

OJALA’S Brief Historical Background

(Adopted on March 20, 2018)

At the invitation of the conveners Jean Muteba Rahier (Florida International University [FIU]), Carlos Agudelo (Laboratorio Mixto Internacional [MESO], Institut de Recherche pour le Développement [IRD], France), and Tanya Hernandez (Fordham University School of Law, New York), the “Meeting to Consolidate the International Working Group-Comparative Assessment of the Utility (or Lack Thereof) of ‘Multicultural Legal Instruments’ for Afrodescendants in Latin America” was held at FIU from February 15 to February 17, 2018.

The meeting was funded thanks to a Ford-LASA Special Project award (12th Cycle, 2018), and by additional funds provided by the following FIU units: the Kimberly Green Latin American & Caribbean Center (LACC), the African & African Diaspora Studies Program (AADS), the Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies (GSS), and the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED).

The participants in that meeting were:

Sofía Lara, Universidad de Caldas, Colombia - Universidad Paris VII, France

Jhon Antón-Sanchez, Instituto de Altos Estudios Nacionales, Quito, Ecuador

Jean Muteba Rahier, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA

Mariela Noles Cotito, Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean at the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA

Sara Busdiecker, Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Alicia Saura, Investigadora Independiente, Uruguay

Dayana Rivas Brito, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Venezuela

Krisna Ruelle Orihuela, University of Manchester, U.K. (ABSENT)

Rebecca Lemos Igreja, Universidade de Brasília, Brazil

Gianmarco Ferreira, Universidade de Brasília, Brazil

Carlos Agudelo, Laboratorio Mixto Internacional (MESO), Institut de Recherche pour le Développement IRD, France

Gabriela Iturrealde Nieto, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico

Tanya Hernandez, Fordham University School of Law, New York, USA

On February 17, 2018, the meeting participants listed above decided to transform what had been until then the “International Working Group-Comparative Assessment of the Utility (or Lack Thereof) of ‘Multicultural Legal Instruments’ for Afrodescendants in Latin America” into a formally constituted group called:

In Spanish: Observatorio de Justicia para Afrodescendientes en Latinoamérica (OJALA)

In English: Justice for Afrodescendants in Latin America Institute

In Portuguese: Observatório De Justiça Para Afrodescendentes na América Latina; using the abbreviation “OJALA” for all of its iterations in any language.

On February 17, 2018, the meeting participants listed above also voted unanimously 1) to charge Jean Muteba Rahier to produce a draft of OJALA’s Constitution to be circulated and hopefully adopted after due discussions through a vote to take place electronically; and 2) to establish and keep OJALA’s Secretariat at FIU.

The participants in the above-described February 17, 2018 meeting are to be considered the founding members of OJALA.