



**Instituto Latinoamericano
del Ombudsman
Defensorías del Pueblo**

XII VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY AND SEMINAR

“Berta Cáceres”

**Human Rights and Transition:
The Ombudsmen and their contribution to the future**

December 2, 3 and 4, 2021

1. Presentation and Objectives

The annual Assembly is the activity foreseen in the ILO statutes for the purposes of reporting on activities, electing authorities and dealing with issues of interest to members. For more than a decade, ILO has made its assembly coincide with a seminar with the objectives of: *jointly analyzing issues related to human rights that are of interest to its members and that contribute to their specific tasks; generate an encounter space that enriches partners through the exchange of knowledge and information on the realities and specific responses of each country and region; promote the debate on human rights in general and the Ombudsmen Institutions in particular, with a vocation to reach multiple actors in order to spread and promote the culture of defense and promotion of human rights among citizens in general, civil society, the academy, the public sector and the media.*

This seminar is the second to be held virtually and within the framework of the Covid 19 pandemic, which in the whole world has been going on for about two years. Although the situation has changed compared to 2020, in particular due to the existence of vaccines, it remains worrying for multiple reasons. The first is the enormous inequality in access to them, with countries in the North having vaccinated most of their population with two or three doses, while countries with fewer resources barely exceed 1%. Likewise, the emergence of new strains represents a growing threat, and again, with greater risk in countries with fewer resources. To this, it is added that 2021 is highlighting the social and economic consequences of the pandemic and its management, with global indicators showing deterioration in most indicators of well-being, increasing the already extreme inequality, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. This panorama has led ILO to hold its annual meeting virtually, and to continue analysing not only the pandemic but the historical moment and the projection of the future from a Human Rights perspective and in particular the role that the Ombudsmen can play in this scenario.

The virtual modality allows us to consider other objectives: *to reach as many members and other people/institutions active in the promotion of human rights as possible, in order to consolidate the contributions of the various regions and their particularities through their*



full integration into the regular operating mechanisms of ILO; to know the various responses to the pandemic in the various countries, to put them in dialogue, and to advance in a framework of institutional strengthening that allows the ombudsmen's offices to give the best responses to situations of exception and the possible violations of Human Rights that result from them; to systematize the learning in order to give a clear and forceful message regarding the principle of non-regression of human rights and analyse the role of the Ombudsmen's offices in this regard.

The Assembly and the Seminar are named Berta Caceres, a Lenca indigenous woman from Honduras, a human rights defender, murdered in March 2016 in her home for her permanent struggle for the rights of the Lenca people, the protection of the territory and the natural environment. We chose to come together remembering Berta Caceres in a historical moment where the defence of Human Rights necessarily implies a defence of Life in its diversity, and because the daily reality of our continent, where there is the highest number of murders of environmental defenders around the world, reminds us of the centrality of that struggle in order to imagine a truly just, equitable and sustainable future.

In this sense, the focus of the meeting, based on the learnings of the responses to the pandemic, is to collectively think about the transition and do it from a perspective of rights anchored in the protection of our natural environment.

Methodology:

The seminar will be structured based on the following format:

- Opening conference
- Presentations that give an account of regional experiences
- Dialogue tables, where central topics of the seminar will be debated by several participants, encouraged by a moderator.
- Participation of the public through the platform, in written or verbal form.
- Artistic expressions.
- The seminar will be recorded in order to disseminate its contents.

Themes:

1. Just transition

- Human Rights and the Defence of Life in its Diversity
- Climate Change and Human Rights
- Right to the city in the transition to the post-pandemic

2. Digital transformation and infringement of rights

- Open government and digital transformation processes.
- Freedom of expression and “infoxication”



- Work in the post-pandemic era
- Surveillance capitalism – what role is there for the Ombudsmen's offices?

3. Collective rights and solidarity

The themes of this axis are linked to the dates selected by the United Nations for historical reasons to recall issues related to Human Rights that coincide with the realization of the meeting, and other topics linked to collective rights:

- November 25 to December 10: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
- December 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 10: International Human Rights Day

Other topics:

- Rights of the Elderly
- Right to health (individual and collective responsibilities during and in post pandemic Times).

PROGRAMME

Day	Time (GMT-03.00)	Theme	Speakers
Day 1, morning			
Thursday Dec. 02	11:00	Opening session Presentation of ILO and a welcome word	Ms. Cristina Riche Ayuob President of ILO, Brazil
			Mr. Chris Field President of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI), Australia
			Mr. Jordan Rodas Andrade President of the Iber-American Ombudsman Federation (FIO), Guatemala
		Presentation of the seminar and its objectives	Ms. Ana Agostino, First Vice President of ILO, Uruguay



	11:45	Artistic expression	South America: Singing Concert to Neruda, Song for America, Chile
	12.00	Referential conference: Just Transition and Human Rights: Contributions of the Ombudsmen	Mr. Miguel Donayre Pinedo, Peru, Researcher associated with the Regional Assistance Programme of the Iberamerican Ombudsman offices of the University of Alcalá, Spain
	12:30-13:00	Exchange and closing	Ms. Ana Agostino, Uruguay
Day 1, afternoon			
Thursday Dec. 02	15:00 – 16.00	Panel discussion: Digital democracy and Human Rights [12 minutes presentation by each speaker followed by discussion]	Moderator: Ms. Claudia Melgar, Lawyer of the Office of the Ombudsman of the University of El Salvador
		Open government, digital transformation and affectation of rights	Mr. Guillermo de Rivas, former Ombudsman of Río Cuarto, Argentina
		Freedom of expression in the face of “infoxication”	Ms. Analia Woloszczuk, Ombudswoman of Bariloche, Argentina
		Work in the post-pandemic and technological disruption	Ms. Sandy Hermiston, Ombudswoman of Caiman Islands
		Surveillance Capitalism – what is the role of the Ombudsman?	Mr. Gabriel Savino, Ombudsman of the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina
	16:00	Artistic expression	Caribbean: Waltz "Ingrata", folk dance group, Curaçao
	16:15	Lectures International Day for the	Moderator: Ms. Gabriela Moffson of ILO, Argentina



		Abolition of Slavery	1. Mr. Ricardo Razende Figueira, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2. Mr. Carlos Camargo, Ombudsman of Colombia
	16:50	Exchange and closing	Ms. Gabriela Moffson
Day 2, morning			
Friday Dec. 03	11:00	Welcome and introduction of the speakers	Moderator: Ms. Alba Martijn Second Vice-President of ILO, Curaçao
	11:15	Right to the city: does it change its exercise and enjoyment during the transition to the post pandemic?	1. Ms. Adela Bork Vega. Professor of the Pontifical University of Valparaiso and of the University of Valparaiso, Chile 2. Ms. Catalina Crespo Sancho – Ombudswoman of The Inhabitants of Costa Rica 3. Mr. Gilherme Pimentel – External Ombudsman of the Public Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
	12.00	Right to health: individual, collective and state responsibilities. The case of Covid-19 vaccination	1. Mr. Juan Faroppa, President of the National Institution of Human Rights and Offices of the Ombudsman of Uruguay 2. Mr. Reinier van Zutphen National Ombudsman of The Netherlands and the Dutch municipalities in the Caribbean.



	12:30	Exchange	Ms. Alba Martijn
	12.45	Artistic expression	Central America: "Las izalqueñas", National Folk Ballet, El Salvador
	13.00	Closing	Ms. Alba Martijn
Day 2, afternoon			
Friday Dec. 03	15:00	Welcome and introduction of speakers	Ms. Ana Maria Moure, ILO, Chile
	15:15	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence	1. Patricia Sarmiento Rissi, Deputy Commissioner for Women's Rights, Office of the Ombudsman of Peru 2. Dorotea Antonia Gómez Grijalva, Women's Defender, Human Rights Ombudsman of Guatemala 3. Ms. Paula Streger, Deputy Ombudswoman of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina
	15:45	Rights of older persons	Ms. Sonia Andrade Tafur, Director of the National Mechanism for Protection of the rights of the elder people, Office of the Ombudsman of Ecuador
	16.00	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Ms. Nashielí Ramírez Hernandez President of the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City, Mexico



	16:15	Climate change and Human Rights	<p>1. Ms. María Fernanda Lerin, Specialist in negotiaton of environmental conflicts, Argentina</p> <p>2. Mr. Jeffrey Sybesma of Curacao, Member of the Joint Appellate Council for public servants; member of the Advisory Council of the Governor of Curacao, Professor at the University of Curacao.</p>
	16.45	Artistic expression	North America: “Xantolo”, Cuadrilla La Pedrera, Tantoyuca Cultural Group in Veracruz, Mexico
	16:45-17:00	Summary of the seminar and closing	Mr. Ismael Rins General Secretary of ILO, Argentina



**Instituto Latinoamericano
del Ombudsman**
Defensorías del Pueblo

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE LATINAMERICAN
OMBUDSMAN-DEFENSORÍAS DEL PUEBLO**

“Berta Cáceres”

DECEMBER 4, 2021

*In the framework of the Assembly and virtual seminar
which will take place on December 2 until 4*

- 11:00 Opening ceremony of the assembly by President Cristina Ayoub Riche, Brazil
- 11:10 Report of the General Secretariat: Ismael Rins, Argentina
Technical Secretariat Report: Mariano Yakimavicius
Report of the directors regarding their area of responsibility
- 11:40 Specific topics.
A) Treatment of the incorporation of the Ombudsman's Office in the next reform of the constitution in that State: Chilean Chapter of the Ombudsman.
B) Consideration of the IOI report on attacks on ombudsman institutions and ombudsmen's offices around the world: Alba Martijn.
- 12:10 Reform of Statutes
- 12:30 Election of new authorities
- Closure By the elected or re-elected President for the period 2021-2023

Argentina Time