

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII)
Questionnaire to the UN system agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental organizations

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

November 2022

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2023 session

i. Please provide information on measures taken since your last update to the Forum on the implementation or planned implementation of the recommendations of the PFII.

ECLAC has continued to carry out actions related to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in synergy with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the regional frameworks, including the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, the Regional Agenda for inclusive social development, among others, and related mandates, in the following areas: i) the inclusion of the situation of indigenous peoples as a cross-cutting theme in the different outputs and activities of the Commission; ii) the inclusion of indigenous peoples in national statistical systems, in particularly the 2020 census round; iii) the production and dissemination of disaggregated data on these groups and training on the use and analysis of this information; iv) the preparation of studies on the situation of indigenous peoples as well as on their living conditions within the framework of the rights of indigenous peoples, including policy recommendations; and v) knowledge sharing, dissemination and technical assistance to the countries of the region.

ii. The theme of the 2023 PFII session is “Indigenous peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”. Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

ECLAC has begun working on the Amazon Regional Platform of Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change of ACTO (Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization). It seeks to promote an exchange of knowledge and good practices of indigenous peoples that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the Amazon Forest and strengthen the participation of indigenous peoples in the global climate change agenda. All these actions take place within the framework, guidelines and decisions of the COPs of the UNFCCC. For more information, please consult: <https://www.euroclima.org/6/plataforma-regional-amazonica-de-pueblos-indigenas-y-cambio-climatico-de-la-otca>

ECLAC is developing the project “Social inequality and the future of workers in Latin America in the context of post-pandemic recovery”, with the support of the Ford Foundation, which includes a regional study on indigenous peoples (in process of publication). This study addresses the impact of the pandemic on the rights of indigenous peoples and on their own economies; provides a regional overview of the participation of indigenous peoples in the world of work; highlights the contribution of indigenous peoples to the conservation of biodiversity and the mitigation of the effects of climate change as a strategic axis

for recovery; and presents conclusions and policy recommendations (it is intended to be presented in a side event during the session of the Forum in 2023).

iii. Please provide information on efforts to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in the international decades declared by the General Assembly, such as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and other relevant international decades and processes.

ECLAC promoted the participation of indigenous peoples in the Fourth Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, Chile, from 28 to 30 June 2022, which follows up the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, particularly the agreement related to the rights of indigenous peoples. The joint action allowed an important participation: associations of indigenous women from several countries (Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, among others); regional networks such as the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas -ECMIA- (with representatives from Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico) and the Network of Indigenous Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean; representative organizations of indigenous peoples such as the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca (CRIC), the National Organization of Indigenous Women of Panama and indigenous leaders from the Waorani Nationality of Ecuador.

The 2022 edition of the Social Panorama of Latin America will focus on education, including the situation of indigenous peoples in terms of progress, persistent gaps and the challenge of a quality education that considers linguistic rights and cultural integrity, providing some evidence on the situation of indigenous languages in countries with recent censuses.

On April 20-22, 2022, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties of Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean – known as the Escazú Agreement, took place at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. The first COP convened the 12 States Party to the Agreement who approved of a Political Declaration in which they reaffirmed the treaty as a driving force for sustainable development and a crucial governance tool for the development of better public policies in the region, with a view to ensuring a healthy environment for present and future generations. The meeting also featured interventions by the representatives of indigenous organizations and highlighted the issue of high levels of violence against environmental defenders in the LAC region. For further information please consult: <https://acuerdodeescazu.cepal.org/cop1/en/news/countries-latin-america-and-caribbean-reaffirm-escazu-agreement-fundamental-tool-ensuring>

B. System-Wide Action Plan to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

i. The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made on the SWAP implementation as part of its discussion on the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples during its 2023 session. Please provide an analysis of actions taken by your agency, fund and/or programme on the six key elements of the SWAP, since your last update to the Forum. Please also include an executive summary (500-word limit).

The promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples continues to be reinforced in the work of ECLAC, and is strongly reflected in position documents, policy briefs, resolutions and intergovernmental agreements of the subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental meetings of ECLAC, in particular in the Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (CRPD), the Regional Conference on Women, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Social Development and the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. The different regional agendas adopted by ECLAC Member States in relation to women, social development, population and development, among others, include specific measures addressing the situation of indigenous peoples in the region.

In the area of the right to information, ECLAC also continues to strengthen national capacities for the inclusion of the indigenous peoples' approach in national statistics, particularly in censuses, working with both public agencies and organizations of indigenous peoples. In this area, during 2022, technical assistance was carried out through a mix of virtual meetings and in-person field missions, as well as through training courses for the use and analysis of information with a focus on indigenous peoples and gender perspective. Within the framework of the Fourth Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, it was launched the website of the virtual platform to contribute to regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus (<https://consensomontevideo.cepal.org/en>).

Likewise, ECLAC has participated in various meetings disseminating findings and recommendations from its latest studies. In addition, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, which was established at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, held in Mexico City in 2016, which is a regional mechanism to follow-up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, subsequently endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, provides a platform to discuss among others things, issues of concerns related to indigenous peoples.

Finally, the ECLAC has received the Decoration of the "Popol Vuh" Order, in recognition of its commitment to working to make visible the real situation of the Indigenous Peoples in partnership with the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) to generate evidence, reliable and culturally relevant information that allows the adoption of public policies with an intercultural approach. The distinction was awarded in the framework of the XVI General Assembly of FILAC.

C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- i. Please describe any activities your entity has organized since the last reporting period to accelerate progress across a range of SDGs, demonstrating the interlinkages across goals and targets and if applicable, providing examples of translating global goals into local actions. In your response, please consider referring to SDGs relevant to the theme of the 2023 session of the Forum.
- ii. Please describe any activities your entity organized in support of the 2022 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and/or reports and activities that supported SDG reporting and monitoring or a VNR process at the national, regional, or global level.

One of the main challenges for the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda is related to the availability of information for the implementation, monitoring and accountability of its objectives, as established by target 17.18. In this sense, during 2022, the following activities were carried out.

During 2022, technical assistance for the preparation or evaluation of the 2020 round of censuses to several countries in the region, particularly in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Chile. The approach of indigenous peoples is considered in the review of census questionnaires (including the indigenous self-identification questions as well as the cultural adaptation of different topics), as well as for the entire census process, emphasizing the participation of indigenous peoples. In the case of Chile, ECLAC is part of the committee of experts for intercultural participation in the upcoming 2024 census.

During the year the document "Recommendations for population and housing censuses in Latin America. 2020 Review" has been published, which includes guidance on self-identification, questions on indigenous languages and ethnic approach (<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/47562-recomendaciones-censos-poblacion-vivienda-america-latina-revision-2020>). Also, "Statistical visibility and participatory mechanisms of indigenous peoples in Latin America: progress and challenges", report that collects the experiences of the countries of the region in terms of indigenous participation in statistical processes (<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/47750-visibilidad-estadistica-mecanismos-participativos-pueblos-indigenas-america>).

Classes related to "Indigenous peoples, 2030 agenda and the Montevideo Consensus" have been given in Diploma on "Leadership of the Indigenous Youth for Collective Advocacy", organized by the Intercultural Indigenous University, FILAC and others (January). Lectures on generating indicators, censuses, statistics and disaggregated sociodemographic data were offered in the "Specialized course on Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and International Cooperation" organized by the University Carlos III de Madrid, the Intercultural Indigenous University and FILAC (June). Moreover, a workshop on indigenous peoples data collection, training aims to strengthen the knowledge of the Gender and Diversity Division's staff and consultants of the Inter-American Development Bank (September).

Within the framework of the Fourth Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (28-30 June 2022), ECLAC organized the Side Event "Challenges of equality and labor inclusion in the context of transformative recovery: a look at priority groups of the Montevideo Consensus", in which CELADE-Population Division presented "Guaranteeing the collective rights of indigenous peoples in the framework of a transformative recovery". Also participated as a speaker in the side event "Looms of Life: Regional Report on indigenous youth", organized by FILAC.

Finally, during 2022 CELADE- Population and Development Division of ECLAC participated in several meetings in this field, making substantive presentations, contributing with policy recommendations. Among them: Side event "The Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages: Cornerstone of the International Decade of Languages Indigenous Peoples in Ibero-America", organized by FILAC and held within the framework of the I Meeting of the IIALI (February 11); Seminar "2022 Censuses and indigenous peoples: why and what do we count for", organized by the National University of Rosario, Argentina (May 10); Round Table "Perspectives of Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples", panel "Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: intercultural implementation of the SDGs: preservation of Mother Earth and science, technology and innovation", organized by UNPFII and FILAC (July 20); Regional Policy Dialogue on Diversity "Dynamics, challenges and opportunities of urban indigenous people in the Latin American and Caribbean region", organized by Inter-American Development Bank (1-2 August); Regional Launch of the International Decade of Languages Indigenous 2022-2032, organized by the

Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States -CELAC- (August 9); Observation of the population and housing census of Brazil 2022, in particular the project for the census in indigenous communities.

D. COVID-19 pandemic

Please provide information on action taken by your agency, fund and/or programme since your last update to the Forum, to address building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of Agenda 2030 for indigenous peoples.

The Fourth Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, Chile, from 28 to 30 June 2022, focused on the sociodemographic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean and the challenges posed by the health crisis for the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. In this context, CELADE-Population Division in its role of the Technical Secretariat, prepared and presented the report “The sociodemographic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean”, with recommendations for recovery and reconstruction within the framework of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, with a specific chapter related to indigenous peoples (<https://crpd.cepal.org/4/en/documents/sociodemographic-impacts-covid-19-pandemic-latin-america-and-caribbean>).

On 12-13 July 2022, ECLAC held a two-day seminar on the “Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economics and welfare of indigenous peoples: challenges to guarantee their collective rights in the post-pandemic recovery agenda”. The seminar, organized with the support of the Ford Foundation, included the participation of senior ECLAC officials, as well a diverse representation of indigenous peoples’ organizations from the Latin American region. Recommendations were also discussed and issued following the conclusion of the seminar and have allowed enriching the document on this topic to be published in 2023.

Finally, the document “The inclusion of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in health information systems in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic” (<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/48355-la-inclusion-pueblos-indigenas-afrodescendientes-sistemas-informacion-salud>), was published, containing the results of Regional Seminar carried out with PAHO and UNFPA on September 8 and 9, 2021, and in which more than a hundred professionals and technicians from statistical institutes participated, including ministries of health and international organizations, as well as members of indigenous organizations and other specialists involved in the subject of health information systems in the region. The document includes recommendations to strengthen the production of quality information including disaggregation by ethnicity to guide the definition, implementation, and monitoring of health policies, in accordance with the standards of individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples.