

**ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
OF FEBRUARY 5, 2020**

**REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION OC-26
SUBMITTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA**

HAVING SEEN:

1. The request for an advisory opinion submitted to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (hereinafter "the Inter-American Court", "the Court" or "the Tribunal") by the Republic of Colombia (hereinafter "the requesting State" or "Colombia") on May 6, 2019 in relation to the "obligations in matters of human rights of a State that has denounced the American Convention on Human Rights, and attempts to withdraw from the Organization of American States." The State appointed Ambassador Juan José Quintana, Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as its agent for this request.

2. The notes of the Secretariat of the Court (hereinafter "the Secretariat") of June 7, 2019, in which, pursuant to Articles 73(1) and 73(2) of the Court's Rules of Procedure (hereinafter "the Rules of Procedure"), it advised all the Member States of the Organization of American States (hereinafter "the OAS"), the OAS Secretary General, the President of the OAS Permanent Council, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, that the President of the Court, in consultation with the Court, had established September 10, 2019, as the deadline for the presentation of written observations on this request. Also, the notes of the Secretariat of September 4, 2019, in which this deadline was extended until December 16, 2019, which was notified to all those mentioned above.

3. The notes of the Secretariat of June 18, 2019, and the publication on the Court's website, in which, pursuant to Article 73(2) and 73(3) of the Court's Rules of Procedure, the President invited all those who were interested to submit their written opinion on the issues raised in the request and advised that the Court had established September 10, 2019, as the deadline for receiving such opinions. Also the notes of the Secretariat of September 5, 2019, and the publication on the Court's website, advising that this deadline had been extended until December 16, 2019.

4. The briefs in which the following States submitted their written observations: 1) Plurinational State of Bolivia, 2) Federative State of Brazil, 3) United States of America, 4) United Mexican States, 5) Republic of Nicaragua, and 6) Republic of Panama.

5. The brief in which the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights presented its written observations, and appointed Commissioner President Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño and Executive Secretary Paulo Abrão, as its delegates. Also the Commission appointed Deputy Executive Secretary Marisol Blanchard Vera, Jorge Meza Flores and Piero Vásquez Agüero, as legal advisers.

6. The briefs in which the following non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and private individuals submitted their written observations: 1) Coalición de Organizaciones del Foro por la Vida; 2) Fundación ProBono de Colombia; 3) Instituto Autónomo de Occidente, Centro de Derecho Corporativo, Derechos Humanos y Paz; 4) Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, Centro de Justicia y Paz, Defiende Venezuela and Instituto Interamericano de Responsabilidad Social y Derechos Humanos; 5) Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Facultad de Jurisprudencia de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador; 6) Centro Universitário Antônio Eufrásio de Toledo de Presidente Prudente; 7) Clínica de Direitos Humanos do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Direito da Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná and Núcleo de Estudos em Sistemas de Direitos Humanos da Universidade Federal do Paraná; 8) Clínica de Direitos Humanos e Direito Ambiental da Universidade do Estado do Amazonas and Grupo de Pesquisa Direitos Humanos na Amazônia; 9) Clínica de Litigio Estratégico de la Escuela de Derecho Ponciano Arriaga and Asociación civil "Humanismo & Legalidad"; 10) Clínica Interamericana de Direitos Humanos do Núcleo Interamericano de Direitos Humanos da Faculdade Nacional de Direito da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro; 11) Consejo Latinoamericano de Estudiosos de Derecho Internacional y Comparado, capítulo para República Dominicana; 12) Escuela Libre de Derecho de México; 13) Escuela Mayor de Derecho de la Universidad Sergio Arboleda; 14) Grupo de Acciones Públicas de la Facultad de Jurisprudencia de la Universidad del Rosario; 15) Grupo de Investigación en Derecho Internacional and Clínica Jurídica de Interés Público y Derechos Humanos de la Facultad de Derecho y Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad de La Sabana; 16) Grupo de Investigación en Justicia, Derechos Humanos y Democracia and Semillero de Investigación en Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Francisco de Paula Santander; 17) Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas de la Universidad Centroamericana de Nicaragua; 18) Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Congreso; 19) Maestría en Defensa de los Derechos Humanos y el Derecho Internacional Humanitario ante Organismos, Tribunales y Cortes Internacionales de la Universidad Santo Tomás; 20) Observatorio de Derecho Internacional Humanitario de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Buenos Aires and Centro de Estudios en Derechos Humanos de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires; 21) Semillero de Litigio ante Sistemas Internacionales de Protección de Derechos Humanos de la Facultad de Derecho y Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad de Antioquia; 22) University College London "Public International Law Pro Bono Project"; 23) Ángel Iván González Rodríguez; 24) Cláudia Regina de Oliveira Magalhães da Silva Loureiro; 25) Eduardo Meier García; 26) Elí Rodríguez Martínez and Juan Pablo Vásquez Calvo; 27) Federico Ariel Vaschetto, Marcela Cecilia Rivera Basulto and Elkin Eduardo Gallego Giraldo; 28) Fernando Emmanuel Arlettaz; 29) Harold Bertot Triana; 30) Ivonei Souza Trindade; 31) Johan Sebastian Lozano Parra, Lindsay Tatiana Cediell Ribero, Dayan Stiven Chacon Campo and Carlos Fernando Morantes Franco; 32) Jorge Alberto Pérez Tolentino; 33) José Manuel Pérez Guerra; 34) Keyla Marily Salgrado Andreus, Ariel Edgardo Díaz and Carlos Maximiliano Leiva Chirinos; 35) Laurence R. Helfer; 36) Lorena Monteiro de Lima and Layana Peixoto Ferreira do Nascimento; 37) Luis Peraza Parga; 38) María Paulina Pérez Londoño; 39) Miguel Ángel Antemate Mendoza; 40) Muhammad Muzahidul Islam; 41) Olivia del Carmen Chávez Uscanga, Samaria Alba Carretero, Elisa Matilde Ceballos Díaz, Porfirio Aldana Mota, José Alfredo Corona Lizarraga and Arturo Miguel Chipuli Castillo; 42) Paulina Arango Velásquez, Stefanía Castro Carmona, Sara Ferrer Buriticá, Juan Luis

Orozco Echeverría, Sara María Roldán Concha, María Fernanda Upegui Marín, Eduardo Andrés Zurek Peñaloza and José Alberto Toro Valencia; 43) Ricardo Abello Galvis and Walter Arévalo Ramírez; 44) Roberto Hung Cavalieri; 45) Shirley Llain Arenilla and Silvana Milena Insignares Cera; 46) Valentina Ospina Arcila; 47) Víctor Mosquera Marín; 48) Xochithl Guadalupe Rangel Romero; and 49) Yamid Enrique Cotrina Gulfo.

7. The written observations submitted by the Republic of Honduras on January 20, 2020. In this regard, by note of the Secretariat of January 29, 2020, it was informed that the abovementioned brief is inadmissible, as the established deadline had expired. However, following the instructions of the President of the Court, the State was informed that it may participate in the public phase of this advisory opinion proceedings.

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The Secretariat of the Court received numerous briefs with relevant observations and documents regarding the request for an advisory opinion before the established deadline (*supra* having seen paragraphs 4 to 6).

2. In view of the advisory nature of this matter, those OAS Member States that have not submitted written observations in this case may present their oral arguments during the public hearing, if they deem it pertinent.

3. It is desirable to hold the oral procedure established in Article 73(4) of the Rules of Procedure so that the requesting State and the other Member States, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and all those who submitted their written observations may present their oral arguments.

THEREFORE:

THE PRESIDENT,

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 24(1) of the Statute of the Court and 73(4) of the Court's Rules of Procedure, and in exercise of his authority under Article 31(2) of the latter,

DECIDES:

1. To convene a public hearing to be held on March 17 and 18, 2020, starting at 9:00 a.m., during the 134^o Regular Period of Sessions, that will take place at the seat of the Tribunal in San Jose, Costa Rica, in order to receive oral arguments on the request for advisory opinion OC-26 presented by the State of Colombia.

2. To request the Member States, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and those who submitted written observations to advise whether they wish to take part in the hearing called by the President by February 26, 2020, at the latest, and to inform the Secretariat the name of the persons who will be present during the hearing.

3. To require the Secretariat of the Inter-American Court to notify this order to the requesting State, to the other Member States of the Organization of American States, to all the organs mentioned in Article 73(1) of the Court's Rules of Procedure and to all those who submitted written observations on this request for advisory opinion.

Elizabeth Odio Benito
President

Pablo Saavedra Alessandri
Secretary

So ordered,

Elizabeth Odio Benito
President

Pablo Saavedra Alessandri
Secretary