to States. On that occasion, there was an initial intervention by the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat of Access to Rights and Equity, Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian.



Second dialogue with coalitions of civil society organizations

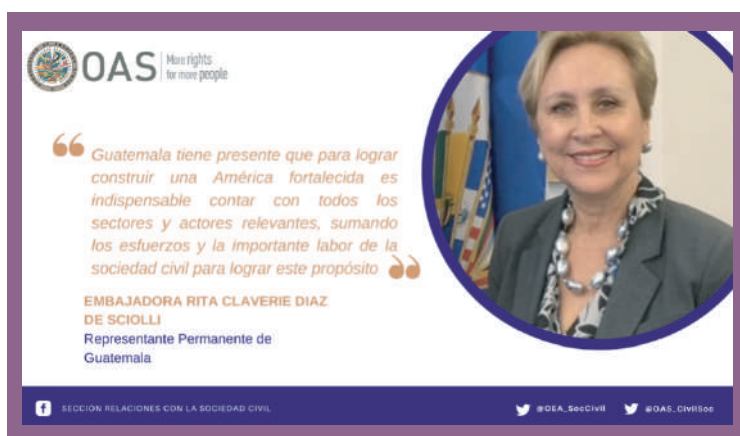
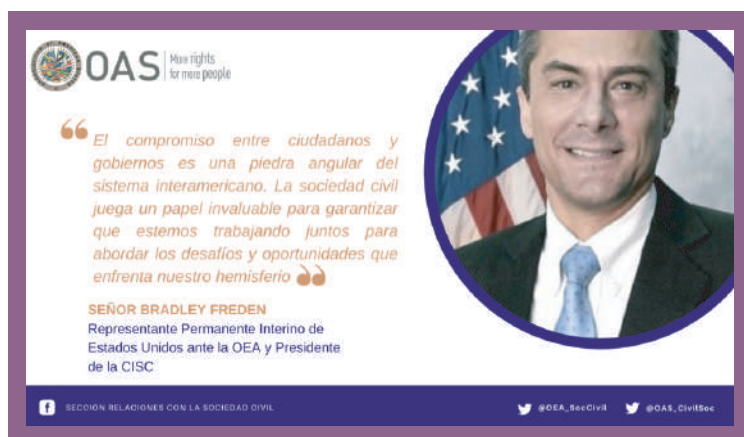
Once the theme of the fifty-first regular session of the OAS General Assembly, "For a Renewed America," was known, the Civil Society Relations Section organized a second dialogue with the Permanent Coalitions. The dialogue was held on September 15, 2021, and focused on the three issues identified as priorities by Guatemala, the host country of the General Assembly: 1) environmental conservation; 2) Food security and hunger eradication; 3) reactivation and economic recovery after COVID-19.

The results of the two Virtual Dialogues were presented to member States during a special session of the CISC.

❖ Special Session of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities

On September 28, 2021, a special meeting of the CISC was held in coordination with the Civil Society Relations Section of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity. The meeting was held as part of the preparation for the fifty-first regular session of the OAS General Assembly regarding, primarily, the participation of civil society and in compliance with Resolutions [AG/RES. 2949 (L-O/20) and CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)].

Opening remarks were made by Mr. Bradley Freden, Interim Permanent Representative of the United States and Chair of the CISC; Ambassador Rita Claverie Díaz de Sciolli, Permanent Representative of Guatemala, host country of the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly; and Ambassador Néstor Méndez, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS.



OAS *More rights for more people*

“Las contribuciones de la sociedad civil son de la mayor importancia para enriquecer las deliberaciones de los estados miembros y fortalecer las actividades de la organización”

EMBAJADOR NESTOR MENDEZ
Secretario General Adjunto, OEA

SECCIÓN RELACIONES CON LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL | @OEA_SocCivil | @OAS_CivilSec

There was also a presentation by Ms. Maricarmen Plata de Royo, Secretary of Access to Rights and Equity, on the work of coalitions of civil society organizations in the OAS, ahead of the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

OEA *No derechos por más gente*

“La participación de la sociedad civil y otros actores sociales en las actividades de la OEA es crucial para alcanzar las metas hemisféricas en el fortalecimiento de las democracias, la protección de los derechos humanos, la promoción del desarrollo integral y la seguridad multidimensional”

MARICARMEN PLATA
Secretaria de Acceso a Derechos y Equidad de la OEA

SECCIÓN RELACIONES CON LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL | @OEA_SocCivil | @OAS_CivilSec

Finally, three representatives of civil society organizations participated, on the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the theme of the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

OEA *No derechos por más gente*

“Alentamos a nuestros Estados a que en situaciones de emergencia como la presente pandemia busquen la cooperación y coordinación con la sociedad civil”

MARCELO ERNESTO FERREYRA
Coordinador Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Synergía-Iniciativas por los derechos humanos.

SECCIÓN RELACIONES CON LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL | @OEA_SocCivil | @OAS_CivilSec



Following the presentations by representatives of the Coalitions, the Chair of the CISC gave the floor to member States. The Delegation of Canada reiterated its support for the participation and active consultation of civil society, non-governmental organizations in the activities of the OAS and indicated that it would continue to collaborate with the Secretariat of Access to Rights and Equity to seek ways to continue the participation of women's organizations, LGBTIQ+ communities and indigenous people in OAS activities.

The representative of El Salvador referred to the importance of citizen participation in the work of the OAS. He pointed out that development, security, democracy, and human rights are priority issues in which government-society interaction is necessary.

The representation of Chile recognized and supported the actions that tend to allow the participation of civil society organizations in the activities that are marked in the fifty-first regular session of the OAS General Assembly. He also stressed the importance of maintaining these spaces for multi-stakeholder participation, in the midst of a context where cooperation is key to the recovery of our societies.

For their part, the representative of Ecuador said that the dialogues with civil society constitute an opportunity for governments to know first-hand the priority issues for this sector of the population and identify various perspectives. He recognized that citizens are the main ones affected when governments threaten the democratic situation. Finally, he pointed out that the active participation of civil society in OAS activities gives greater legitimacy to development and integration processes in the hemisphere.

❖ Civil Society Participation in the 51st OAS General Assembly

The Civil Society Relations Section facilitated the participation of 544 representatives of civil society organizations in the 51st Regular Period of Sessions of the OAS General Assembly, on November 9, 10 and 11, 2021. The participation was carried out in a virtual format, due to the pandemic of COVID-19.

Main activities:

- Organization of the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation, with the participation of Secretary General Luis Almagro, Assistant Secretary General Néstor Méndez, and representatives of civil society and other social actors, following the format of Thematic Coalitions. [Video here](#)
- Representatives of 31 Civil Society Coalitions, two Representatives of Workers, two of the Private Sector and one Representative of Youth participated in the Dialogue.
- Virtual access was also provided to two representatives per Coalition to the General Commission.

Participating countries, civil society organizations, and social actors represented at the 51st OAS General Assembly

COUNTRY	TOTAL OSC	TOTAL PERSONS
ARGENTINA	33	57
BELIZE	2	3
BOLIVIA	6	13
BRAZIL	5	8
CANADA	3	6
CHILE	11	20
COLOMBIA	49	86
COSTA RICA	7	12
ECUADOR	5	9
EL SALVADOR	7	14
SPAIN	2	4
UNITED STATES	37	69
GUATEMALA	14	27
HAITI	2	4
JAMAICA	1	2
MEXICO	56	97
NICARAGUA	3	6
PANAMA	18	33

Source: own elaboration for this report

COUNTRY	TOTAL OSC	TOTAL PERSONS
NETHERLANDS	1	2
PARAGUAY	9	17
PERU	8	15
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	6	10
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1	1
URUGUAY	7	13
VENEZUELA	9	16
TOTAL	25 COUNTRIES	302
		544

Source: own elaboration for this report

Participation of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant Communities at the 51st OAS General Assembly

COUNTRY	Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant Communities
COLOMBIA	2
HONDURAS	1
MEXICO	2
PERU	1
TOTAL	6

Source: own elaboration for this report



Retweet from the @OEA_SocCivil account about the Dialogue with Civil Society in the framework of the OAS General Assembly

Tweet about the Intervention of Secretary General Almagro in the Dialogue with Civil Society, OAS General Assembly



❖ Registration of civil society organizations in the OAS Registry

In 2021, 30 new organizations were registered in the OAS permanent registry of civil society organizations.

COUNTRY	TOTAL OSC
ARGENTINA	6
BRAZIL	1
COLOMBIA	2
EL SALVADOR	1
UNITED STATES	9
GUATEMALA	1
MEXICO	3
NICARAGUA	1
PANAMA	1
NETHERLANDS	1
SWEDEN	1
SWITZERLAND	1
VENEZUELA	2
TOTAL	30

Source: own elaboration for this report

❖ Other activities carried out during 2021 under the "Program for the Promotion and Expansion of the Participation of Civil Society in OAS Activities"

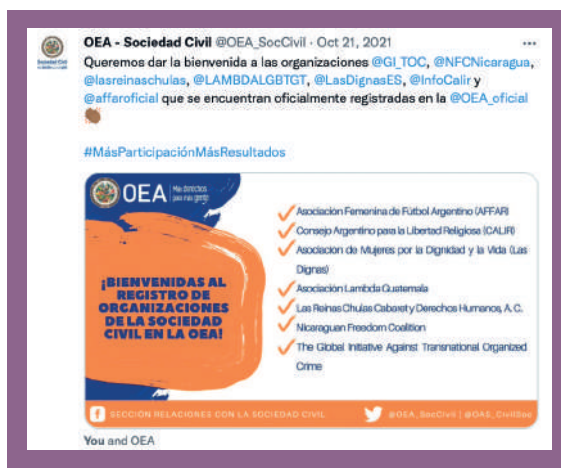
- Support to the Technical Secretariat of the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) for consultations with civil society organizations from Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago in relation to the follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations formulated and the provisions analyzed in the Third Round, as well as with respect to the provisions of the Convention selected for the Sixth Round. Likewise, support to the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC regarding the participation of civil society in the Virtual In Situ Visit of the Committee of Experts to Argentina.

- The Civil Society Relations Section coordinated along with the Department of Social Inclusion the Digital Diploma of Leadership in Inclusion and Access to Rights, which was held from March 9 to April 15, 2021, and had more than 200 participants.
- During 2021, the Section's social media accounts were reactivated and given an important boost to provide more information to CSOs and social actors about the different activities of the OAS.



Retweet from the @OEA_SocCivil account

Tweet from the @OEA_SocCivil account welcoming new organizations registered at the OAS

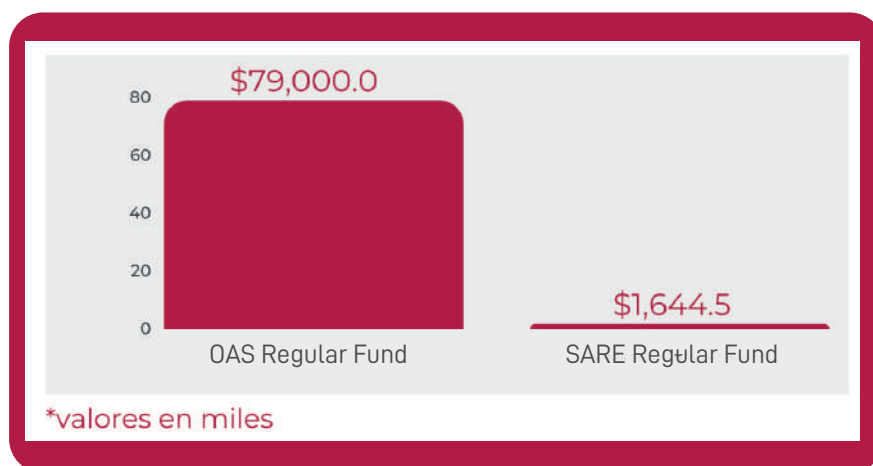


04 | FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The efficient use of the small budget of the Secretariat has made it possible to achieve the results presented in this report.

In 2021, the SARE received the 2% (US\$1,644,500) of the total budget of the Regular Fund of the OAS General Secretariat (US\$79,000,000).

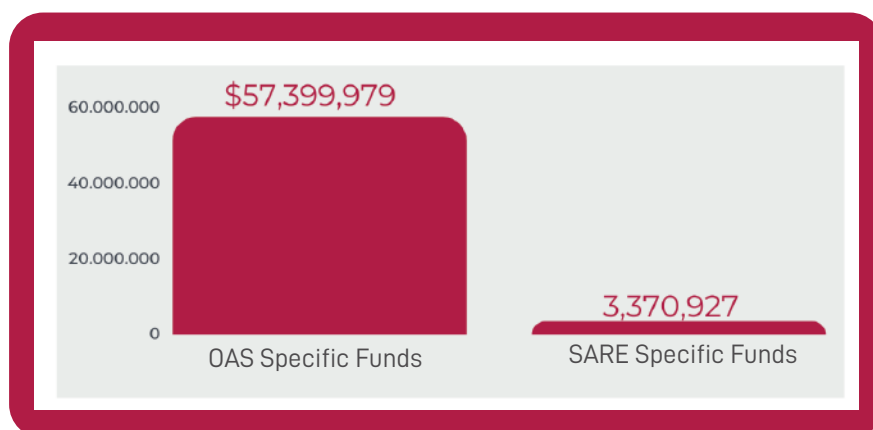
SARE Regular Fund 2021



Source: Own elaboration for this report based on OAS financial reports.

Regarding the Specific Fund of the Organization, SARE received in 2021 US\$3.3 million from the Specific Fund of the Organization.

Fondos Específicos de la SARE 2021



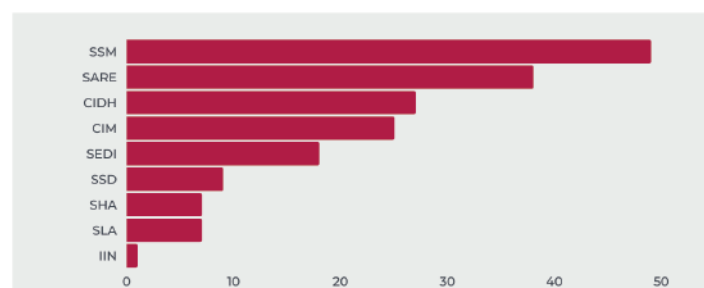
Source: Own elaboration for this report based on OAS financial reports.

❖ Outreach efforts to obtain contributions to the Voluntary Funds

- Project profiles were prepared for different strategic partners and donors on SARE's work topics.
- Communication strategy for disseminating the work carried out by the SARE, the profiles of the DIS experts and information about the Voluntary Funds on social media.
- Updated SARE institutional website, with an informative section on the [Voluntary Funds](#).

Voluntary Funds administered by the Department of Social Inclusion

1. Voluntary Fund Protocol of San Salvador
2. Voluntary Fund - People of African Descent in the Americas
3. PAD Fund - Mixed Group
4. Social Development Fund
5. Declar Rights Indig Persons (DADIN)
6. CEDDIS Fund
7. Consumer Safety and Health Fund
8. MIRPS Fund



SARE is responsible or co-responsible for approximately 30% of the OAS Strategic Objectives

Source: Own elaboration for this report based on OAS reports.

05 | PARTNERS

The SARE has developed partnerships to ensure the achievement of its strategic objectives with these governmental institutions in the OAS member states and in the rest of the world and also with civil society organizations, academic institutions and other international organizations:



COMMUNICATION | 03

Dissemination in Social Media

The Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity uses Facebook and Twitter to disseminate the management of the Department of Social Inclusion and the Section of Relations with Civil Society.

❖ Department of Social Inclusion

In 2021, the Department of Social Inclusion used social media to:

- Communicate the meetings, interventions and activities of the Equity and Inclusion Agenda in which the Secretary for Access to Rights and Equity, Maricarmen Plata, participated.
- Report on the meetings held by the team with the different strategic partners, member States, etc.
- Invite the digital community to the different virtual, face-to-face and hybrid events organized by the department.
- Carry out the livestreams of the events.
- Communicate the activities carried out by the DSI as the Technical Secretariat of the Meetings of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Social Development (REMDES); the Working Group of the Protocol of San Salvador (WGPSS); the Committee for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS), and the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS).
- Report the progress of the projects carried out by the DSI.
- Disseminate the compendiums/guides/reports published by the Department.
- Educate the digital community about the rights of the groups in situations of vulnerability.
- Summon the digital community to apply for the Digital Diploma organized by the DIS, disseminate the results of the Digital Diploma selection process and its different sessions (topics and speakers).
- Communicate about the different spaces of the OAS in which the DSI intervened, for example the Meetings of the Permanent Council.
- Disseminate the media interviews in which the Director of the Department, Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian, participated, as well as the rest of the members and experts of the DSI team.
- Make special publications commemorating important dates for the groups in situations of vulnerability, with the aim of raising awareness about their rights and the barriers to equity and inclusion that they face.
- Disseminate the press notices published by the OAS Press Department.
- Repost the publications that circulate from the official OAS social media accounts, with special emphasis on the Equity and Inclusion Agenda.

The active social networks maintained by the Department of Social Inclusion are:

 **Facebook**

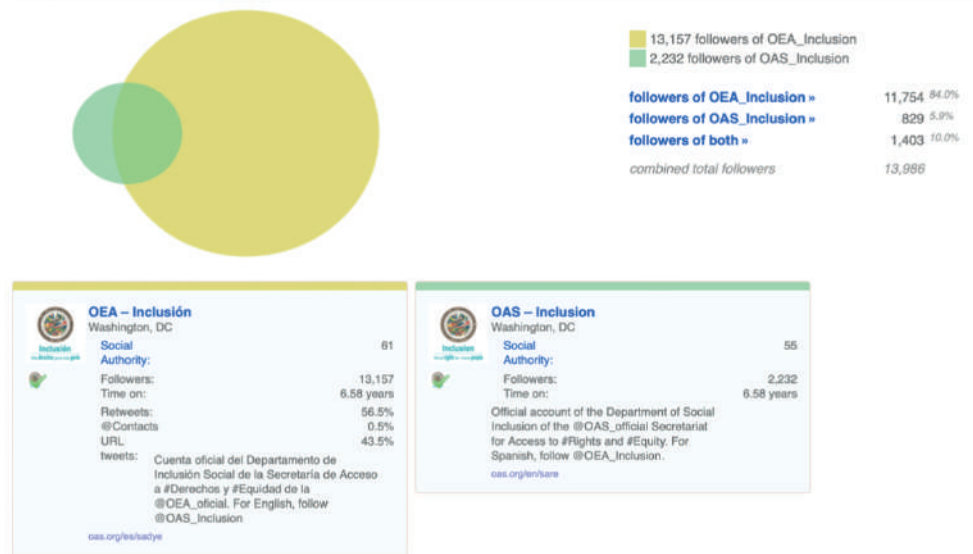
OEA - Inclusión, Acceso a Derechos y Equidad

 **Twitter**

Account in Spanish: @OEA_Inclusion

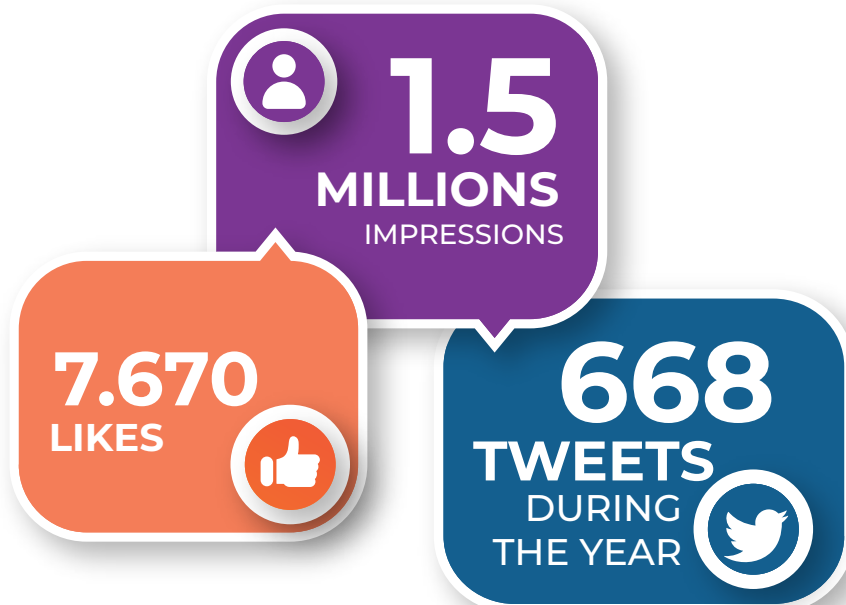
Account in English: @OAS_Inclusion

Comparison of followers of OEA_Inclusion & OAS_Inclusion



Comparison of followers of @OEA_Inclusion vs @OAS_Inclusion

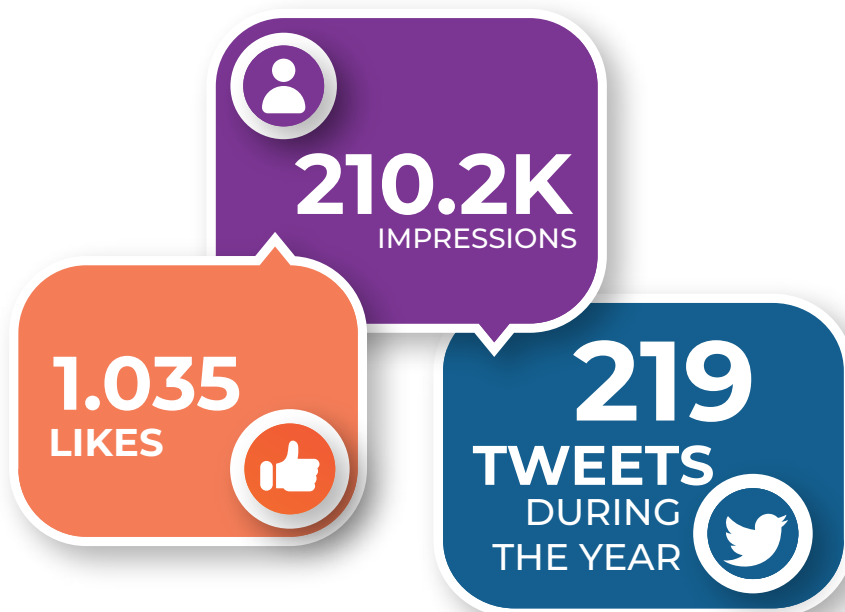
Metrics of the twitter account @OEA_Inclusion



Twitter @OEA_Inclusion		
MONTH	IMPRESSIONS (NUMBER OF TIMES THAT USERS SAW THE TWEET ON TWITTER)	LIKES
JANUARY	19.2K	106
FEBRUARY	131.0K	320
MARCH	183.4K	1.0K
APRIL	216.5K	1.1K
MAY	43.0K	161
JUNE	76.4K	271
JULY	146.6K	806
AUGUST	142.8K	910
SEPTEMBER	77.7K	578
OCTOBER	140.0K	869
NOVEMBER	151.5K	690
DECEMBER	129.4K	859

Source: Twitter Analytics

Metrics of the twitter account @OAS_Inclusion



TWITTER @OAS_Inclusion		
MONTH	IMPRESSIONS (NUMBER OF TIMES THAT USERS SAW THE TWEET ON TWITTER)	LIKES
JANUARY	4.5K	17
FEBRUARY	3.2K	6
MARCH	27.4K	161
APRIL	47.2K	233
MAY	6.7K	13
JUNE	34.7K	90
JULY	9.0K	48
AUGUST	32K	199
SEPTEMBER	8.2K	64
OCTOBER	5.9K	30
NOVEMBER	17K	85
DECEMBER	14.4K	89

Source: Twitter Analytics

❖ Relations with Civil Society Section

In 2021, the Civil Society Relations Section used social media to:

- Communicate the meetings, interventions and different activities with the Civil Society in which the Secretary for Access to Rights and Equity, Maricarmen Plata, participated.
- Report on the meetings held by the Chief of the Section of Relations with Civil Society, Paulina Corominas.
- Invite the digital community to the different virtual, face-to-face and hybrid events organized by the Section.
- Carry out the livestream of the events.
- Inform the Civil Society Organizations registered with the OAS about events/meetings/sessions they can attend.
- Inform Civil Society Organizations registered with the OAS about important registration. dates, for example: Registration deadline to participate in the General Assembly.
- Inform the Civil Society Organizations about the steps for registration with the OAS and the benefits of being registered.
- Support the dissemination of the Digital Diploma organized by the DIS.
- Communicate about the different spaces of the OAS in which the Section intervenes, for example: Presentation of the Section Activities Report to the Committee of Summits and Civil Society Participation (CISC).
- Repost the publications circulating from the official OAS social media accounts that involve civil society organizations.

The active social networks maintained by the Section for Relations with Civil Society are:

 **Facebook**

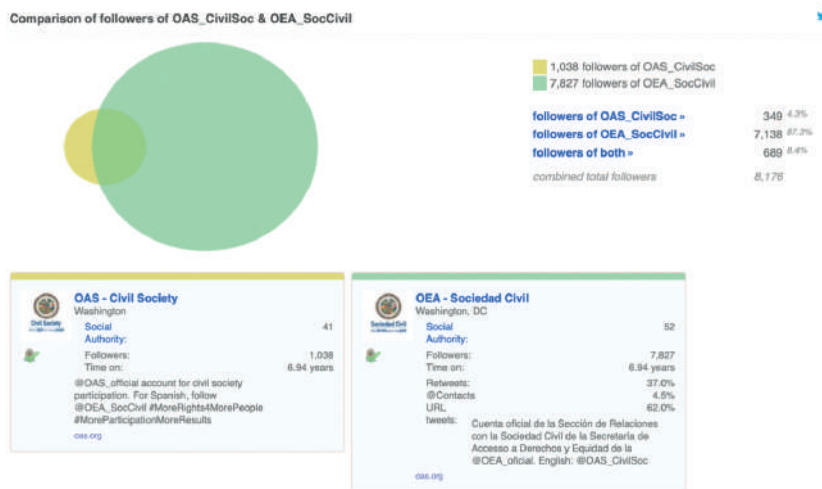
OEA - Sociedad Civil

 **Twitter**

Account in Spanish: @OEA_SocCivil

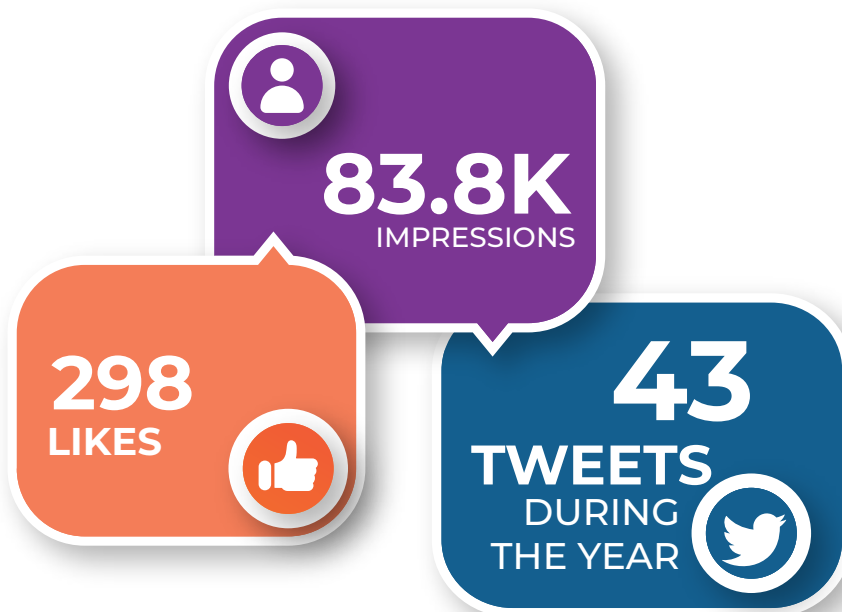
Account in English: @OAS_CivilSoc

(Note: the section's Twitter account in English was inactive during 2021 as there was no access to it).



Comparison of followers of @OAS_CivilSociety vs @OEA_SociedadCivil

Metrics of the twitter account @OEA_SociedadCivil



Twitter @OEA_SocCivil		
MONTH	IMPRESSIONS (NUMBER OF TIMES THAT USERS SAW THE TWEET ON TWITTER)	LIKES
JANUARY	113	0
FEBRUARY	134	1
MARCH	148	0
APRIL	2.3K	16
MAY	3.3K	9
JUNE	1.5K	9
JULY	1K	3
AUGUST	5.1K	22
SEPTEMBER	3.8K	44
OCTOBER	16.2K	43
NOVEMBER	48.3K	140
DECEMBER	1.9K	11

Source: Twitter Analytics

MEMBER STATES

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Las Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba¹
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
México
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
United States
Venezuela

¹ On June 3, 2009, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas adopted Resolution AG/RES.2438 (XXXIX-0/09) which resolves that the 1962 Resolution that excluded the Government of Cuba from its participation in the Inter-American system, ceases to have effect in the Organization of American States (OAS). The 2009 resolution states that the participation of the Republic of Cuba in the OAS will be the result of a process of dialogue initiated at the request of the Government of Cuba, and in accordance with the practices, purposes, and principles of the OAS.



OAS | More rights
for more people

GUARANTEERING
"MORE RIGHTS FOR MORE PEOPLE"
IN THE AMERICAS



Organization of American States
17th St. and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C., 20006-4499
United States of America

Emails:
Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity: sadye@oas.org
Department of Social Inclusion: DIS@oas.org

ISBN 978-0-8270-7550-4

@OEAIInclusion @OEA_Inclusion @OASInclusion

@OEA_SocCivil @OASCivilSociety @SociedadCivilOEA