

Public Statement from the Ibero-American Institute of The Hague regarding the Reschedule of the X Ibero-American Week of International Justice due to Covid-19

The Ibero-American Institute of The Hague for Peace, Human Rights and International Justice (IIH) announces the decision adopted on 11 March 2020 by its Board of Directors, by which the activities initially scheduled for 25 May to 5 June 2020 in The Hague (The Netherlands), as part of the X Ibero-American Week of International Justice, are rescheduled.

The IIH Board of Directors has given special attention to the following circumstances:

1. The declaration on 11 March 2020 by the World Health Organization, of the existence of a global pandemic caused by the transmission of the Covid-19 virus.
2. The unexpected and very significant increase in Covid-19 active cases since the end of February 2020 in Western Europe, including the Netherlands, where by 11 March 2020 there are five hundred active cases. This has led to the temporary closure of Universities and educational centers, and the cancellation of public events, activities and seminars in a growing number of regions in the European Union, among other prevention measures.
3. The confirmation on 10 March 2020 through the website of The Hague University of Applied Sciences (where an important part of the activities of the X Ibero-American Week of International Justice will take place) that one of its lecturers has tested positive for Covid-19 this week.
4. The suspension since the beginning of this week by numerous International Organizations based in The Hague, including several that are scheduled to be visited during the X Ibero-American Week of International Justice, of their Programs of Public Visits. This suspension also affects the International Criminal Court (ICC), where several of the activities of the X Ibero-American Week will take place (including, the final hearing of the VIII ICC Moot Court Competition in Spanish, and the VI Meeting of the International Legal Clinic with the officials of the ICC Office of Public Counsel for Victims (OPCV).
5. The announcement on 11 March 2020 of the decision made by the US government to suspend all flights between the U.S. and the European Union for 30 days (beginning on 13 March).
6. The strict protocols applied in the European Union to those persons showing signs of infection by the Covid-19 virus. In the absence of effective vaccines and treatments, such protocols will continue to be applied for as long as it is deemed necessary to control the flow of transmissions.
7. The strict protocols that since this week are applied in numerous Latin American countries to travelers who return from, *inter alia*, the European Union. They range from mandatory two-week quarantines to, in the most stringent cases, the prohibition to enter said countries.

8. The cancellation made this week in the European Union and in the United States of numerous moot court competitions, including the *Philip C. Jessup on International Law* and the *Willem C. Vis on Commercial Arbitration International*.

9. The information provided on 11 March 2020 by the health ministries of some European Union countries, according to which it is expected that: (i) the positive effects of the preventive measures and protocols put in place in the last days will only be noticed after ten days; (ii) in the best case-scenario, the flow of infections by the Covid-19 virus will only end in mid or late May; and (iii) in the worst case-scenario, the flow of infections may last until mid or late August.

10. The statement given on 10 March 2020 by the government of the People's Republic of China, according to which it is expected that the flow of infections by Covid-19 in this country will only end seven months after the breakout of the epidemic in December 2019.

11. The impossibility for the IIH, under these exceptional circumstances, to provide guarantees to the hundreds of students, professors, researchers and professionals, who are expected to participate in the X Ibero-American Week of International Justice (80% of them come from Latin America, which at the moment is the region of the world, along with Africa, that experiences fewer active cases of Covid-19): (i) that there is no risk of contagion if they travel to The Hague between 25 May and 5 June 2020; and (ii) that the above-mentioned strict preventive measures and protocols will not be any longer applied by then.

The main consequences of the decision adopted by the IIH Board of Directors on 11 March 2020 are the following:

A. To reschedule the X Ibero-American Week of International Justice (initially scheduled for 25 May to 5 June 2020) for 24 May to 4 June 2021, coinciding with the X anniversary of the IIH.

B. To reschedule the VII Ibero-American Seminar on International Justice (initially scheduled for 2-5 June 2020) for 31 May to 4 June, 2021.

C. To reschedule the hearings of the VIII ICC Moot Court in Spanish (initially scheduled for 25-29 May 2020) for 23-27 November 2020.

D. To extend the registration period for teams that wish to participate in the VIII ICC Moot Court from 1 April to 30 September 2020.

E. To extend the deadline for submission of the written memorials of the VIII ICC Moot Court from 13 April to 7 October 2020.

Persons and teams that have paid the registration fees prior to 11 March 2020 for the VII Ibero-American Seminar on International Justice (50 Euros per person) and/or for the VIII ICC Moot Court (850 Euros per team) may request a full refund until 31 March 2020 by sending an email to the following email addresses: incricionesiih@gmail.com (in case of refunds relating to the VII Ibero-American Seminar; or cpiconcursoiih@gmail.com (in case of refunds relating to VIII CPI Moot Court).

The decision adopted on 11 March 2020 by the IIH Board of Directors does not, for now, affect the celebration of the following activities organized by the IIH with The Hague University of Applied Sciences and the Peace and Justice Program of The Hague City Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands: (i) the IV Polyphonic Day of International Justice (The Hague University, 3 June 2020, 9h00 – 18h00); and (ii) the The Hague Talks Session on Ibero-America (*Humanity House*, 3 June 2020, 19h30-21h00).

In the event that in the coming weeks the organizers agree to reschedule any of these two activities, the IIH will immediately inform through its website of the new dates in which they will take place.