

REPORT ON THE 33rd CONGRESS



From 6 to 10 July 2026, the 33rd IHLADI Congress took place in Panama City. The opening session, held in the Ricardo J. Alfaro Amphitheatre at the Palacio Bolívar – the headquarters of the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic, Mr Javier Eduardo Martínez-Acha Vásquez.



In his address, the Foreign Minister highlighted the bicentenary of the Amphictyonic Congress, against which the IHLADI Congress is set, emphasising the value of this academic institution for the progressive development of international law. Following remarks by Ms Maritza Cedeño Vásquez, President of the National Bar Association of Panama, the event's sponsoring body alongside the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture, the Secretary-General of IHLADI, Dr Sixto Sánchez Lorenzo, took the floor. He expressed his gratitude for the welcome extended to IHLADI by the city and the Government of Panama and highlighted the multilateralist commitment and the distinct Ibero-American voice in international law to which IHLADI seeks to contribute. In his speech as outgoing President of IHLADI, Dr Dário Moura Ramos outlined the role and commitment of IHLADI over its 75-year history and reflected on the importance of IHLADI—without prejudice to the institution's apolitical nature—upholding its commitment to defending international law in the face of crises of all kinds that challenge the rules-based resolution of international disputes.

This was followed by the handover of office, with Dr Jazmina Rovi Sánchez being presented with the necklace signifying her status as President of IHLADI. In her speech, Dr Rovi Sánchez emphasised the honour of being the first female President of IHLADI and recalled the historic role played by women since the Institute's foundation in 1951. To round off the opening ceremony, the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation delivered a lecture on 'American multilateralism'. In his brilliant presentation, Dr Carlos Guevara Mann explored the internationalist dimension of the eminent figures of Simón Bolívar and Andrés Bello, drawing parallels and highlighting the interplay in their thinking, against the backdrop of the Amphictyonic Congress and the principles of multilateralism and cooperation.



Once the solemn opening ceremony had concluded, the delegates moved to the Gran Bolívar Hall. Before the First Committee began its proceedings, Dr Beatriz Ramacciotti presented the book "Cuaderno de Derecho internacional (Homenaje al Prof. Dr Ernesto Rey Caro)", to which distinguished colleagues had contributed various essays in honour of their late friend and illustrious member of IHLADI.

After lunch, the First Committee was convened on "The effectiveness of international courts in resolving disputes between States: the role of the International Court of Justice", chaired by Luis García Corrochano, with Juan José Alencastro Moya acting as secretary. The presentation was given by Íñigo Salvador Crespo (Ecuador), who analysed the quantitative and qualitative evolution of cases brought before the ICJ between States of the Ibero-American Community during the period 2009–2026.

Presentations were also given by Walter Arévalo (Colombia) on 'The effectiveness of international courts in resolving disputes between States: the role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)' and by Ana Gemma López Martín on 'The importance of procedural strategy in international human rights litigation: with particular reference to the United Nations Committees'.



Following the debate on the draft resolution, the session of the First Committee was adjourned. Members and observers proceeded to the residence of the Spanish Ambassador to Panama, Mr Guzmán Palacios, who, together with his wife, hosted a magnificent reception. Also in attendance were the Portuguese Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, Paulo Chaves; the Minister of Culture, María Eugenia Herrera; the President of the Supreme Court, María Cristina Chen Stanziola; and Judge Maribel Cornejo



Batista, President of the Second Criminal Chamber. In his welcoming remarks, the Ambassador highlighted Spain's commitment to international law and multilateralism dating back to the times of Francisco de Vitoria and Francisco Suárez, and the importance of the reflection currently being carried out by the IHLADI. In response to his remarks,

Mr Hugo Ignacio Llanos Mardones, Chile's Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, expressed his gratitude on behalf of IHLADI.



Tuesday 7 July began in the morning with the convening of the Second Committee on 'Limits under international law on new forms of interventionism: the FATF and OECD lists', chaired by María Teresa Infanti Caffi, with Cristian Gonzalo Cabrera Orellana acting as secretary. The speaker was Juan Carlos Araúz, from Panama, who proposed a review of the system to optimise the equality of States, the transparency of the procedure and the guarantee of States' rights to due process. Papers were presented by Aldana Rohr (Argentina) on "FATF standards in the sources of international law", Jaime Gallegos Zúñiga (Chile) on "In the face of protectionist measures: the Bioceanic Corridor, connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific – a sub-regional legal framework for its implementation", Adriana Dreyzin de Klor on "Legal governance of private relations within the MERCOSUR–European Union framework: Private international law as the infrastructure of integration" and Paulo B. Casella on "Imperialism, democracy and a sovereign Latin America". Following the debate, the session was adjourned for a working lunch.

During the afternoon session, the Third Committee was constituted, marking the 75th anniversary of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, chaired by Manuel Ventura Robles, with Kelly Jaimes acting as secretary. The speaker was María Teresa Ponte Iglesias (Spain), who analysed the application



of the conventional system for the protection of refugee status 75 years after its adoption, putting forward proposals for its adaptation and updating in light of new realities. The following papers were presented: Elizabeth Villalta (El Salvador): "Paper on the 75th Anniversary of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees"; Christian Sommer: "The evolution of the international refugee protection regime: Governance



challenges, the Global Compact and the effectiveness of the Cartagena regional model”; María Gloria Bottiglieri (Argentina): “Family protection for migrants and refugees in Argentina”; Graciela R. Salas and María Alejandra Sticca (Argentina): “The American contribution to refugee protection”; Amalia Uriondo de Martinoli: “The relevance of the principle of family unity

in the context of migrant children”; Isabel Lirola Delgado (Spain): “The role of the European Union in the evolution of asylum law”; María Victoria Aguilar: “Migration and the family”.

Following the debate on the draft resolution, the day concluded with a display of traditional Panamanian dances and a cocktail reception attended by the Colombian Ambassador to Panama, who presented the President of IHLADI with the medal created for the event “Un Café con Bolívar” – a historical and cultural discussion also organised in Panama as part of the bicentenary of the Amphictyonic Congress.



On Wednesday 8th, the participants enjoyed a cultural day out, travelling to Amador for a tour and lunch, after which they took a guided tour of the Miraflores Locks and attended the screening of the documentary “Panama Canal: A Divided Land, A United World”.

The Fourth Committee on “The Use of Autonomous Weapons: Regulation and Limits under International Law” was convened on the morning of Thursday 9 July. It was chaired by Ana Gemma López Martín, with Jaime Gallegos Zúñiga acting as secretary. Pablo César Revilla Montoya delivered the keynote address. Five papers relating to the topic of the

keynote address were also presented by Ambassador Hugo Ignacio Llanos Mardones (“Governance of artificial intelligence in the military sphere in accordance with international law and the concept of meaningful human control”), Pablo Antonio Fernández Sánchez (“The Law of Armed Conflict in the algorithmic era. A European Perspective”), Christian Sommer (“The Challenges of



Autonomous Weapons in Current Armed Conflicts”), Sandra Namihas and Fabian Novak (“IHL Guidelines for the Regulation of Autonomous Weapon Systems”) and Óscar Benítez (“The Autumn Equinox Incident and Artificial Intelligence”). Following the debate on the Draft Resolution, further papers were presented on issues relating to artificial intelligence in public international law (Luis Toro Utillano, “The legal frameworks of international organisations regarding artificial intelligence in electoral processes”; Ozana Olariu, “Artificial Intelligence, Electoral Disinformation and Freedom of Expression: Challenges for International Human Rights Law and Democratic Governance”) and in private international law (Fernando Esteban de la Rosa: “The European Regulation on Artificial Intelligence: Territorial Scope and Interactions with the System of Private International Law”; Ignacio García Pujol on “Private International Law and Artificial Intelligence: Can the Solutions in the Chilean Draft Bill Be Adapted to a Technology Without Borders?”).

During the afternoon session, the resolutions debated in the four committees were adopted.

On the morning of 10 July, the IHLADI Members’ Assembly took place first. At this assembly, Dr Fernando Loureiro Bastos (Portugal), Dr Amalia Uriondo de Martinoli (Argentina), Dr Oswaldo Molestina Zavala (Ecuador), Dr Jaume Ferrer Lloret (Spain) and Dr Carlos López Contreras (Honduras) were elected as members of the Governing Council, replacing those whose terms of office had expired. The meeting then proceeded to the election of new full members of the Institute, with the following associates being elected: María Gloria Bottiglieri, María Alejandra Sticca and Aldana Rohr (Argentina); Luis Toro Utillano and Ignacio García Pujol (Chile); Paulo Borba Casella (Brazil); and María Teresa Ponte Iglesias (Spain). The Members’ Assembly also agreed to designate the city

of Quito (Ecuador) as the venue for the forthcoming 34th Congress and to appoint Dr Íñigo Salvador Crespo as chair of the organising committee.

This was followed by the Plenary Assembly, at which the following new members were elected: Leopoldo M. A. Godio and Andrea Lucas Garin (Argentina); Paula Oriana Cortés González, Macarena Fernández Undurraga, Ingrid Kiessling Ramírez, Daniela Paulina Méndez Rojo and María Ignacia Sandoval Gallardo (Chile); Vilma Sánchez del Castillo (Costa Rica); María Fernanda Álvarez Alcívar; César Eduardo Montaña Galarza and Claudia Salgado Levy (Ecuador); Isabel Lirio Delgado (Spain); Juan Alberto Lara Bueso (Honduras); Raúl Aparicio Alba, Carlos Guevara Mann and Darío Sandoval Shaik (Panama); Alfredo Crosato Neumann (Peru); Julio José Rojas Báez (Dominican Republic); Magdalena Bas Vilizzio (Uruguay); and Víctor Rodríguez Cedeño (Venezuela).

Following the Secretary-General's report, it was agreed to begin the process of converting the IHLADI Yearbook into an electronic publication.

The Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to the sponsoring organisations, the Organising Committee, the Embassies of Spain and Colombia, the members of the Commissions' bureaux and, in particular, the Presidency of Panama and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama for their excellent hospitality and the magnificent treatment they had received.



The Congress was declared closed, although members, associates, observers and accompanying persons were still able to gather for a farewell dinner.