

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

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I/A Court H.R.
Protecting Rights

CONCLUDES A WEEK IN BARBADOS OF HISTORIC INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY



Bridgetown, Barbados, April 30, 2024. – The Inter-American Court of Human Rights convened in Barbados from April 22 to 25, 2024, for the first week of its 166th Regular Session. During this week, took place the Public Hearing of the Advisory Opinion on “Climate Emergency and Human Rights”.

The Court heard presentations from States, international organizations, scientists, academia, activists, and civil society. These interventions represent only a fraction of the 265 amicus curiae briefs written by participants worldwide. Additionally, the Court celebrated the International Seminar on “Impact and Challenges of International Human Rights Law” and a set of official visits in the island. The main events took place at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

The President of the Court, Judge Nancy Hernández López, emphasized that this is the Advisory Opinion with the highest participation in the history of the Court, reflecting the interest that the issue of the climate emergency summons from different actors from various parts of the world. An openness and dialogue that characterize the advisory opinions of the Inter-American Court.

Summary of activities:

I. Opening Ceremony of the 166th Regular Session in Barbados



The opening ceremony took place on Monday, April 22, at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

The event kicked off a week of activities with remarks from Judge Nancy Hernández López, President of the I/A Court H.R., and Mr. Kerrie D. Symmonds, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados, and Senior Minister Coordinator of the Productive Sector.

The Vice President of the I/A Court H.R., Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, the Judges, and the Secretaries of the I/A Court H.R. also participated in the event.

Local dignitaries joined the event: the President of Barbados, Her Excellency The Most Honourable Dame Sandra Mason, FB, GCMG, D.A., Q.C., LLD; Prime Minister of Barbados, The Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, S.C., M.P.; Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, and Senior Minister coordinating Governance Policy, The Honourable Dale D. Marshal, S.C, M.P.; and Senior Appellate Judge, Justice Francis Belle.

Access the livestream of the Opening Ceremony [here](#).

II. Public Hearing of the Advisory Opinion on "Climate Emergency and Human Rights"



The first three days of the public hearing of Advisory Opinion OC-32 on "Climate Emergency and Human Rights," requested by Chile and Colombia, were held in Barbados on April 23, 24, and 25.

More than 60 delegations participated in the hearing, representing OAS member states – Chile, Colombia, Barbados, and Mexico – and beyond the region, Vanuatu, international organizations, national bodies, NGOs, academia, and civil society. These delegations provided observations to the Court on the subject matter concerning the Advisory Opinion.

The Public Hearing will continue in Brazil during the 167th Regular Session, on May 24 in Brasilia, and May 27, 28, and 29 in Manaus.

Watch the livestream of the Public Hearing [here](#) and the photo gallery [here](#).

III. International Seminar: Impact and Challenges of International Human Rights Law.



On Monday, April 22, the International Seminar was held with the participation of prominent human rights experts. Judge Nancy Hernández López inaugurated the event, followed by panel discussions on relevant topics.

The main table featured Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique; Commissioner Roberta Clarke, President of the IACHR; Judge Verónica Gómez of the I/A Corte H.R.; Diane Desierto, International Law professor at the University of Notre Dame, and Gunjan Sharma, partner at Volterra Fietta.

Watch the livestream of the International Seminar [here](#).

IV. Meetings with Authorities and Cooperation Agreements

a) Meeting with the Prime Minister of Barbados



On Monday, April 22, the Judges of the Court, along with the Registrar and Deputy Registrar, also met with the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honorable Mia A. Mottley, SC, MP. The meeting also involved the Honorable Kerrie D. Symmonds, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados and Honorable Dale D. Marshal, SC, MP, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

During the visit, the President of the Inter-American Court, Judge Nancy Hernández López, emphasized the importance of the Court's presence in the Caribbean to discuss the climate emergency.

b) Meeting with the President of Barbados



The Judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, accompanied by the Registrar and the Deputy Registrar, visited the Government Headquarters of Barbados, where they met with the President, Dame Sandra Mason.

The Judges and the President discussed about the current challenges of the International Human Rights Law.

c) Meeting with Judge Francis Belle



The President of the Inter-American Court, Judge Nancy Hernández López, the Vice President, Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, and Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor, visited the Supreme Court Complex of Barbados to meet with Senior Appellate Judge, Justice Francis Belle.

During this meeting, discussions were held on promoting collaboration for the development of human rights and justice.

d) Signing of the Cooperation Agreement with the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus



The President of the Inter-American Court, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the West Indies, Campus Cave Hill, Professor Clive Landis, signed a cooperation agreement.

This collaboration will focus on strengthening the alliance between the Court and the university, to enhance knowledge and promote international instruments to safeguard human rights, particularly in the Caribbean.

V. Acknowledgements

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights expresses its gratitude to the Government of Barbados, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, for their support in hosting this Session.

Furthermore, appreciation is extended to the Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sweden, and Germany, whose financial support was essential for the realization of this Session in Barbados.

The Court's composition for this Regular Session was as follows: Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique, President (Uruguay), Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot, Vice President (Mexico), Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia), Judge Nancy Hernández López (Costa Rica), Judge Verónica Gómez (Argentina); Judge Patricia Pérez Goldberg (Chile) and Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch (Brazil).

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