

**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 2024**

**A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2024 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.

Throughout 2024, ECLAC continued to carry out actions related to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in accordance 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 for Latin America and the Caribbean, an intergovernmental agreement which includes priority measures related to Indigenous Peoples' rights, 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 Indigenous Peoples 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 2025 PFII session is "Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges." Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

ECLAC's reports and publications continue to be guided by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which informs the framework of the production of information, analysis and establishment of policy recommendations. This has led, for example, to the wide and successful promotion of the use of the self-identification criterion in censuses and other data sources in the region, which is consistent with the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as guaranteeing the full participation of Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of censuses and cultural adaptation in accordance with the requirements of Indigenous Peoples, among other recommendations<sup>3</sup>. In this regard, the region continues to make significant progress as the result of the joint work of the national statistics institutes, Indigenous Peoples' organizations and the United Nations system.

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 (2021-2030), the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” (2018-2028) the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032) and other relevant international decades and processes, including CEDAW recommendation 39 on Indigenous women and girls.

From 22-24 April, the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the 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, Chile. ECLAC serves as secretariat of the Escazú Agreement (adopted on 4 March 2018 and in force since 22 April 2021), the first regional environmental treaty and the first worldwide to include specific provisions for the promotion and protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters. The Conference adopted six decisions, including the Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters. The objective of the Action Plan is to highlight a set of priority areas and implement strategic measures to advance towards the full and effective implementation of article 9 of the Escazú Agreement, which establishes, among other things, that each Party shall guarantee a safe and conducive environment for human rights defenders in environmental matters to act free of threats, restrictions and insecurity. Parties must also take measures to acknowledge, protect and promote their rights and prevent, investigate and sanction attacks, threats or intimidation. The Action Plan was prepared by an open-ended Working Group with significant public participation, especially by Indigenous Peoples, and was coordinated by Chile, Ecuador and Saint Kitts and Nevis and is subject to consideration by the 15 States Parties of the Agreement. The term for implementation is six years: from April 2024 to April 2030. Also, the open-ended ad hoc working group on human rights defenders in environmental matters held a virtual meeting on 12 November with the objective for the coordinators of the working group to present the next steps, as well as to initiate a preliminary dialogue on the implementation programme of the Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters and to collect the public's impressions.

At the Fifth Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena, Colombia, 3-4 July), the report entitled “Population, Development and Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean: second regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development” was presented by the Technical Secretariat, which addressed achievements of the Montevideo Consensus and challenges following 30 years after the adoption of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, including the situation of Indigenous Peoples. The majority of ECLAC Member States participated, as well as representatives of the United Nations system and civil society, including Indigenous Peoples’ organizations (side events and civil society activities took place on 2 July).

iv. Has your entity responded to the 2022 UNPFII recommendation<sup>1</sup> paragraph 85... *The Permanent Forum urges all United Nations entities and States Parties to treaties concerning the environment, biodiversity and the climate to eliminate the use of the term “local communities” in conjunction with indigenous*

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<sup>1</sup> E/2022/43-E/C.19/2022/11

*peoples, so that the term “indigenous peoples and local communities” would be abolished.* If yes, please explain your response in further detail.

ECLAC continues to be mindful in ensuring that this term is abolished in its publications, conveying this to other offices outside of CELADE as well.

## **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 2025 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.

The promotion and advocacy for the rights of Indigenous Peoples continues to be reinforced in the work of ECLAC, and is strongly reflected in position documents, thematic reports, 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 (RCPD), 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 sphere of the right to information, ECLAC also continues to strengthen national capacities for the inclusion and increasing visibility of Indigenous Peoples in national statistics, particularly in censuses, working with both public agencies and organizations of Indigenous Peoples. During 2024, 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. The website of the virtual platform to contribute to the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus continues to be consistently updated (<https://consensomontevideo.cepal.org/en>).

Likewise, ECLAC continues to participate in various meetings, disseminating findings and recommendations from its most recent 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.

## **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 2025 session of the Forum, including SDGs 5, 7, 10, 13 and 16.

ii. Please describe any activities your entity organized in support of the 2024 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and SDG Summit and/or reports and activities that supported SDG reporting and monitoring or a VNR process at the national, regional, or global level.

Please also include an executive summary of your inputs to the three main questions above (strict 500-word limit) which will be used for our compilation report submitted to the 2025 session of the PFII.

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 vein, during 2024, the following activities were carried out.

During 2024, technical assistance for the preparation or evaluation of the 2020 round of censuses to several countries in the region took place, particularly in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Peru. The perspective of Indigenous Peoples is considered in the review of census questionnaires (including the indigenous self-identification questions and the cultural adaptation of different topics), as well as for the entire census process, emphasizing the participation of Indigenous Peoples. In the cases of Costa Rica and Ecuador, ECLAC provided support for the independent evaluation of the 2020 censuses, including the identification of Indigenous Peoples.

During the year, five documents were published: “Sociodemographic inequality gaps in the Amazon region: support for the preparation and implementation of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation” which analyzes sociodemographic inequality gaps among the population living in the territories of the Amazon region and highlights the heterogeneity of the population in the Amazon region, which is made up of diverse groups, including Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants (<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/80749-sociodemographic-inequality-gaps-amazon-region-support-preparation-and>); “Population, Development and Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean: second regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development” which outlines progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development for Latin America and the Caribbean priority measures in the region over the period 2018–2023, taking into consideration the specific characteristics of each country and the varying degrees of implementation. The publication also includes a chapter on Indigenous Peoples entitled *Indigenous Peoples, interculturality and rights* (<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/80422-population-development-and-rights-latin-america-and-caribbean-second-regional>); “Report on the activities conducted by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC during the period 2022–2024” which includes a chapter on Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant populations (<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/80456-report-activities-conducted-latin-american-and-caribbean-demographic-centre>); “Policy recommendations for the provision of health services without discrimination and strengthening of the intercultural model of health care and healthy environments for Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in Mexico” which analyzes the discriminatory practices faced by the Indigenous and Afro-Mexican populations in health services in Mexico and proposes public policy guidelines to prevent the violation of their right to health (<https://www.cepal.org/en/node/61813>); and “Demographic dynamics and ethnic inequality in the border area between Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile and Peru” which analyses the population

reproduction of the Aymara people by using a comparative procedure regarding the demographic components of the Aymara population living in the border areas of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile and Peru, with respect to the non-Indigenous population (<https://www.cepal.org/en/node/61413>).

ECLAC also contributed to the Secretary-General report entitled “Promotion of a culture of peace” (as per General Assembly resolution 77/296) which discussed the increasing statistical visibility of Indigenous Peoples in the Latin America and Caribbean region, and the role indigenous Peoples play in the fight against climate change through their traditional and ancestral knowledge and practices. Furthermore, ECLAC provided inputs to the report on participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations, which was presented to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-seventh session.

Finally, during 2024, CELADE-Population and Development Division of ECLAC participated in several meetings in this sphere, making substantive presentations, contributing with policy recommendations. Among them: Regional Workshop on “Collective construction of a system of indicators to monitor the implementation of General Recommendation No. 39 on the rights of indigenous women and girls”, organized by FILAC (6 March); Seminar on “Inclusive data: towards the adoption of a differential and intersectional approach in statistical and geographic information”, organized by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, which included a presentation on “Statistical invisibility: another form of exclusion of historically discriminated and vulnerable populations – Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples” (16 April); Side event on “Indicators for measuring CEDAW General Recommendation 39 on the rights of indigenous women and girls – A proposal for collective construction”, organized by FILAC, UNFPA and CELADE within the framework of the Fifth Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (2 July); the Development Policy Studies Program of the Latin American School of Development Studies (ELADES), organized by ECLAC, which included presentations on CELADE's Lines of Work in Selected Areas, and Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples: Statistical Visibility and Policy Challenges (6 August); and the “Indigenous Sciences/Indigenous Knowledge: debates and contributions for a common future”, organized by the Association of Pacific Rim Universities Indigenous Knowledge Network (4 November).