

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
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I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRESENTED THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021 TO THE COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE OAS



San José, Costa Rica, July 1, 2022. On June 30, 2022, the President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique, presented the Court's Annual Report for 2021 to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS). (The 2021 Annual Report is available [here](#) – Watch the President's speech [here](#)).

During the presentation of the Report, the President highlighted that "the Court seeks to be accessible, visiting the field and working with the States and the victims to be able to cooperate on compliance with Judgments."

The President of the Court called on the States Parties to the Convention to take on the region's challenges, "creating and promoting a new feeling of solidarity and unity, allowing "the 3 'D's", as they are known in Spanish, to prevail: '*democracia, derechos humanos, desarrollo sostenible*', that is 'more democracy, more human rights and more sustainable development'. This is the only way to avoid undermining the rule of law or weakening multilateralism and to protect human rights, ultimately giving life and momentum to our democracies", he pointed out.

Referring to the new make-up of the Court, the President highlighted "the importance of the Court having a greater gender balance since in our current composition three out of the seven members are women. The delivery of justice, both nationally and internationally, must be built on the basis of gender parity". The delegations of the Council's Member States highlighted the gender balance in the Court's new composition during the presentation.

Regarding the work carried out during 2021, the Court President pointed out that “despite the fact that 2021 was full of challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a very productive year for the Inter-American Court. Paradoxically, despite the fact that we continued to operate virtually, the Court’s Sessions increased, reaching the greatest number in the Court’s history. Seven Regular Sessions were held, which lasted a total of 30 weeks. In turn, we held 14 public hearings on Contentious Cases and 17 on Supervision of Compliance with judgments and on Provisional Measures. There were 24 judgments on Merits, three were issued on Interpretation, two Advisory Opinions, a total of 47 resolutions on Monitoring Compliance, and 22 on Provisional Measures”, he pointed out.

Regarding the development of case law, the President highlighted that “the substantive and truly valuable aspect of the work of this Court is the impact it has on the protection and promotion of human rights in the region. We have continued to make progress in resolving innovative matters, as well as consolidating important international standards on human rights.”

In this regard, the President reviewed some of the milestones in the development of case law contained in the Annual Report on issues such as areas of State responsibility for human rights in its interaction with business and economic activities, sexual violence against female journalists, media plurality, judicial independence, and economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, among others (See Chapter on the Development of Case Law for the year 2021 [here](#)).

The President highlighted the implementation of training programs on various topics related to the Court’s case law. “Despite the circumstances imposed by the pandemic, in 2021 we have continued more than twenty important training programs, which allowed us to reach more than ten thousand people. I highlight the delivery of the journalists’ workshop and the creation of the “Dialogue Network” (*Red Dialoga*), a project that seeks to forge permanent communication and continuous training networks between this Court and the journalists of the region, “he highlighted. In turn, fulfilling its dissemination work, “the Court has made 25 publications available to the public, including Case Law Bulletins, infographics and conference reports,” said the President.

Regarding cooperation with other regional courts, the President stressed that we have continued “reaffirming the jurisprudential dialogue with our regional peers. In this vein, we participated in the Second International Forum on Human Rights, together with the African Court of Human and Peoples’ Rights and the European Court of Human Rights.

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