

**IX Annual Assembly of the Inter-American Network on Cadastre and Property Registry
(RICRP)**

November 29 to December 1, 2023

BOGOTÁ DECLARATION

**CADASTRE AND REGISTRY IN SERVICE OF SOCIAL WELFARE, DEMOCRACY, AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

The directors and high authorities of cadastre and property registry of the Americas, gathered in Bogotá, Colombia, on November 29 and 30, and December 1, 2023, on the IX Conference and Annual Assembly of the Inter-American Network of Cadastre and Property Registry (hereinafter RICRP):

REAFFIRMING the norms and principles of international law and of the Charter of the Organization of American States,

MINDFUL that the Charter of the Organization of American States asserts in its preamble "that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region", and that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is "to promote and consolidate representative democracy within the principle of non-intervention",

RECALLING that the main objective of the RICRP is to serve as a systematic mechanism for horizontal technical cooperation through which exchanges aimed at developing, disseminating, and implementing the best practices in cadastre and property registry in the Americas are promoted, multiplied, strengthened, and energized in support of institutional development processes and their advancement at various levels of government,

BEARING IN MIND that the Annual Assembly of the RICRP is the highest decision-making body, serving as the forum where progress achieved in the region regarding cadastre and property registry is discussed and analyzed,

CONSIDERING that the Latin American and Caribbean region is highly complex, marked by structural social inequality, with territory being a key factor sustaining this phenomenon, leading to a noticeable gap between rich and poor regions,

HIGHLIGHTING that the current global climate crisis demands urgent attention from all perspectives, especially from the territorial standpoint, where other axes of inequality converge, becoming a source of both local and international conflicts,

POINTING OUT that the resolution of social issues arises from addressing underlying factors such as economic, political, and environmental aspects, and understanding the territory in all its dimensions, including cadastre and property registry, is a crucial factor in supporting national governments in creating actions and public policies to address social issues, as well as supporting peasant communities, indigenous peoples, and Afro-descendants in the recognition and protection of their rights to land tenure and property, with a gender perspective,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that within this challenging context, the IX Conference and Annual Assembly of the RICRP, held from November 29 to December 1, 2023, in Bogotá, Colombia, are implemented in response to the agreements of the 53rd General Assembly of the Organization of American States, reflected in the Resolution on Strengthening Democracy: “X. Strengthening Cadastre and Property Registry in the Americas” (AG/RES. 3004 [LIII-O/23]),

EMPHASIZING that in this IX Conference and Annual Assembly of the RICRP, we have delved into the utility and contribution of the information generated by national cadastre and registry agencies as a resource that contributes to solving territorial problems and the climate crisis, promoting social well-being and peace worldwide, in line with the strategic objectives of the RICRP,

BEARING IN MIND that the meeting aimed to discuss the relevance of cadastre and property registry regarding the environment, hence the theme was "Cadastre and Registry in Times of Climate Crisis: Rethinking Rights and Tenure Relationships in Strategic Ecosystems," with discussions revolving around the following three thematic axes:

1. The role of cadastre and registry as sources of public value information.
2. The role of new technologies in cadastre and registry, with a perspective on their contribution to environmental preservation.
3. Property valuation for tax equity and sustainability.

UNDERSCORING that through these axes, we have analyzed how the democratization of access to information using open data allows for the reevaluation of property rights and understanding informal land tenure relationships and their implications for environmental preservation and food security,

ALSO RECOGNIZING the need for collaborative systems that, through digital governance and the implementation of new technologies (i.e., artificial intelligence and blockchain), improve the efficiency, transparency, and monitoring of land and property management,

EXPLORING new approaches to property valuation that incorporate environmental criteria with the aim of making efficient use of land, promoting sustainability and equity, and protecting ecological areas as needed,

CAPITALIZING on both experiences and knowledge shared during the IX Conference and Annual Assembly of the RICRP,

WE, THE DIRECTORS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES OF CADASTRE AND PROPERTY REGISTRY IN THE REGION, DECLARE THAT:

1. As members of the Network, we are committed to strengthening the regional ecosystem of cadastre and property registry,
2. The democratization and digital governance of cadastral and registry information are more relevant than ever in the face of territorial, social, and environmental challenges,
3. The creation of spaces that not only allow for the exchange of experiences and best practices in cadastre and registration but also provide action plans to address current issues through alternative mechanisms is essential,
4. Given the reality of big data, continuous training and professionalization are required to enable member countries to handle information using new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and blockchain,

Likewise, we **DECLARE** our firm intention to:

5. Promote the role of new technologies in cadastre and registry, with a perspective on their contribution to environmental preservation,

6. Generate recommendations to guide public policy on cadastre and registry, emphasizing their role in ensuring land tenure and social peace,
7. Promote the democratization and digital governance of both cadastral and registry information, as well as the creation of mechanisms to enable their implementation in the region,
8. Dedicate efforts to strengthen collaboration with judicial authorities, compare experiences, particularly in the resolution of conflicts related to real estate through specialized courts,
9. Rethink rights and tenure relationships in strategic ecosystems, such as the case of cadastre and registry in times of climate crisis,
10. Consolidate a Knowledge Management Working Group and a Professionalization and Certification Program on cadastre and property registry,
11. Continue the ongoing update of the Network's portal, considering it as the sole space for knowledge exchange and communication in the field of cadastre and registry,
12. Generate a document with concrete proposals and action plans derived from the Annual Conferences and Assemblies of the Network, which can be implemented in the region,
13. Recognize the composition of the Executive Committee of the Network for 2024 as follows: President - Colombia; Mercosur Region - Uruguay; Andean Region - Bolivia; Caribbean Region – Dominican Republic; Central America Region – Honduras; North America Region - Mexico; and express gratitude to Brazil for its candidacy as the host of the X Conference of the RICRP in 2024,
14. Urgently call upon international cooperation to support the RICRP to ensure its effective operation and the achievement of its objectives,

Finally,

WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE to the people and government of Colombia, especially to the Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (IGAC) and the Superintendencia de Notariado y Registro (SNR) of that country, for the warm welcome and excellent work as hosts for this IX Conference and Annual Assembly of the RICRP,

WE ALSO THANK the World Bank (WB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as the Organization of American States (OAS) for their ongoing support to the RICRP.

WE DECLARE that, towards the preparation of the 2024 Democracy Strengthening Resolution, the results of the IX Conference and Annual Assembly of the RICRP, along with this Declaration, be

presented to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CJPA) of the Permanent Council of the OAS, through the Department for Effective Public Management of the OAS, acting as the Technical Secretariat of the RICRP.

To contribute to addressing the issues presented here, we will undertake the activities previously outlined upon the signing of this resolution for the benefit of society and with the aim of achieving democratization and environmental involvement in the context of the development of cadastres and registries in the region.

Signatory countries:

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.