

## **IAB DELEGATION PARTICIPATED IN IMPORTANT MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON**

An IAB delegation composed of its President, Eng. José Luis Saca, Mr. Gustavo Piedra, Vice President - Treasurer, Lic. Ana Maria Urrutia de Lara, President of the Committee on Freedom of Expression, Dr. Edmundo Rebora, Board Member and Dr. Juan Andres Lerena, Director General, traveled to Washington from April 5 to 8 to attend a busy schedule of meetings and events with various bodies and authorities of the Organization of American States - OAS.

### **Meeting with the Secretary General of the OAS, Dr. Luis Almagro**

IAB was received at the headquarters of the OAS by its Secretary General, Dr. Luis Almagro and his advisory team. At the meeting, IAB President raised concerns about the delicate situation of Freedom of Expression and private media in some countries in the region and urged the OAS to remain watchful, firm and determined to act facing the violation of Human Rights.

Dr. Almagro said he is aware of the problems affecting freedom of speech and independent broadcasting, at the same time he invited IAB to join the efforts of the OAS to promote human rights in the hemisphere through information campaigns to be prepared and distributed in the coming months.



*Dr. Edmundo Rebora, President of ARPA and IAB Board Member, Dr. Juan Andres Lerena, IAB Director General, Mr. Gustavo Piedra, IAB Vice President and President of CANARA, Dr. Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS, Eng. José Luis Saca, IAB President and Lic. Ana María Urrutia de Lara, President of IAB Committee on Freedom of Expression*

## **Hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights**

IAB delegation was received in audience by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS to make a substantiated presentation on the situation of Freedom of Expression and the operation of Free Media in Latin America.

The presentation addressed a variety of topics, such as the alarming increase in crimes and violence against journalists and the media in the region, the existence of draft laws and legislations that restrict freedom of speech, as well as some trends that seek to limit the independence and self-sustainability of private media, promoting measures to control the property through specific rules, which are tools that can be used by successive governments to silence the media that do not agree with them.

The occasion was also suitable to further strengthen the historic collaborative relationship between IAB and the Commission, highlighting the work recently carried out by this body in RCTV case against the State of Venezuela, which concluded with a transcendental ruling of the Inter American Court.

Also, IAB Board Members attended other hearings on the agenda of meetings of the Commission, including the one on Friday, April 8, which involved several non-governmental organizations and the Argentine government, focused on the changes to the Law on Audiovisual Communication Services in that country.

## **Meeting with the Executive Secretary of CITELE, Mr. Oscar León.**

IAB, in its capacity as "Associate Member" to the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission - CITELE, was received by its Executive Secretary, Mr. Oscar León.

Eng. Saca expressed the approval of the Association in relation with the preparatory work and meetings of CITELE for the World Radiocommunication Conference - WRC15, which was organized last November by ITU, and where a successful outcome was achieved in defense of the radio spectrum allocated to broadcasting.

Mr. León noted the formal incorporation of IAB to the work in these areas, where technical but also political aspects are discussed, which keep enormous importance for the industry of radio and television.

He also pointed out that there are other players in the telecommunications industry who have an active participation in the various events and meetings organized by CITELE, so it is very important that IAB continues representing broadcasters and making their voices heard.

Furthermore, he noted that CITELE is the organ through which OAS will channel the actions for the campaigns on protection and promotion of human rights in the region and welcomed the willingness of IAB to work on these important issues.



*Mr. Gustavo Piedra, Dr. Edmundo Rebora, Mr. Oscar León, Executive Secretary of CITEI, Eng. José Luis Saca, Lic. Ana María Urrutia de Lara and Dr. Juan Andrés Lerena.*