

The Independent Panel to Evaluate Candidates to the Inter-American Human Rights System Bodies (hereinafter, the Independent Panel, the IAHR Panel or the Panel) presents its final report, with the objective of strengthening and improving the standards and transparency governing the elections for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR Court). In this edition, the Panel will focus on reviewing the qualifications of the candidates for the three positions on the IACHR Court. According to the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR), only the States Parties to this treaty may nominate and vote to elect the new judges who will serve on this Court.

The individuals nominated by the States to serve on the IACHR Court for the period 2025 - 2030 are the following: Alberto Alfonso Borea Odría (proposed by Peru), Carlos Rodríguez Mejía (proposed by Colombia), Diego Moreno Rodríguez (proposed by Paraguay), Leticia Bonifaz Alfonzo (proposed by Mexico), and Ricardo Pérez Manrique (proposed by Uruguay for re-election).

The 2024 Independent Panel is integrated by six experts, internationally recognized for their extensive experience dedicated to human rights: Ariela Peralta, Edison Lanza, Juan Pablo Albán, Juan Méndez, Mariclaire Acosta, and Sergia Galván. Their biographies can be consulted on the Panel's web page<sup>1</sup>. This is the sixth consecutive process in which American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) has served as the Secretariat of the Panel. The Panel Secretariat was headed by Mosi Marcela Meza Figueroa, under the supervision of Professor Claudia Martin. The Secretariat team consisted of Javier Estrada Tobar, Javier Galindo, Robert Duffy, and Tiffany Sharlene Alarcón.

The Tò M            ver            \$   r   at   4   n   ny



The Panel concludes that the candidate Carlos Rodríguez Mejía meets the evaluation criteria contained in the Inter-American instruments to be elected judge of the IACHR Court.

The Panel considers that the candidate's vast experience in the Inter-American System will allow him to adapt to the work of the IACHR Court in a solvent manner. He also demonstrated knowledge on the current challenges faced by the Inter-American system and offered proposals to address them.

The Panel notes with concern the candidate's current position as Ambassador of Colombia to Costa Rica. The situation described is a precedent that could compromise his independence and impartiality and could generate reasonable doubts about possible conflicts of interest. This Panel



representation) responsible for ensuring the suitability of persons nominated to the IACHR and the IACHR Court.

- iii. That States refrain from nominating candidates who hold positions in the Executive Branch