

Louvain-la-Neuve, November 28th, 2022

Ms Cecilia Meirovich  
National Human Rights Director  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
International Trade and Worship  
Buenos Aires  
Argentina

Dear Ms Meirovich,

**Concerns : letter in support of the candidacy of Mr Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky to the Inter American Human Rights Commission**

I am writing you regarding the forthcoming nomination of a candidate from Argentina for the Inter American Human Rights Commission.

I would like to strongly support the candidacy of my colleague Mr Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky to this position.

My comments are based on my first-hand experience working with him. I hope these comments will be seen as helpful for the government to take the best decision for the Inter American human rights system.

I got to know Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky when he was UN Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and Human Rights, first from my position as a member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2015-2020) and then (since 2020) as Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. We have also shared a number of editorial projects.

Mr Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky has gained a strong reputation within the UN human rights system as an expert who can remain firm on principle, and truly dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights, but at the same time attentive to the complexities of local contexts and the real challenges governments face. This "principled pragmatism" was typical of the approach of Mr Bohoslavsky, in particular, in the country visits he performed during his tenure as the Independent Expert on the foreign debt and human rights.

As Independent Expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, Mr Bohoslavsky also showed lots of creativity in fulfilling his role, contributing significantly through his thematic reports to the understanding of the impacts of the foreign debt on the ability of countries to invest in areas such as health and education, and moving the academic debate forward. He collaborated regularly with UN human rights treaty bodies and other

special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to the point that debt has now become, to a large extent, a transversal concern within the human rights system.

I have no doubt that, considering the extent to which Latin American countries are affected by the issue of the foreign debt, his experience in this area -- and his unique ability to link the servicing of the foreign debt to the realization of human rights, in particular economic and social rights -- will be of considerable benefit to the ability of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to develop guidelines and recommendations that will be seen as highly relevant to the region, and to advance the frontiers of human rights protection.

I am therefore in no doubt that Mr Bohoslavsky can make a significant contribution to the Inter-American human rights system, and would like to record my strong support for his candidacy.

Sincerely,



Olivier De Schutter