

44th Special General Assembly of the OAS: From reflection to concrete support by States to implement reforms

Tomorrow, March 22, 2013, the 44th Special General Assembly of the Organization of American State (OAS) will take place in Washington, DC. The objective of this special assembly is to **discuss a resolution proposed by the Permanent Council of the OAS** directed at implementing the recommendations contained in the report of the “Special Working Group to Reflect on the Workings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with a View to Strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights System”.

The Working Group, established on June 29, 2011, produced a report with 67 recommendations, **53 of which were directed at the Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)**. This report was approved by the Permanent Council on January 25, 2012 and adopted by the General Assembly on the June 5, 2012.

The IACHR **took the recommendations seriously and was open to the criticism expressed**, welcoming the opportunity to re-evaluate its work **to further protect and promote fundamental rights**. In response to these recommendations, the IACHR recently approved Resolution 1/2013, proposing reforms to its rules and some changes to its policies and practices.

The Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF) considers that the IACHR proposal fully and appropriately addresses the States’ concerns and that **tomorrow’s Special General Assembly should finalize this reform process** which the States and the IACHR, as well as other system stakeholders, have been involved in for the past 21 months. **The next phase must be the implementation of the changes put in motion through this process.**

The Board of Directors of DPLF, a non-governmental organization committed to strengthening the Rule of Law in Latin America, reiterates our **support for the inter American human rights system**. In particular, DPLF recognizes the IACHR’s efforts in embracing the States’ concerns, as well as those from the general citizens of the region, by addressing these concerns through a series of reforms to its rules, policies and practices.

DPLF calls on the States participating in tomorrow’s Special General Assembly to **positively recognize what has been achieved during this process by concluding it as scheduled**. We also urge the OAS member States to honor their commitments, undertaken in private and public forums, and collected in various international instruments, **providing the IACHR with the necessary resources and cooperation so that it may fulfill its mandate**, as well as **complying with the recommendations and decisions** of different inter American human rights system agencies and **ratifying inter American instruments**.

For more information please see our blog dedicated to this issue: www.dplfblog.com .