



CEJA

Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Américas
Justice Studies Center of the Americas



OAS

COLLABORATIVE ROADMAP BETWEEN CEJA AND THE OAS

**Advancing Inter-Institutional
Cooperation for Access to
Justice and the Rule of Law
in the Americas**

CEJA • OAS • 2025

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Collaborative Roadmap between CEJA and the OAS: Advancing Inter-Institutional Cooperation for Access to Justice and the Rule of Law in the Americas

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Acronyms

CEJA	Justice Studies Center of the Americas
OAS	Organization of American States
SFD	Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy
ORCS	Office of Relations with Civil Society
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
I/A Court H.R.	Inter-American Court of Human Rights
CIM	Inter-American Commission of Women
DDOT	Department against Transnational Organized Crime
DDI	Department of International Law
CJI	Inter-American Juridical Committee
GS/OAS	General Secretariat of the OAS

Table of Contents

Acronyms	3
Presentation	5
3. Participating OAS Bodies	6
Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA)	6
Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SFD)	7
Office of Relations with Civil Society (ORCS)	7
Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.)	7
Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)	7
Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DDOT)	8
4. Strategic Pillars of CEJA–OAS Cooperation.....	8
5. Activities by OAS Bodies and Units	9
5.1 Office of Relations with Civil Society (ORCS)	9
5.2 Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SFD).....	9
5.3 Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)	10
5.4 Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.)	10
5.5 Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)	10
5.6 Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DDOT)	11
5.7 Department of International Law (DDI).....	11
6. Implementation and Governance	12
Implementation.....	12
Governance.....	12
7. Financing	12
8. Implementation Timeline 2025–2027	13
9. Acknowledgments	15

Presentation

In accordance with the mandate established in Resolution AG/RES. 3029 (LIV-O/24), adopted at the 54th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS)¹, the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA) presents this Collaborative Roadmap, aimed at strengthening its visibility, sustainability, and partnership with the OAS.

The Resolution commemorates the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA), recognizes its role and value as a specialized body of the OAS in advancing justice systems across the region, and highlights its technical excellence in the promotion, training, research, and monitoring of justice modernization and reform processes throughout the Americas.

The OAS General Assembly tasked CEJA's Executive Directorate with preparing this Collaborative Roadmap to consolidate CEJA's role as the Organization's technical body in matters related to justice and the rule of law in the Americas, and to foster new opportunities for cooperation with the various Secretariats, Commissions, and Departments of the OAS. It also instructed that this instrument be presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization.

Throughout 2025, CEJA held a series of working sessions with various OAS bodies, bringing together their authorities along with members of CEJA's Board of Directors and Executive Directorate. These meetings sought to jointly define and coordinate the activities to be carried out under this Roadmap. The process was guided by a participatory and collaborative approach, ensuring that the content of this document reflects the shared priorities and commitments of CEJA and the participating OAS bodies.

In this context, this Collaborative Roadmap serves both as an institutional response to the mandate of the OAS General Assembly and as a strategic framework for joint action between CEJA and the OAS. It consolidates a shared vision and a coordinated agenda for cooperation, designed to strengthen institutional capacities and create a sustainable impact in advancing democracy, the rule of law, and justice systems throughout the Americas.

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¹ Available at <https://cejamericas.org/en/what-is-jsca/jsca-institutional-documents/>

Collaborative Roadmap between CEJA and the OAS: Advancing Inter-Institutional Cooperation for Access to Justice and the Rule of Law in the Americas

1. General Objective

To strengthen cooperation between the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA) and the bodies of the Organization of American States (OAS) through a strategic and coordinated action agenda that promotes justice, democracy, human rights, and institutional sustainability, in accordance with Resolution AG/RES. 3029 (LIV-O/24), adopted at the 54th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly.

2. Guiding Principles

- **Complementarity and Collaboration:** The actions outlined in this Collaborative Roadmap are designed and implemented in a coordinated and synergistic manner, recognizing the mandates and contributions of each OAS body and promoting coherent, well-aligned cooperation.
- **Democracy and Human Rights–Based Approach:** The actions outlined in this Roadmap are guided by Inter-American standards on democracy and human rights and promote equality, inclusion, and respect for the dignity of all people.
- **Trust and Accountability:** The actions in this Roadmap are implemented on the basis of dialogue, mutual trust, and shared responsibility, ensuring transparent processes that strengthen the legitimacy and impact of the results achieved.
- **Regional Cooperation and Sustainability:** The actions included in this Roadmap seek to reinforce regional cooperation, promoting sustainable initiatives and the efficient use of resources to achieve the established goals.
- **Innovation and Learning:** The actions set forth in this Roadmap encourage mutual learning and the adoption of innovative practices that contribute to the institutional strengthening of the OAS and its affiliated bodies.

3. Participating OAS Bodies

Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA)

The Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA) is a body established by the Organization of American States (OAS), specialized in the justice systems of the region. Its mandate includes strengthening the capacities of judicial systems, facilitating the exchange of information and technical cooperation, and supporting processes of justice

reform and modernization. CEJA conducts comparative analyses and studies on justice-related matters, provides specialized training for judicial personnel, promotes the dissemination of the best international practices, and strengthens regional cooperation aimed at fostering more efficient, transparent, and independent justice systems throughout the Americas.

Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SFD)

The Secretariat for the Strengthening of Democracy (SFD) has the mission of contributing to the strengthening of the political processes of the Member States, in particular to the preservation of democracy as the best option to guarantee peace, security, and development. The Secretariat for the Strengthening of Democracy focuses its efforts on reinforcing the Organization's role as the central axis of the Inter-American System in the political sphere and on actively contributing to the preservation and consolidation of democratic governance within the Member States.

Office of Relations with Civil Society (ORCS)

The Office of Relations with Civil Society leads the planning and implementation of activities and strategies aimed at promoting and strengthening the participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in all initiatives related to the work of the OAS. The Office seeks to serve as a strong bridge between the OAS and civil society, fostering dialogue and close cooperation, with the aim of promoting citizen participation as a fundamental pillar in building a more democratic, secure, and inclusive hemisphere.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is the principal body responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the Americas. It works to promote observance and safeguard the defense of human rights in all Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS), in accordance with the highest international standards, to uphold human dignity and strengthen the rule of law and democracy across the region.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.)

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.) is an autonomous judicial institution whose purpose is to apply and interpret the American Convention on Human Rights. The Court exercises three main functions: a contentious function, which includes the resolution of cases and the supervision of compliance with its judgments; an advisory function; and the authority to order provisional measures to protect individuals in situations of extreme gravity and urgency.

Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) was the first intergovernmental body established to ensure the recognition of women's human rights. Its mission is to influence public policy through a rights-based approach aimed at eliminating

discrimination and gender-based violence and achieving substantive equality between women and men throughout the Americas.

Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DDOT)

The Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DDOT) has as its main purpose to provide technical and legislative assistance to the OAS Member States to help them confront and respond to transnational organized crime in its various manifestations.

Department of International Law (DDI)

The Department of International Law (DIL) of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the OAS promotes the codification and progressive development of both public and private international law. It provides legal advice to the political bodies of the Organization and serves as the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI).

4. Strategic Pillars of CEJA–OAS Cooperation

Pillar	Strategic Objective	Institutions Involved
1. Justice, Democracy, and Governance	Promote institutional integrity, electoral justice, and local governance.	SFD, DDI, IACHR, I/A Court H.R.
2. Access to Rights and Gender Equality	Strengthen public policies on access to justice and social inclusion.	ORCS, CIM, IACHR
3. Security and Organized Crime	Advance joint strategies to address transnational organized crime and corruption.	DDOT, DDI
4. Innovation, Technology, and Judicial Training	Enhance the use of CEJACampus and promote the incorporation of judicial technologies.	I/A Court H.R., IACHR, DDI, CIM
5. Sustainability and Cooperation	Increase the visibility and institutional sustainability of joint CEJA–OAS initiatives.	GS/OAS, all Secretariats

5. Activities by OAS Bodies and Units

In accordance with Resolution AG/RES. 3029 (LIV-O/24) and within the framework of the institutional coordination process between CEJA and the OAS, the following activities represent the lines of cooperation and technical engagement explored between CEJA and the various bodies, commissions, and departments of the Organization.

These initiatives stem from bilateral meetings held during 2024 and 2025, with the participation of OAS authorities, CEJA's Board of Directors, and its Executive Directorate, and seek to consolidate joint actions, thematic synergies, and sustainable results in the areas of justice, democracy, human rights, gender equality, and institutional strengthening.

5.1 Office of Relations with Civil Society (ORCS)

The following activities aim to strengthen collaborative work between CEJA and ORCS around equitable access to rights and civil society participation, in alignment with the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

- a. Systematize the information gathered from the regional consultations led by the Secretariat, to serve as input for the update of the OAS Civil Society Participation Guidelines.
- b. Co-organize a regional forum to present the main findings of these consultations.
- c. Promote bilateral technical meetings to define areas of joint research on social inclusion, citizen participation, and access to justice.

5.2 Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SFD)

The following activities aim to consolidate joint efforts between CEJA and the SFD in the areas of democratic strengthening, territorial governance, and institutional development in OAS Member States.

- a. Provide technical support for the creation of the Peace Observatory, in coordination with the Secretariat, as a complementary initiative to the Democracy Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- b. Design and implement a training program on electoral justice, based on the manual recently published by the SFD.
- c. Co-organize a Hemispheric Conference on Subnational Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, as part of the series of conferences on democracy and peace.
- d. Develop a comparative study on the experiences of subnational governments in relation to access to justice and the strengthening of the rule of law.

5.3 Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

These actions aim to strengthen technical cooperation between CEJA and the IACHR in the areas of rule of law, judicial independence, and effective access to justice across the hemisphere.

- a. Co-organize a virtual seminar on judicial independence, focused on CEJA's recent publications and the Inter-American Standards on this subject.
- b. Integrate into the CEJACampus platform the course "*Inter-American Standards on Access to Justice*" designed by the IACHR, and promote its free dissemination during the first year.
- c. Develop a Joint CEJA–IACHR Action Plan, articulating lines of work in training, research, and the promotion of good practices.

5.4 Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.)

The following activities seek to strengthen coordination between the I/A Court H.R. and CEJA as complementary actors in promoting international human rights law and reinforcing the regional justice system.

- a. Update the Framework Cooperation Agreement between CEJA and the I/A Court H.R., promoting the exchange of experiences and the strengthening of institutional capacities.
- b. Coordinate a joint training program for judges, prosecutors, and judicial officials on the practical application of Inter-American jurisprudence.

5.5 Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)

These actions aim to consolidate a CEJA–CIM agenda on gender justice, focused on highlighting the differentiated impacts of the criminal justice system on women and promoting evidence-based public policies.

- a. Develop a regional mapping of the situation of women in detention in Latin America, as a preliminary stage of a broader study.
- b. Prepare a hemispheric study on women deprived of liberty, with emphasis on the impact of large-scale prison construction and detention conditions from a gender perspective.
- c. Coordinate a joint training program through CEJACampus, addressing gender-sensitive justice and policies for preventing institutional violence.

5.6 Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DDOT)

The following activities aim to strengthen CEJA–DDOT technical cooperation in the field of security and transnational criminal justice, fostering the exchange of experiences and the generation of strategic inputs for OAS Member States.

- a. Co-organize a technical forum on transnational crime, with the participation of experts in organized crime, money laundering, and corruption.
- b. Include CEJA as a technical observer in the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX), and coordinate the systematization of information and documents produced over the past decade.

5.7 Department of International Law (DDI)

The following activities aim to strengthen cooperation between CEJA and the DDI in the areas of international law, legal innovation, and the promotion of Inter-American standards applicable to the institutional strengthening of justice systems.

- a. Sign a Framework Cooperation Agreement between CEJA and the DDI to facilitate the implementation of joint projects and technical coordination with the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI).
- b. Collaborate on three priority thematic areas: access to information, judicial independence, and the use of technology and artificial intelligence in the judiciary and their impact on human rights.

6. Implementation and Governance

Implementation

The actions outlined in this Collaborative Roadmap will be implemented in a coordinated manner between CEJA and the various OAS bodies, in accordance with the mandates, areas of competence, and technical capacities of each institution. Implementation will include an activity schedule, progress indicators, and monitoring mechanisms aimed at ensuring the effective fulfillment of the planned activities.

Governance

The governance of this Collaborative Roadmap will be overseen by focal points designated by each participating body, who will be responsible for coordinating efforts and providing technical follow-up within their respective institutions.

For CEJA, this role will be assumed by the Executive Directorate, responsible for coordinating overall monitoring, consolidating information, and facilitating communication and collaboration among the participating parties. CEJA will prioritize virtual coordination as an agile and efficient mechanism for communication among the participating bodies.

7. Financing

The financing of the actions outlined in this Collaborative Roadmap will be based on the principles of cooperation, shared responsibility, and sustainability.

Both CEJA and the participating OAS bodies may mobilize their own resources, or jointly or independently seek support from international cooperation partners, in order to secure the necessary funding for the implementation of the activities set forth in this Collaborative Roadmap.

8. Implementation Timeline 2025–2027

Entity / Activity	Brief Description	Estimated Period
ORCS – Office of Relations with Civil Society	Systematization of information from regional consultations	Second semester of 2025
	Regional forum on consultation findings	First semester of 2026
	Bilateral technical meetings on inclusion and access to justice	First semester of 2026
SFD – Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy	Technical support for the establishment of the Peace Observatory	First semester of 2026
	Training program on electoral justice	First semester of 2026
	Hemispheric Conference on Subnational Governments	Second semester of 2026
	Comparative study on subnational governments and access to justice	Second semester of 2026
IACHR – Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	Virtual seminar on judicial independence	First semester of 2026
	Integration of the course “ <i>Inter-American Standards on Access to Justice</i> ” into CEJACampus	Second semester of 2026
	CEJA–IACHR Joint Action Plan (training, research, and promotion)	First semester of 2026
I/A Court H.R. – Inter-American Court of Human Rights	Update and formalization of the CEJA–Court Framework Cooperation Agreement	First semester of 2026

	Joint training program on the application of Inter-American jurisprudence	Second semester of 2026
CIM – Inter-American Commission of Women	Regional mapping on the situation of women in detention in Latin America	First semester of 2026
	Joint CEJACampus training on gender-sensitive justice	Second semester of 2026
	Hemispheric study on women deprived of liberty and the impact of large-scale prisons	First semester of 2027
DDOT – Department against Transnational Organized Crime	Technical forum on transnational crime	First semester of 2026
	CEJA participation as a technical observer in GELAVEX and systematization of documents	First semester of 2026
	Joint CEJA–DDOT study on topics of mutual interest	First semester of 2027
DDI – Department of International Law	Signing of the CEJA–DDI Framework Cooperation Agreement and coordination with the Inter-American Juridical Committee	First semester of 2026
	Collaboration on three priority themes: access to information, judicial independence, and the use of technology and artificial intelligence in the judiciary and their impact on human rights	First semester of 2027

9. Acknowledgments

The Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA) expresses its appreciation for the valuable participation and collaboration of the authorities, specialists, and technical teams of the various bodies of the Organization of American States (OAS) who contributed to the formulation of this Collaborative Roadmap.

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