



conference of ministers of justice of the iberoamerican countries



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What is COMJIB?

- COMJIB is an international organization created in 1992 by the "Treaty of Madrid", which brings together the Ministries of Justice and its counterparts of the 21 countries of the Iberoamerican Community:

Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela.

- The Conference meets in a plenary session every two years. In between plenary meetings, group decisions are made by a Delegate Committee which is composed of five countries designated in the plenary session.

- COMJIB coordinates and promotes its activities through a General Secretariat. The current Secretary General is Mr. Fernando Ferraro Castro.

The Secretary General receives support from a Technical Secretariat, which is responsible for promoting, developing and monitoring the lines of action agreed in the Plenary Sessions. COMJIB is headquartered in Madrid. A regional office has recently been inaugurated in Buenos Aires.

- The General Secretariat of COMJIB is also the General Secretariat of the Iberoamerican Network of International Legal Cooperation (IberRed), which is comprised of the Iberoamerican Judicial Summit, the Iberoamerican Association of Public Prosecutor's Offices and COMJIB. IberRed strives to optimize transnational legal cooperation through its members (Judges, Prosecutors, officials of the Ministries of Justice and central authorities). It also works with COMJIB collaborating in the identification and analysis of actions to improve the field of Iberoamerican justice.

- The fact that COMJIB is an international organization formed by Ministers of Justice (or their counterparts) of countries of the Iberoamerican Community, provides added value by ensuring the principle of ownership and the viability of the operations; since the Ministers themselves decide on their progress and development.



Goals and work methodology

The Conference's **main goal** is the promotion of public policies in the achievement of Justice, and seeking strategic alliances between countries with a commitment to improve the quality of justice towards citizens.

South-South cooperation as an essential work tool is COMJIB's hallmark through the exchange of experiences and the transfer of knowledge and technology.

COMJIB's management model is characterized by a participative and cooperative working method involving all member countries, to help them with identifying their needs, project development and effective implementation.

To achieve these goals COMJIB uses different mechanisms, including:

1. The creation of legal agreements between ministries to establish common frameworks for actions in the region, including international instruments and recommendations, among others. Moreover, quality standards and compliance commitments are approved by the Ministers.

2. The implementation of development cooperation programs, based on the results of the working groups. In these programs, certain countries act as transferors of good practices and others as recipients, according to the South-South and triangular cooperation schemes.

The developments and results of the work of these groups are coordinated with the actions of IberRed when they have common work fields.



Lines of work

COMJIB's **lines of work** are identified and determined by all the Iberoamerican Ministers of Justice.

Some of the strategies they have been working on are the following:

Access to justice:

Systematization and promotion of public policies to improve the access to justice or focused in lines such as youth mediation or assistance for gender violence victims.

Human Rights during the process:

Promotion of policies for the inclusion, guarantee and protection of human rights, especially focused on specifically vulnerable social groups.

Reform of the criminal and civil justice:

Review and adaptation of the most efficient justice models in civil and criminal matters.

Fighting organised crime:

Promotion of coordinated policies to fight organised crime, harmonization of criminal offenses, creation of joint investigation teams and simplification of the extradition procedure. Especially concentrating on human trafficking.

Modernization of justice and new technologies

applied to the administration of justice:

Promotion of technological innovation policies in justice, such as the use of videoconferencing, paperless courts (electronic proceedings), and the Iberoamerican Portal for e-Justice (www.piaje.org).

Reform of the prison systems:

Improvements in the prison systems through comprehensive proposals focusing on a human rights approach in the treatment of prisoners, especially mothers, and the promotion of alternatives to prison.



Cross sectional work areas

COMJIB has prioritized three thematic areas that are integrated cross-sectionally into the strategic lines and are materialized in specific actions.

1. Promoting Human Rights:

Guarantee and protection of human rights should be considered the backbone of public policy in the justice sector.

2. Institutional strengthening:

Only through strengthened institutions can appropriate public policies be designed in order to promote greater justice and necessary resources can be provided to implement them.

3. Focus on gender:

Conceived to go beyond the fight against gender violence, it specifically refers to the effective inclusion of gender perspective in public policies of the Justice sector.

