



Organization of  
American States



## INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Executive Resolution 1/2011  
March 28, 2011

### Draft Reform of Article 11 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure

As part of its on-going process of reviewing the Commission's rules of procedure in order to provide greater transparency, regularity, and predictability in the Inter-American Human Rights system, the Commission has discussed during recent sessions undertaking a re-drafting of Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure. Article 11 concerns the selection and tenure of the Executive Secretary of the Commission. At its March 2011 session, the Commission approved for discussion the draft text that appears below. The draft is now open for consultation and comment by governments and civil society and will remain so until June 1st, 2011. The Commission will then review the comments submitted and will adopt in July the text of Article 11.

In application of revised Article 11, the Commission will open the process of searching for a new Executive Secretary, utilizing the standards and procedures in the new rule. In October 2011, the Commission will announce its solicitation of applications, posting a description of the position and criteria for candidates. The application period will remain open until May 2012. It is expected that the final selection will occur in July 2012, followed by a transition period starting in October, 2012, leading to the assumption of functions by the new Executive Secretary January 1, 2013.

In light of the announced decision of the present Executive Secretary, Santiago Canton, to end his mandate on December 31, 2012, the Commission wishes to reaffirm its confidence in him and express special recognition of his dedication and contributions. Dr. Canton has devoted himself fully for the strengthening of the Inter-American system of human rights during his mandate and has effectively led the secretariat in fulfilling the many tasks assigned to it.

## **DRAFT ARTICLE 11**

1. The Executive Secretariat shall be composed of an Executive Secretary and at least one Assistant Executive Secretary, as well as the professional, technical and administrative staff needed to carry out its activities.
2. The Executive Secretary shall be a person of independence, high moral standing, and recognized expertise in the field of human rights. Prior to and during the period of appointment, the Executive Secretary shall disclose to the Commission any interest which may be considered to be in conflict with the exercise of his or her functions.
3. The Executive Secretary shall serve for a period of 4 years, renewable once. The Commission will select or renew the Executive Secretary no less than six months prior to the expiration of the existing Secretary's term of office. At any time, the Commission, by an absolute majority of its members, may decide to replace the Executive Secretary for good cause.
4. The Executive Secretary shall be selected in accordance with the following procedure:
  - a. A public competition to fill the vacancy shall be held, publicizing the criteria for the office and recommended qualifications and background for applicants, as well as the time period for receiving applications.
  - b. The Commission will review the applications submitted and select five finalists. The curriculum vitae of the finalists will be made public, including on the Commission's website, for one month prior to the final selection in order to receive observations on the candidates.
  - c. The selection of the Executive Secretary shall require the affirmative vote of an absolute majority of members of the Commission.
5. The Commission and the Executive Secretary shall agree on the selection of one or more Deputy Executive Secretaries.