

INTER - AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS
COMISSÃO INTERAMERICANA DE DIREITOS HUMANOS
COMMISSION INTERAMÉRICAINNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 U.S.A.

February 1, 2007

Ref.: Global Warming and Human Rights
Hearing – 127th ordinary period of sessions

Dear Ms. Watt-Cloutier, Mr. Wagner & Mr. Magraw:

I am pleased to address you concerning your note of December 5, 2006 and January 15, 2007, in which you express your interest in attending a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights during its 127th ordinary period of sessions to address matters relating to Global Warming and Human Rights.

In this respect, I am pleased to inform you that the Commission has decided to convene a hearing on Thursday, March 1, 2007, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., in the "Padilha Vidal" Room, "Salón A" of the GSB Building of the Organization of American States, situated at the following address:

1889 F St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

The persons attending the hearing must be properly accredited. For this purpose, I hereby request that you submit, as soon as possible, a list of persons who you wish to include as members of your delegation, together with confirmation of your attendance on the date and at the time indicated above. If any of the aforementioned persons require a written communication from this Executive Secretariat in order to request travel documents to the United States, you are hereby requested to inform us accordingly within the next 48 hours and provide the following information for each interested person:

Ms. Sheila Watt-Cloutier
P.O. Box 1812
Ilqaluit, Nunavut
Canada, XOA OHO

Cc: Earthjustice
c/o Martin Wagner, Managing Attorney

Cc: Center for International Environmental Law
c/o Daniel Magraw

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- Full name
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Passport number
- Country in which visa will be requested
- Organization
- Contact information (including fax number)

Also in the interests of facilitating the documentary procedures applicable to all interested persons, and in consideration of the terms of Article XV, section 1(a) of the Headquarters Agreement between the Organization of American States and the Government of the United States of America signed on May 14, 1992, we wish to bring to your attention that the Commission has prepared for submission to the Permanent Mission of each country before the OAS the list of persons who will be attending the Commission's hearings and who do not reside in this country. Therefore, if there are any participants who you do not wish to be included on this list, we hereby request that you inform us within the time limit stated in the previous paragraph.

I have also enclosed as an attachment a copy of a document entitled "Practices for General Hearings," and request that you follow the guidelines provided therein to the extent possible. In that sense, I respectfully request that you arrive to the specified location 15 minutes prior to the hearing time.

In addition, it would assist the Commission if you would provide for distribution at the hearing a written document summarizing the main points of your presentation.

Sincerely yours,



Ariel E. Dulitzky
Assistant Executive Secretary

Enclosure



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

IACHR

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR HEARINGS OF A GENERAL NATURE

The function of hearings of a general nature is to provide testimony or information to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the human rights situation in one or more Member States of the Organization of American States, or on matters of general interest to the Commission. Requests for hearing of a general nature must be presented in writing and include the purpose of the appearance, a summary of the information they will furnish, the approximate time required for that purpose, and the names and other relevant information (residence, nationality, profession, etc.) of the persons who will participate in the hearing.

Set forth below are the relevant provisions of the Commission's Rules of Procedure:

CHAPTER VI HEARINGS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Article 59. Initiative

The Commission may decide to hold hearings on its own initiative or at the request of an interested party. The decision to convoke the hearings shall be made by the President of the Commission, at the proposal of the Executive Secretary.

Article 60. Purpose

The hearings may have the purpose of receiving information from the parties with respect to a petition or case being processed before the Commission, follow-up to recommendations, precautionary measures, or general or particular information related to human rights in one or more members states of the OAS.

Article 61. Guarantees

The State in question shall grant the necessary guarantees to all the persons who attend a hearing or who in the course of a hearing provide information, testimony or evidence of any type to the Commission. That State may not prosecute the witnesses or experts, or carry out reprisals against them or their family members because of their statements or expert opinions given before the Commission.

Article 64. Hearings of a General Nature

1. Persons who are interested in presenting testimony or information to the Commission on the human rights situation in one or more States, or on matters of general interest, shall direct a request for a hearing to the Executive Secretariat with proper notice prior to the respective session.
2. Persons making such a request shall indicate the purpose of their appearance, a summary of the information they will furnish, the approximate time required for that purpose, and the identity of the participants.

Article 65. Participation of the Commission Members

The President of the Commission may form working groups to participate in the program of hearings.

Article 66. Attendance

Attendance at the hearings shall be limited to the representatives of the parties, the Commission, the staff of the Executive Secretariat, and the Recording Secretaries. The decision to allow the presence of other persons shall vest exclusively in the Commission, which shall so inform the parties prior to beginning the hearing, orally or in writing.