

Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch
Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Inclusive Social Development
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Executive summary:

Please provide an overview of actions taken to implement the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This summary will form the basis of the compilation report of UN activities to implement the SWAP and the Declaration. [Word limit: 600]

The Organization of American States (OAS) in order to achieve the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan, sought to put into practice the goals drafted in the Plan of Action for the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (2017-2021) which mission was to promote public administrative, legislative, judicial and budgetary policies to ensure that indigenous peoples in the Americas enjoy and exercise all of their rights.

It also encouraged the Member states of the Organization of American States to develop and implement, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples, policies, programs and projects for the recognition, promotion, and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Within an intersectional context, the plan aimed to have a gender approach so as to promote the empowerment and visibility of indigenous women.

Following an intercultural approach, the action plan intended to promote the creation of policies that value and acknowledge ethnic and cultural diversity.

In sum, the main objective was to contribute to the full recognition, exercise, and enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples at the national and hemispheric levels.

At a practical level, the activities implemented last year by the OAS that aimed to promote and draw attention to the culture of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, can be summarized in the followings:

- 1) The Organization of American States (OAS) celebrated, from August 5 to 9, the Inter-American Week for Indigenous Peoples, with events that highlighted the cultural diversity, traditions, languages and contributions of indigenous peoples of the region.

Under the theme “Indigenous Languages of the Americas,” and in keeping with the United Nations designation of 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages, the OAS held the following activities:

1.1. Art and Book exhibition on Indigenous Peoples

1.2. Special Joint Meeting of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) on Indigenous Peoples

1.3. Forum on Globalization and the Preservation of Indigenous Languages and Cultures: *The Role of Youth & Technology*

<https://vimeo.com/353383755> (video of Inter-American Week for Indigenous Peoples)

2) August 30th, 2018. OAS Designated Patricia Velásquez Goodwill Ambassador for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Venezuelan activist, actress and model Patricia Velásquez was designated by the Organization of American States (OAS) Goodwill Ambassador for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas during a ceremony at the headquarters of the hemispheric institution in Washington, DC.

3) June 2019, at a meeting of the Permanent Council, a minute of silence for murdered of Indigenous Women in Canada and Central America was held. The goal was to create awareness about this sensitive issue. In addition, the Secretary general announced the incorporation to the Organization of a specialist in Indigenous Affairs to support and advice the Office of the Secretary General, Mr. Daniel Cano PhD.

https://twitter.com/almagro_oea2015/status/1136321562204938240?s=12

4) July 3th, 2019. OAS and Amazon Agree to Empower Indigenous Youth in the Inter-American System

The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) collaborated to train indigenous youth in the Inter-American System. The purpose of the agreement signed between the two institutions was to train young people from the indigenous communities of the Americas to have a better understanding of the functioning of the OAS, the Inter-American instruments, and fundamentally, the rights of indigenous peoples.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS AND AFRODESCENT PEOPLES IN OAS ACTIVITIES

(Agreed by the Permanent Council at the regular session held on June 19, 2019)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration of Indigenous Peoples, the Plan of Action of the Decade of People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025), the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021), resolution AG / RES. 2924 (XLVIII-O / 18) "Increase and strengthening the participation of civil society and social actors in the activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summit of the Americas process" and resolution CP / RES. 759 (1217/99) "Guidelines for the participation of civil society organizations in OAS activities";

RECOGNIZING the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities in the consolidation of democracy, social development, human rights and security in all Member States and their participation in the activities of the Organization of American States; and

BEARING IN MIND the important presence of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in the Americas, and their immense contribution to the development, plurality and cultural diversity of our societies and reiterating our commitment to their economic and social well-being, as well as the obligation to respect their rights and their identity cultural,

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the Secretariat of Access to Rights and Equity, in consultation with the member states and taking into account the inputs of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in the matter, present a report in the first half of 2020 to the Commission on Management of Inter-American Summits and Participation of Civil Society in OAS Activities on the existing challenges related to the effective participation of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities in the activities of the Organization of American States, in order to strengthen said participation .
2. Require the General Secretariat, in the framework of the "Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation with representatives of civil society organizations and other social actors", to make the necessary arrangements for representatives of indigenous peoples and communities Afro-descendants, who attend, have an effective participation, in order to strengthen their level of incidence in the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of resolutions AG / RES. 2901 (XLVII-O / 17) and AG / RES. 2924 (XLVIII-O / 18) "Increase and strengthening the participation of civil society and social actors in the activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summit of the Americas process" and subject to the availability of resources .