

**REGIONAL REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT AND THE  
PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE OF PEOPLE  
OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS  
(2016-2025)**



**OAS**

More rights  
for more people



# OAS

More rights for more people

ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
SECRETARY FOR ACCESS  
TO RIGHTS AND EQUITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
INCLUSION



Luis **Almagro**  
Secretary General



Nestor **Mendez**  
Assistant Secretary General

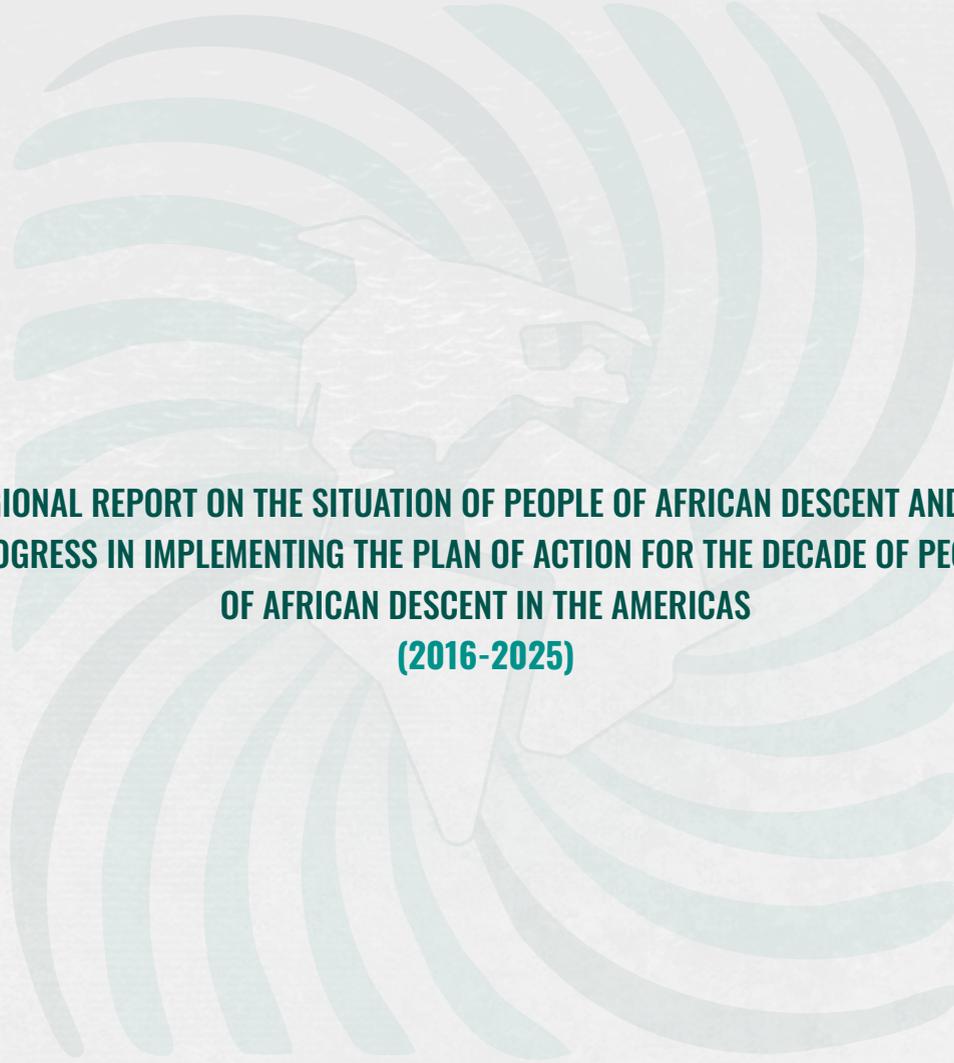


Maricarmen **Plata**  
Secretary for Access to Rights and Equity



Betilde **Muñoz-Pogossian**  
Director of the Department of Social  
Inclusion

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the OAS. Therefore, they are the exclusive responsibility of their respective author and in no case do they commit the Organization.

A large, light green, semi-transparent graphic in the background. It features a stylized hand holding a globe, with several curved lines radiating outwards from the globe, resembling a sun or a signal. The entire graphic is centered on the page.

**REGIONAL REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT AND THE  
PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE OF PEOPLE  
OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS  
(2016-2025)**

**MARCH 2021**

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the OAS. Therefore, they are the exclusive responsibility of their respective author and in no case do they commit the Organization.

---

#### **OAS Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Organization of American States. Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity. Department of Social Inclusion.

Regional report on the situation of People of African Descent and the progress in implementing the Plan of Action for the Decade of People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).

p. ; cm. (OAS. Official records ; OEA/Ser.D) ; (OAS. Official records ; OEA/Ser.G)

#### **ISBN 978-0-8270-7259-7**

1. African diaspora. 2. Racism--America. 3. Race discrimination--America. 4. Human rights--America. 5. Blacks--Civil rights--America.

I. Title. II. Series.

OEA/Ser.D/XXVI.36

OEA/Ser.G CP/INF.8906/21

---

Coordinator: Roberto Rojas Davila

Author: Roberto Rojas Davila

Translators: Mariette Vidal, Maria Ines Hernandez, Nicole Levoyer

Designer: Sebastián Vicente Martínez

# INDEX

---

INTRODUCTION .....	05
THE CURRENT REGIONAL SITUATION .....	09
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION .....	29
A. OAS General Secretariat .....	30
B. Member States .....	74
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	163
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	165





Photo by Heny Cuesta

# INTRODUCTION

---

According to various international and regional organizations, around 200 million people of African descent live in the Americas, and most of them are in a situation of vulnerability; this as a consequence of poverty, social exclusion and economic inequalities, which are closely linked to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance practices.

In this context, the Organization of American States (OAS), through its General Secretariat, as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Summits of the Americas Process have repeatedly expressed their concern regarding the inclusion, respect for human rights, and attention to the needs of people of African descent.

Following up on this concern, since 2010 the OAS General Assembly has been approving various resolutions on people of African descent.

In 2016, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025). Within the framework of the Plan of Action, the OAS member states pledged to gradually adopt and strengthen public policies, administrative, legislative, judicial, and budgetary measures to ensure Afro descendant populations in the Americas the enjoyment of their economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, and their full and equal participation in all spheres of society with the support of the OAS; as well as to take the necessary measures to include the Afro descendant issue in the policies, programs, and projects of the OAS.

The OAS General Secretariat, through its Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE), is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the actions of this Action Plan, in coordination with other organs of the Inter-American System.



Photo by Diego Marques Campos De Souza

In this context, in 2020, the OAS General Assembly instructed the OAS General Secretariat - Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity - within the framework of its function of monitoring and implementing the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025), to prepare a regional report on the state of the situation of people of African descent and on the progress of implementation of the Plan, which will be presented in an extraordinary session of the Permanent Council of the OAS in the framework of the IV Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in 2021.

Finally, it is noteworthy that various international and regional organizations, as well as Afro descendant civil society organizations have prepared reports on the status of the Afro descendant population at the subregional and national levels. These reports collectively complement the diverse views on the challenges that Afro descendant people continue to face in the Americas, and the strategies that can be followed to strengthen their access to rights.

In this sense, this report provides a general overview of the information in these reports regarding the state of the situation of the Afro descendant population; and specifically, regarding the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025) at the OAS level with the information sent by the various areas of the OAS General Secretariat, and with the information sent by the OAS Member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines) to the OAS Department of Social Inclusion.

Photo by Cristian Torres



# THE CURRENT REGIONAL SITUATION<sup>1</sup>

---

Racism, racial discrimination, and related forms of intolerance, including colorism<sup>2</sup>, have been and continue to be part of our societies and directly impact the lives of people of African descent, as well as that of other ethnic groups affected by such manifestations.

In multiethnic, multicultural, and democratic societies, racism, racial discrimination, and related forms of intolerance are contrary to international human rights law, undermine democracy, and maintain the historical inequality between non-racialized persons and racialized persons in the Americas.

In addition, it is key to note that Afro descendants are diverse, and many among them are victims of multiple or aggravated discrimination as a result of other prohibited grounds of discrimination such as age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, nationality, disability, immigration status, refugee, stateless, among others.

Faced with this situation, it is important to highlight that in recent years the international community has been becoming aware of the rights of people of African descent. Some States, organizations and international donors have been taking special measures to begin including people of African descent in their policies and programs. The vulnerable situation in which a great majority of these populations continue to find themselves is the result of the effects of slavery, colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance.

- 
- 1 It should be noted that, as was highlighted in the inputs provided by the Caribbean member states, the situation in their territories since the majority of the population is Afro-descendant.
  - 2 It is a form of discrimination determined by skin tone. The darker a person's skin, the more they are subject to racial prejudice.



Photo by Rodrigo Garcia Pereira

In this context and taking into account the structure of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025), the following describes the state of the situation of the Afro descendant population. It highlights the main findings that various organizations, international and regional organizations, as well as academics and Afro descendant civil society organizations in the Americas have documented regarding the state of affairs in terms of (I) Recognition, (II) Justice, and (III) Development.

# I. Recognition

---

## (a) Right to equality and non-discrimination

The OAS member states have regulatory frameworks to combat racial discrimination and are party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Furthermore, in several Member States racial discrimination is a crime. However, despite having legislation to combat racial discrimination, eradicating and punishing racial discrimination continues to be a challenge in the Region.

In the same sense, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) observed with concern that the principles of equality and non-discrimination are not yet fully guaranteed for people of African descent in the Americas (IACHR, 2011).

Regarding the Caribbean member states, as has been pointed out, the majority of their population is Afro descendant; therefore, in most of these states there is no regulatory framework that recognizes the rights of Afro descendants in a different way.

In this sense, experts consulted by the IACHR (2011) indicated that, although the Afro descendant population does not constitute a minority in the Caribbean, it is also subject to racial discrimination, since the darker the skin color of people, the fewer the opportunities for personal and economic development. They also stated that while in these countries people of African descent do lead and/or take part in the political leadership of their countries - taking into account its meaning in terms of the colonial past and slavery - the ownership of economic resources belongs to white people, especially white men (IACHR, 2011).

It is noteworthy that 18 OAS member states recognize the rights of people of African descent and celebrate commemorative dates where they carry out awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of Afro descendants.

Similarly, 14 OAS member states have some level of national institutional framework on public policies for the Afro descendant population. Although it is important to highlight the existence of said institutionality, it is important to point out that they do not have the human and financial resources or the political influence necessary to generate structural changes to promote the inclusion of people of African descent, as was pointed out in the meetings. Inter-American meetings of high authorities on policies for the Afro descendant population.

Regarding the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance, 12 member states have signed the Convention and only 5 member states are party to the Inter-American treaty.

Eight (8) years after its adoption by the OAS General Assembly, it is evident that greater political will is required so that all OAS member states are party to the Inter-American Conventions against Racism, All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

## **(b) Education on equality and awareness**

According to the World Bank, in recent years, the expansion of the coverage of the educational system has progressed enormously, particularly in primary and secondary education, which is why the Afro descendant population has benefited substantially from this expansion. It also points out that the number of persons of African descent who have not completed primary and secondary education fell between the last two census rounds. It also notes that some countries in the Americas created or

strengthened existing affirmative action programs for higher education, which has produced positive results in terms of enrollment and academic performance (World Bank, 2018).

However, the World Bank indicates that despite these positive steps, numerous gaps persist and education systems continue to exclude the Afro descendant population at various levels. Currently the gaps are more pronounced, and the probability of completion is considerably lower (comparing socioeconomically similar households) and this is due to the fact that Afro descendants generally have higher dropout rates. At the tertiary level, the gaps are even greater, and Afro descendants are underrepresented in all the countries of the region (World Bank, 2018).

Along the same lines, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), asserts that the level of access, progression and completion of secondary education is much lower than that of primary education, is more heterogeneous among the different countries and is marked by significant socioeconomic segmentation. Among those who do not complete secondary education, young people from lower-income households, those who live in rural areas, Indigenous people and Afro descendants are overrepresented (ECLAC, 2019).

The World Bank affirms that several countries in the region approved anti-discrimination laws for education, in addition to other measures aimed at incorporating Afro descendant history, language, and culture content into national curricula. However, discrimination plays an important role in explaining some of these gaps and educational outcomes. The education systems of the region have failed to promote the recognition of Afro descendant identities; on the contrary, they generally contribute to promoting stereotyped and folkloric representations (World Bank, 2018).

Regarding the gender and intersectional approach, both ECLAC and the World Bank affirm that both approaches are absent in most of the plans and programs designed and implemented on the Afro descendant population by the States. The current challenge being that the States show a sustained and transversal commitment to integrate this perspective (ECLAC, 2019; World Bank, 2018).

### **(c) Information gathering**

ECLAC affirms that, although the advances in population and housing censuses are well-known, there is no doubt that the challenges in terms of Afro descendant statistical visibility are enormous and require urgent political will for their implementation (ECLAC, 2019).

It also highlights that in the last decade, numerous training activities have been conducted in these areas, but they must be carried out in an articulated and sustained manner over time, for which the provision of resources is essential (ECLAC, 2019).

However, various authors point out that data collection is an issue that goes beyond the question of self-identification, and instead refers to the adequacy, cultural relevance and specific information requirements of Afro descendant organizations (ECLAC, 2011; Del Popolo and Schkolnik, 2013).

For this reason, ECLAC believes that there is a need to strengthen national capacities for the use of this information, and that the analysis of this information should become evident (ECLAC, 2019).

As the World Bank points out, having statistical data is only a first step in understanding social exclusion. In this sense, the recommendation is that the analysis should go

beyond the metric aspects and should ask why the poor results persist. For this reason, they affirm that, in diagnosing the situations of people of African descent, non-metric aspects must be considered, and the fluid and context-dependent nature of racial identities must be recognized. Key to this is the adoption of innovative and comprehensive approaches to distinguish the many interconnected factors and looking for hidden causes of exclusion in the data (World Bank, 2018).

#### **(d) Participation and Inclusion**

According to several authors, quantifying the number of Afro descendant civil society organizations remains a challenge. The organizations have purposes that exceed the specific demands of the Afro descendant population and include more general issues related to non-discrimination, justice and social inclusion. (Antón and others, 2019)

They also mention that among the main weaknesses of Afro descendant civil society organizations are the insufficient number of personnel, limited financial resources, and insufficient coordination and renewal of leadership. They also affirm that there has been a proliferation of organizations often lacking in structure and with little political agility. (. ECLAC, 2017; and others, 2019)

Moreover, the level of participation of and consultation with Afro descendant civil society organizations is minimal, since it is only in a few states that these organizations are consulted through their inclusion in boards of directors or the creation of working groups. (Antón and others, 2019).

Despite this context, it is important to highlight that legislative progress and the creation of public policy and institutions are largely due to the influence of civil society and Afro descendant social actors.

Regarding the political participation of the Afro descendant population, in recent years the number of Afro descendant candidates has increased in some States. In the region, there are even female vice presidents, ministers, vice ministers, mayors, parliamentarians, and governors of African descent.

However, as stated by the World Bank, the Afro descendant population continues to be highly underrepresented in decision-making spaces, both in the private and public spheres, as they face numerous obstacles to exercising their political, economic and cultural rights. (World Bank, 2018).



In addition, there are records and complaints that show that Afro descendant people who decide to actively participate in politics are victims of racial discrimination, particularly Afro descendant women. (La Nación, 2018; El País, 2021; others).

Finally, the inclusion of the rights of Afro descendants and the fight against racial discrimination in the agendas of political parties and government plans of most states is still pending, which would allow the agenda for the inclusion of Afro descendants to become a state policy and not a government policy. (Bello, 2013; OEA, 2015).

## II. Justice

---

### (a) Access to Justice

According to the IACHR, the information available allows us to conclude that obstacles to access to justice are linked to a wide range of factors. The Commission observes that there is a close relationship between poverty, racial discrimination, and obstacles in access to justice to the detriment of the Afro descendant population, which especially affects Afro descendant women. The impossibility of access to complaint and redress mechanisms, whether administrative or judicial, is a factor that contributes to the persistence of racism in the region. Additionally, the absence of judicial guarantees and the lack of sensitivity of justice operators in relation to racial discrimination contribute to deepening resignation on the part of discriminated groups and perpetuating patterns of segregation and exclusion (IACHR, 2011).

The IACHR affirms that, from the point of view of the victims, the information available shows that those affected generally do not make the pertinent complaints or claims, either due to ignorance, mistrust in the state authorities or simply for fear of being revictimized (IACHR, 2011-2020).

In the same vein, the IACHR has received information indicating that it is very difficult for Afro descendants to access effective judicial protection because they are discriminated against and stigmatized and that the complaint often does not lead to any type of financial compensation and, on the contrary, it can imply loss of time and economic expenses. In addition, the Commission has received information about the absence of Afro descendant professionals in the High Courts of Justice and the reduced number of Afro descendant judges and judicial officials (IACHR, 2011). On the other hand,

the IACHR also affirms that the obstacles to effective access to justice are linked to the state's own attitude towards these situations. In general, it is not uncommon for the police to refuse to receive and settle these types of complaints, considering them irrelevant. The same attitude is replicated at the judicial level, insofar as the judicial authorities do not process complaints of discrimination ex officio, nor are they willing to receive this type of complaint (IACHR, 2011).

Additionally, the IACHR has received information about the selective detention of Afro descendant persons, based on the use of racial profiling, unjustified police surveillance and negative interactions with the police, disproportionate arrest rates, and over-representation of Afro descendant persons in the criminal justice system. Even the information released by the IACHR indicates that the Afro descendant population has been the victim of acts of violence, practices of disproportionate use of force and lethal force, and police corruption, committed with total impunity (IACHR, 2011).

Additionally, the IACHR has argued that the available studies indicate a police bias, including the use of unnecessary violence against people subjected to its procedures, especially those of African descent, living in marginalized areas, which, in many cases, leads to the death of the subject (IACHR, 2011).

In relation to the gender approach, the experts consulted by the IACHR indicated that when the security forces interact with Afro descendant men, they treat them in an aggressive manner; they insult and beat them. On the other hand, in the case of Afro descendant women, security forces resort to humiliating practices and sexual assault and violence, including sexual harassment in the presence of their respective partners (IACHR, 2011).

The IACHR has taken note of the ongoing attacks on the life and personal integrity of Afro descendant leaders. Many of these attacks aim to reduce activities defending and protecting territories and natural resources, as well as those that defend the right to autonomy and cultural identity. The murders perpetrated against these leaders, while seriously altering cultural integrity, break the cohesion of peoples around the defense of their human rights (IACHR, 2011b).

Likewise, the IACHR affirms that, after attacks against the lives of Indigenous or Afro descendant leaders, there are usually threats against and surveillance of members of their communities or relatives who seek to investigate their deaths. These attacks clearly threaten the integrity of Indigenous and Afro descendant peoples, and in turn make it difficult for the victims to access justice because, given the fear generated, it is difficult for the communities to take up the causes advanced by their leaders who were attacked. (IACHR, 2011b).

Finally, the IACHR has observed a series of structural obstacles that affect the continent's access to justice in cases brought forward by Indigenous and Afro descendant leaders (IACHR, 2011b).

## **(b) Special measures**

ECLAC affirms that, in recent years, several States have promoted special measures aimed at correcting structural inequalities and advancing towards equality between Afro descendant and non-Afro descendant persons, in particular access to tertiary education (ECLAC, 2017).

Among the main results of the application of affirmative action policies in the education sector are the increase in attendance and access of young people of African descent to post-secondary education, especially at the university level. (ECLAC, 2019)

ECLAC also points out that affirmative actions can also be applied to other groups of the Afro descendant population to address, for example, the specific needs of Afro descendant women and girls. In this regard, ECLAC states that more policies are needed to address the factors that cause girls and adolescents of African descent to drop out and fall behind in school, including the burden of unpaid domestic and care work and adolescent motherhood. (ECLAC, 2017, 2019).

Finally, according to the World Bank, experience shows that targeted policies are required to help overcome the structural barriers that hinder the personal and group development of people of African descent, who are overrepresented among the laggards of the last decade of economic growth and underrepresented in decision-making spaces, both in the private and public spheres (World Bank, 2018).

### III. Development

---

#### (a) Right to development and measures to combat poverty

According to the World Bank, in the last decade, the living conditions of many people of African descent have improved significantly. They have benefited significantly from widespread poverty reduction in the region. Also, the probability of being poor, compared to people living in households with similar socioeconomic conditions, declined significantly throughout the region (World Bank, 2018).

However, the World Bank notes that the benefits were not distributed equitably, and the Afro descendant population benefited to a lesser extent than the non-Afro descendant population (whites and mestizos), thus perpetuating various gaps and higher than the average poverty rates. The combination of a long history of exclusion and contemporary processes of structural discrimination makes the Afro descendant population one of the most persistent groups among the poor in the region (World Bank, 2018).

In this sense, the World Bank affirms that the Afro descendant population has fewer opportunities for social mobility since they are 2.5 times more likely to live in chronic poverty. Furthermore, Afro descendant households experienced smaller transitions out of poverty and greater transitions toward poverty than the non-Afro descendant population (whites and mestizos) (World Bank, 2018).

The World Bank also notes that the poverty trap that affects many Afro descendants is exacerbated by other dimensions, such as the prevailing disparities between rural and urban contexts or those associated with the gender of the head of the household. The

persistence of poverty gaps between Afro descendants and non-Afro descendants, in addition to the greater tendency of Afro descendant households to remain poor over time, can be partially attributed to the way in which they are integrated into the labor market (World Bank, 2018).

Along the same lines, ECLAC notes that there is evidence of the profound inequalities that affect the Afro descendant population in several States and the obstacles they face in meeting the goal set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also affirms that the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 dramatically exacerbates inequality. (ECLAC, 2019, 2020).

ECLAC also emphasizes that, to a greater or lesser degree, the shortcomings and deprivations experienced by the Afro descendant population in most states are more severe than those affecting the non-Afro descendant population, especially in rural areas. (ECLAC, 2019).

ECLAC also highlights that in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and due to the pre-existing socioeconomic conditions of the Afro descendant population, it is very difficult for them to follow the recommended isolation and social distancing measures. Within addition to the above, the high prevalence of certain unfavorable health conditions, such as hypertension and diabetes, makes this population very susceptible to the COVID-19 crisis, both in terms of health and economic impacts (ECLAC, 2020).

## **(b) Employment**

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the marginalization and exclusion experienced by people of African descent are not only the result of individual episodes of discrimination during the recruitment phase but also stem from structural discrimination that is sometimes deeply rooted in society, and even in the institutions and policies of the labor market (ILO, 2016).

Furthermore, the ILO affirms that these disadvantages are exacerbated by insufficient support from the authorities responsible for ensuring the effective application of the law, limited access to judicial systems, lack of qualitative and quantitative data disaggregated by race and ethnicity, little or no representation in collective bargaining, the absence of suitable affirmative action policies, and inadequate access to education and training. In some cases, even generalized access to education does not guarantee Afro descendants equal access to employment or to jobs of the same quality (ILO, 2016).

Similarly, the ILO notes that the lack of favorable school results and the consequent difficulties in obtaining adequate employment and income can negatively affect children of African descent and lead to child or forced labor (ILO, 2016).

Along the same lines, the World Bank affirms that the Afro descendant population has higher levels of unemployment in all States, and among those who have jobs, a large proportion of them work in low-skilled occupations. It is highlighted that one of the most important gaps between Afro descendants and non-Afro descendants is precisely that related to income level (World Bank, 2018).

The World Bank also highlights that, in many countries, the difference in wages increases with educational level. In fact, when comparing workers with the same educational level, age, gender, marital status, experience, type of employment, work sector and household characteristics, but of different races, Afro descendants tend to have considerably lower earnings for the same type of work (World Bank, 2018).

For example, the Inter-American Development Bank, based on data collected from 117 of the 500 largest companies in one country, found that there is a bottleneck in the hierarchy for Afro descendants, and they are underrepresented at the highest levels of employment (IDB, 2017).

According to ECLAC and the ILO, the incidence of child labor is higher in the child population affected by other forms of exclusions: it is higher in rural areas, among the lower-income population and among the Indigenous and Afro descendant population. This, once again, highlights the intersection of the structuring axes of social inequality (ECLAC / ILO, 2018).

Moreover, ECLAC points out that, in the few States where it is possible to get information, there is evidence that Afro descendant children and adolescents are overrepresented in child labor rates (ECLAC, 2019).

Furthermore, with regard to gender, the analysis makes it possible to identify other structuring axes of the inequality matrix in the region. Among Afro descendant women there are significant gaps between income quintiles (about half of them belong to the first two quintiles) and the vast majority of them live in urban areas, of whom a significant percentage are already mothers (ECLAC, 2014 and 2016).

## (c) Health

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) recognizes that, although there have been significant advances in the recognition of the need for an intercultural approach to health services, there are still obstacles that are rooted in discrimination, racism, and exclusion of Indigenous peoples, Afro descendants, Roma and members of other ethnic groups, sometimes derived from the lack of recognition and appreciation of their cultures (PAHO, 2017)

Likewise, PAHO affirms that the Afro descendant population suffers the consequences of significant gaps in health due to socioeconomic determinants as a result of the discrimination and historical exclusion that they are victims. In addition, it points out that the information systems do not sufficiently collect the variable of ethnicity, one of the main limitations being the lack of disaggregated data that facilitate obtaining an accurate diagnosis on the dimension of the differentiated health situations of this population (PAHO, 2017).

PAHO also considers that the invisibility and exclusion faced by Afro descendants represents a challenge to achieving the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to health, such as those relating to universal access and coverage of health, tuberculosis, malaria, and mental health, among others (PAHO, 2017).

ECLAC also recognizes that the health of the Afro descendant population has acquired greater visibility in recent years and there is consensus on the need to take measures to improve the health status of the population, as has been reflected in international and regional regulatory frameworks. However, it states that disparities in this area persist and that the lack of sources of information to analyze this issue is obstacle to overcoming these inequalities and the enjoyment of the right to health of this population (ECLAC, 2019).

Also, ECLAC points out that unequal access to health systems, institutional discrimination, and the lack of an intercultural perspective in health services represent a considerable barrier for people of African descent to access the health system under equal conditions (ECLAC, 2019).

Finally, in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, PAHO has recognized that the pandemic disproportionately affects groups in situations of vulnerability, especially people of African descent. That is why it has called on the health authorities of the Americas to face this challenge (PAHO, 2020).

Likewise, PAHO states that this disproportionate burden is not solely the case with regard to COVID-19. In fact, it is evident in all its health indicators, from non-communicable diseases to results in terms of maternal health outcomes, especially in Afro descendant women, who usually have more difficulties in accessing the health services they need (PAHO 2020).

Similarly, PAHO highlights that systemic racism can be an obstacle to accessing adequate care, can generate mistrust in health providers and, ultimately, can lead to worse outcomes for Afro descendant patients in many countries of the region (PAHO, 2020).

## **(d) Housing**

ECLAC affirms that, in most countries, the census figures show that the percentage of people of African descent living in overcrowded houses is higher than that of non-Afro descendant people, both in urban and rural areas. It also highlights that, although living conditions in cities tend to be better than in the countryside, severe overcrowding of the Afro descendant population exceeds the non-Afro descendant population in urban areas in most states (ECLAC, 2019).

ECLAC also notes that people of African descent are at a disadvantage in relation to the rest of the population in terms of access to basic services, drinking water and sanitation (ECLAC, 2019).

Along these lines, the World Bank considers that the urban distribution of Afro descendants may, in fact, hide important gaps in access to services and markets in certain regions. However, when they observed areas with high concentrations of Afro descendants within countries, a different pattern began to emerge (World Bank, 2018).

In addition, the World Bank states that, when the Afro descendant population is compared to Indigenous peoples, national totals showing access to services and technology are considerably better for Afro descendants, although they continue to be at the bottom of the national distribution. This is partly explained by the higher concentration of Afro descendants in urban areas (World Bank, 2018).



Photo by Lucas Passos.

# PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

---

In compliance with the mandates of the OAS General Assembly, the Department of Social Inclusion of the OAS Secretariat for Access to Right and Equity (DSI) sent memorandums to the secretariats, departments, agencies of the OAS, and verbal notes to Permanent missions to the OAS requesting information on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).

In this sense, the DSI received information from various areas of the OAS, as well as from the Permanent Missions to the OAS of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

It should be noted that the documentation received by Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines indicates that the Afro descendant population is not a minority in their States and that said population occupies places at all levels of government, society, the business community, and the law enforcement.

The following is a report on implementation with the aforementioned inputs, and in accordance with the structure of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).

## A OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

### Mainstreaming

#### MANDATE:

*“This Plan will be implemented in a cross-cutting manner, with special focus on:*

*The traditionally vulnerable groups within population of African descent due to the multiple, aggravated and concomitant forms of discrimination.*

*The nations of African descent and other member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) whose legacy of underdevelopment are traced to the enslavement of Africans in the Caribbean.*

*In its implementation, the Organization of American States (OAS), shall:*

*Include the rights of persons of African descent on the agenda of meetings of ministers and high authorities and in the policies, programs, and projects, as well as the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS General Secretariat.”*

## **(I) Internal Policies**

The Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity has prepared the proposal for the “Policy for Mainstreaming the Inclusion of Groups in Situation of Vulnerability in the General Secretariat of the OAS (GS/OAS), which includes the Afro descendant approach.” The proposal is under review by the Office of the Secretary General.

Additionally, it should be noted that the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is the entity in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Institutional Policy of Equity and Gender Equality, Diversity and Human Rights of the GS/OAS (EXOR No. 16-03). This Policy contemplates that gender equality within the Organization will be addressed from an intersectional approach, including women of African descent.

In this sense, the CIM, in collaboration with the Department of Social Inclusion, has trained GS/OAS officials in the intersectional approach, including Afro descendant issues.

## **(II) Incorporation in the agendas of Ministerial Meetings, Hemispheric Committees, Committees for the Follow-up of Inter-American Treaties and Inter-American Programs**

In the framework of the IV Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development of the Americas held from March 28 to 29, 2019 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, the national authorities on social development decided to use a cross-cutting approach by incorporating the rights of Afro descendants in the 2019 Plan of Action of Guatemala “Overcoming Multidimensional Poverty and Closing the Gaps and Social Equity: Towards an Inter-American Agenda for Social Development”.

The plan establishes the following:

*“The implementation of the activities established in this Action Plan are based on the principles of collaboration, intersectionality and the need to strengthen cooperation with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as the academic sector, the private sector, the civil society and other social actors, including Indigenous and Afro descendant peoples and communities, whose participation is vital for the development and strengthening of social development policies, programs and initiatives.”*

It should be noted that this was possible due to the incidence of the Department of Social Inclusion since, at the request of some delegations, Roberto Rojas Davila, head of the Section of Groups in Situation of Vulnerability of the Department, gave a presentation on people of African descent in a meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) within the scope of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), where preparations began for the IV Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development of the Americas. At that meeting, the authorities decided to incorporate the approach of the rights of Afro descendants across the board in the IV Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development of the Americas.

In the framework of the XXXVIII Meeting of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) held from May 7 to 8, 2019, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, the delegates decided to include a specific emphasis on participation and the political leadership of Afro descendant women in the Declaration of Santo Domingo on Equality and Autonomy in the Exercise of Women’s Political Rights for the Strengthening of Democracy.

Regarding the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS), the Committee included the ethnic-racial variable in its national reporting forms. Similarly, the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2016-2026) also includes the ethnic-racial variable.

Similarly, the Working Group of the Protocol of San Salvador (WGPSS) has mainstreamed the ethnic-racial variable in its national reporting forms. In addition, it should be noted that the WGPSS has the government expert Urenna Best Gayle, who was general director of the National Secretariat for the Development of Afro-Panamanians (SENADAP, for its acronym in Spanish).

Additionally, Roberto Rojas Dávila, head of the Groups in Situations of Vulnerability Section of the Department of Social Inclusion, made a presentation on the subject of Afro descendant migrants at the OAS Committee on Migration Issues.

Regarding the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (DSDSM), the Department included the Afro descendant issue in the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH).

It should be noted that the Observatory of the Criminal Justice System of the MACCIH-OEA prepared five reports on access to justice by populations in situations of vulnerability in Honduras, which includes the Afro descendant population.

Regarding the Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (DECO), this Department has the specific methodology to observe the Afro descendant issue in electoral contexts. Furthermore, it is a subject that is present in the work carried out by the department as part of the

effective exercise of political rights. DECO also includes the Afro descendant issue in its dialogues in the Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities and in Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) and technical cooperation projects.

The Latin American and Caribbean Council of Civil Registration, Identity and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV) has included groups in situations of vulnerability, including people of African descent, among the topics discussed in its meetings.

Regarding the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia of the Department of Democratic Sustainability and Special Missions of the Secretariat for the Strengthening of Democracy (MAPP/OAS), the Mission monitors the effective access of Afro-Colombian victims to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP).

Likewise, the MAPP/OEA includes the Afro descendant issue in the implementation of its technical cooperation projects and has professionals with experience working on this issue.

For its part, the Meeting of Ministers responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA) and related technical groups included the Afro descendant issue. It was also included in the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons.

Likewise, the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Permanent Council has reflected the concern to promote policies to protect sectors of the population in situations of vulnerability and non-discrimination for reasons of racial ethnic origin.

In addition, the Department of Public Security of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security has included the Afro descendant issue in the Hemispheric Action Plan to Guide the Design of Public Policies to Prevent and Reduce Intentional Homicide, and in technical cooperation projects.

Regarding the Department of Economic Development (DDE) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), this Department included the Afro descendant issue in the Sustainable Community Rural Tourism Development Management Model for the Americas within the framework of the work plan of the Inter-American Tourism Commission (CITUR).

Within the framework of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of International Law, the Department of International Law (DDI) promotes standards on the protection of the human rights of the Afro descendant community, as well as the content of the Inter-American Conventions on Racism, Discrimination and Intolerance, which have a close relationship with people of African descent. The Department has also issued publications on this topic.

### **(III) Publications**

The DSI, along with the organization Asuntos del Sur, collaborated on the publication “The Agenda for Afro descendant Women’s Activism in Latin America.”

This work currently represents the exercise of recognizing actors, taking qualitative perspectives from diverse contexts of the Afro descendant population in Latin America and the Caribbean, the reasons why they organize themselves, the construction and deconstruction of paradigms around the young population and women, their relationship with the State in all dimensions, their articulation with their peers, and the way in which they identify the steps to follow.

## General Objective 1: At the level of the Organization of American States (OAS)

### MANDATE:

*“ Expand and foster cooperation, the exchange of experiences and good practices, to strengthen government structures that develop public policies and mechanisms in each state to promote racial equality.”*

- (I) Inter-American Meetings of High Policy Authorities for the Afro descendant Population and Inter-American Network of High Policy Authorities for the Afro descendant Population (RIAFRO)**
- (a) I Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population**

The Department of Social Inclusion together with the Ministry of Culture of Peru and the Afro-Latin American Research Institute of Harvard University (ALARI) and the support of the Inter-American Development Bank organized the First Inter-American Meeting of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population, which It took place from June 11 to 13, 2018 in Lima, Peru.

The main objectives of the meeting were to generate a regional report on the actions implemented within the framework of the International Decade for Afro descendants and to promote the creation of an Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population (RIAFRO for its acronym in Spanish) with the purpose of establishing permanent collaboration between authorities. national policies on the Afro descendant population in the Americas.

The I Meeting was attended by authorities from 11 member states: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.



Within the framework of the meeting, the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population (RIAFRO) was created.

## **(b) II Inter-American Meeting of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population**

RIAFRO together with the Government of Costa Rica organized the II Inter-American Meeting of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population, which was held virtually from October 28 to 30, 2020.

The main objectives of the meeting were to generate a regional report on the actions implemented within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent and to learn about the actions carried out within the framework of the COVID19 pandemic.

The II Meeting was attended by authorities from 11 member states: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.

### (c) Inter-American Network High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population (RIAFRO)

The main objectives of RIAFRO are:

- To expand and foster cooperation, exchange of experiences and good practices for the strengthening of government institutions that develop public policies for people of African descent in the Americas.
- To disseminate and implement the Plan of Action for the Decade of Afro descendants in the Americas and the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance.
- To strengthen coordination and collaboration between regional and international organizations, cooperation agencies, academia, civil society and other social actors.

To date, RIAFRO has 11 member states: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.

RIAFRO's First Management Committee was made up of Peru as chair, Costa Rica and Brazil as vice chairs, and Mexico and Panama as delegate members.

RIAFRO's Second Management Committee is made up of Costa Rica as chair, Peru and Brazil as vice chair, and Mexico and Honduras as delegate members.

The RIAFRO Technical Secretariat is made up of the DSI with the support of the Afro-Latin American Research Institute of Harvard University (ALARI) and the Gender and Diversity Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

More information about RIAFRO can be found at the following link:

● <https://somasafro.org/governors/riafro/>

**MANDATE:**

*Promote enhanced knowledge and respect of the diversity of the legacy and culture of persons of African descent and their contribution to societal development.”*

In February 2017, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General organized the event “African Cultural Inspiration in the Americas,” which aimed to highlight the influence of African culture in the hemisphere in the areas of music, gastronomy, art, and religion. It should be noted that this event was held within the framework of the Plan of Action and Black History Month, which was held for the second consecutive year at the OAS.

In addition, in March 2017, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General organized a private visit to the National Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture for Permanent Representatives, Permanent Observers, and senior OAS officials.

It should be noted that 41 attendees were present, including the Assistant Secretary General, and Permanent Representatives of 18 member states and Representatives of 5 Observer States.

Likewise, in March 2017, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General together with the Department of Press and Communications and the collaboration of several member states launched a virtual campaign to highlight the contributions of people of African descent to societies in the region.

It should be noted that the campaign website is permanently on the Organization's website:

- ◆ [http://www.oas.org/en/media\\_center/the-decade-for-people-of-african-descent.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/the-decade-for-people-of-african-descent.asp)

In October 2017, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General partnered with the United Nations Program to Remember Slavery by presenting the premiere of the film "Familiar Faces/Unexpected Places: A Global African Diaspora" by the renowned anthropologist Sheila Walker in the OAS Hall of the Americas.

The film aims to highlight the legacy and contributions of people of African descent. The launch was accompanied by a discussion forum and a complementary exhibition produced by the United Nations entitled "Remembering Slavery: Recognition, Justice and Development" in the OAS Hall of Heroes.

Furthermore, in February 2018, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General collaborated with the Chicago-based Afro-Latino Historical Society to present the exhibition entitled "Reclaiming the Legacy of Leaders of African Descent in the Americas (1801-1910)."

The exhibition was held from February 21 to March 7, 2018 in the Marcus Garvey Hall of Heroes of the OAS.

In March 2019 within the framework of the Second Week of People of African Descent, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General managed the acquisition of a commemorative painting for the Afro descendant population. The painting is located in the lobby of the Simón Bolívar Room of the OAS headquarters.



Home » Media Center » The Decade for People of African Descent

- Media Center
- Press Releases
- Speeches
- Email subscriptions
- Live Webcast
- Videos
- Audios
- Photos
- Social Media
- Newsletters

Press and Communications Department

Contact us at:

- +1 (202) 370-5437
- [OASPress@oas.org](mailto:OASPress@oas.org)



At its 2016 General Assembly, the Organization of American States (OAS) approved the [Plan of Action for the Decade of Afro-Descendants](#) in the Americas (2016-2025), in recognizing that people of African descent in the Americas are descendants of millions of Africans who were forcibly enslaved and transported as part of the inhumane transatlantic slave trade between the 15th and 19th centuries.

The Plan of Action outlines a series of key activities to promote awareness of the situation of people of African descent in the Americas and to ensure their full participation in social, economic and political life and mandates the annual commemoration of the International Day for the Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

## MANDATE:

*“Commemorate every year, on March 25, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, focusing on eminent Afro descendants who have made significant contributions to the abolition of the slave trade, the slavery and in favor of civil rights in the Americas. ”*

The Permanent Council of the OAS held a special session to commemorate the “International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade” on March 29, 2017.

On February 21, 2018, the OAS Permanent Council approved the resolution “Inter-American Week for People of African Descent”. Through the resolution, the week around March 25 of each year is declared as the “Inter-American Week of People of African Descent.”

The resolution invites member states to commemorate this week with activities that promote a greater understanding of the meaning of slavery and the slave trade and its consequences in the lives of people of African descent, as well as to recognize the important contributions of people of African descent. to the political, economic, cultural and social life of the region.

Likewise, it urges the General Secretariat to commemorate this week with actions that promote greater knowledge and respect for the diversity of heritage and culture of people of African descent and their contribution to the development of societies, subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

In this sense, under the leadership of the Office of the Assistant Secretary General and with the support of the Department of Social Inclusion and the Permanent Missions



Photo by Helen Salomao

to the OAS, the celebrations of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Inter-American Week of the and Afro descendants were organized, through a series of activities aimed at recognizing the important contributions of Afro descendants to the political, economic, cultural and social life of the region.

The Department of Social Inclusion collaborated with the Goodwill Ambassador for the Rights of Afro descendants in the Americas, Professor Henry Gates Jr., in the elaboration of a message in the framework of the III Inter-American Week of the and Afro descendants. The video is available at the following link:

- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2509903949259079>

Likewise, the Department of Social Inclusion has collaborated with the Ministry of Culture of Peru and the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City, in their activities to celebrate Inter-American Week for Afro descendants.

## Strategic Lines of Action

### (I) Recognition

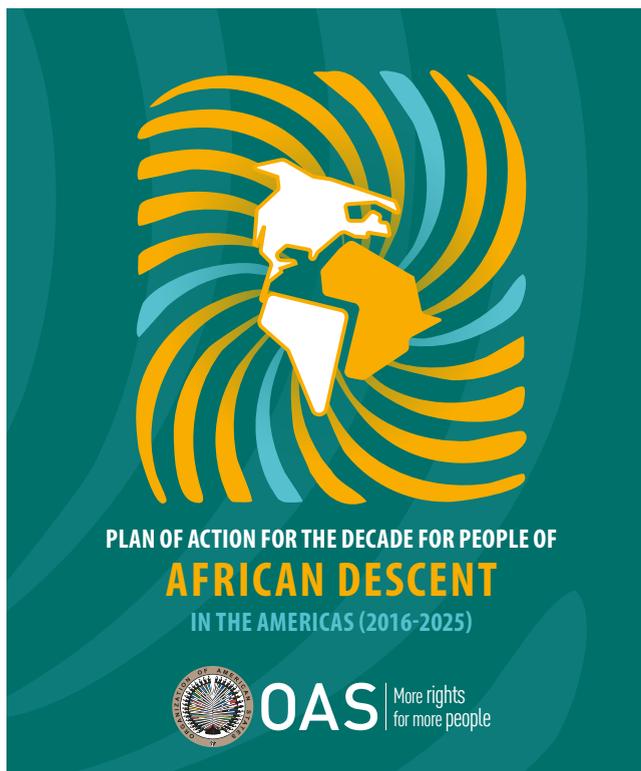
#### (a) Right to Equality and non-discrimination

##### MANDATES:

- “2. *Create campaigns against multiple discrimination of which Afro descendants are victims with the collaboration of organs and agencies of the OAS, international and regional organizations.*
3. *Create a campaign for the signature, ratification, and implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.*

The Department of Social Inclusion designed and printed the digital pocket version in the 4 official languages of the OAS of the Plan of Action for the Decade of People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025), the Plan is in the public domain for use and re-printing, and is available at the following links:

- [https://www.oas.org/es/sadye/documentos/PA\\_Afrodesc\\_ESP.pdf](https://www.oas.org/es/sadye/documentos/PA_Afrodesc_ESP.pdf)
- [https://www.oas.org/en/sare/documents/PA\\_Afrodesc\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.oas.org/en/sare/documents/PA_Afrodesc_ENG.pdf)
- [https://www.oas.org/en/sare/documents/PA\\_Afrodesc\\_POR.pdf](https://www.oas.org/en/sare/documents/PA_Afrodesc_POR.pdf)
- [https://www.oas.org/en/sare/documents/PA\\_Afrodesc\\_FRA.pdf](https://www.oas.org/en/sare/documents/PA_Afrodesc_FRA.pdf)



Likewise, in 2016, the Department of Social Inclusion, together with the Ibero-American Telecommunications Organization (OTI), and the Televisa Foundation created the “More Rights for More People” campaign. The campaign aims to make visible the reality of three underrepresented groups in our societies: women, people with disabilities and people of African descent.

The campaign was broadcast on public television stations in some countries in the region and on social media. The contents of the campaign are available at the following link:

◆ <https://otitelecom.org/video/campana-derechos-gente-afrodescendientes/>

We must highlight that, in 2017, at the initiative of the Department of Social Inclusion, Secretary General Luis Almagro appointed the renowned professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. as Goodwill Ambassador for the Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas. Professor Gates Jr. is the director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University and a well-known television and public figure.



Photo by Melissa Blackall

It should be noted that the Center headed by Professor Gates Jr. co-organized with the OAS Department of Social Inclusion, the First Inter-American Meeting of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population and is part of the Technical Secretariat of RIAFRO.

Likewise, the Department of Social Inclusion carried out a campaign to encourage member states to sign, ratify, and implement the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

The Secretary General - through the DSI - has sent a letter inviting all member states to consider signing, ratifying, and implementing the Inter-American Conventions related to groups in vulnerable situations.

This was the first step of the campaign, which included holding training events, training workshops, talks and creating strategic alliances; as well as the mainstreaming of the contents of these conventions and Afro descendant issues in the work of the OAS.

One of the results of the strategic alliances was with the Central American Parliament, which approved a resolution to urge the Central American States to sign, ratify and implement the Inter-American Convention against Racism.

The Department of Social Inclusion advocated that one of RIAFRO's objectives is to disseminate and implement the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance.

In this regard, RIAFRO established a working group to create a campaign for the signing, ratification, and implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, as well as the Inter-American Convention against all Forms of Discrimination. and Intolerance.

RIAFRO consulted with marketing companies to obtain quotes and explore funding options for a regional campaign. None of the proposals were within the budgets of the Network's member institutions and other options for cooperation are currently being explored.

In 2020, in order to continue with its objective, the president of RIAFRO and the Goodwill Ambassador for the Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas sent letters to OAS member states requesting their good offices to sign, ratify and implement the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance.

Finally, with regard to dissemination, between 2016 and December 2020 the Department of Social Inclusion has trained approximately 10,000 people on the Afro descendant issue within the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS), particularly the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent of the Americas (2016-2025).

**MANDATE:**

*“4. Promote respect for and tolerance of different expressions and religions with African roots.”*

Between May and June 2016, the photographic exhibition “Afro-Cuba: Mystery and Magic in Afro-Cuban Spirituality” was held by the Italian anthropologist and photographer Anthony Cariona, which took place in the building of the General Secretariat of the OAS (GSB).

The exhibition was organized by the Art Museum of the Americas and had the collaboration of DSI, as well as the sponsorship of the Observer Mission of Italy to the OAS; and its objective was to raise awareness about respect for and tolerance of African-based religions.

## MANDATES:

- “5. Promote measures aimed at combating racial profiling.”
7. Promote the strengthening of financial resources and the provision of the necessary personnel to the Rapporteurship for Persons of African descent and against Racial Discrimination, as part of a process for the integral strengthening of all rapporteurships of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
8. Support the States that so request, in the comprehensive review of domestic legislation to identify and abolish the provisions that entail direct or indirect discrimination that could affect the persons of African descent in the region.”



Photo by Helen Salomao

The Department of Public Security of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, through the Program for the Prevention of Crimes related to irregular migration in Mesoamerica, has promoted the creation of policies for the protection of the human rights of irregular migrants, with particular attention to groups in situations of vulnerability, including Afro descendants.

Likewise, the Department, through the project “Increase in Protection Factors against Violence and Crime in Vulnerable Groups of Tela, Honduras”, through artistic training activities, are contributing to the protection from violence and crime prevention in Garifuna communities in Tela, Honduras.

In 2019, the IACHR presented the thematic report “Police Violence Against Afro descendants in the United States.” The report is available at the following link:

● <https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/PoliceUseOfForceAfrosUSA.pdf>

The IACHR has a specialist consultant specializing in the issue on the team of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of People of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination. The subject is also approached transversally from the other sections.

In its 2017-2021 IACHR Strategic Plan, the IACHR established gender equality and diversity as a transversal axis of all its programs, recognizing the situation of structural discrimination experienced by various groups in the region, including Afro descendants. The Rapporteurship on the Rights of Afro descendant Persons and against Racial Discrimination, will work on the issue in a transversal manner.

Likewise, the 2017-2021 Action Plan of the Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of People of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination includes the following priority topics:

- Heightened risk of people of a particular racial or ethnic origin to be victims of excessive use of force by the police and of forms of criminalization.
- Existence of laws, administrative practices, and judicial decisions that disproportionately affect the ability of people or populations of a particular ethnic or racial origin to enjoy their human rights.

- Obstacles to the exercise of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of people of African descent, among others.

On October 30, 2020, within the framework of the II Inter-American Meeting of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population, the Department of Social Inclusion held the webinar “Police Violence and the Afro descendant Population”.

The main objective of the webinar was to analyze and give recommendations to prevent and punish police violence against the Afro descendant population in the Americas. The event was attended by Margarete Macaulay - Rapporteur on the Rights of Afro descendants and against Racial Discrimination of the IACHR; Ana Gonzáles - member of ILEX- Legal Action, Alexandra Montgomery - Amnesty International Brazil Director, Songhay White Curling - Coordinator of the Subcommittee on Afro descendants of the Costa Rican Judicial Branch.

The webinar recordings can be found at the following links:

- [https://fb.watch/1wkhymmt\\_/](https://fb.watch/1wkhymmt_/) (Spanish)
- [https://fb.watch/1wkiSib7y\\_/](https://fb.watch/1wkiSib7y_/)
- <https://fb.watch/1wkkD2ugQ0/> (English)

## (b) Equality education and awareness

### MANDATES:

- “1. Promote the recognition of the history of persons of African descent, particularly the consequences or legacies of the historical injustices or the enslavement of Africans in the Americas.*
- 2. Organize, at the OAS, expositions featuring publications from persons of African descent in the Americas, as well as exhibitions, on persons and artists of African descent, and encourage through the Art Museum of the Americas to establish cooperative relationships with museums on persons of African descent and Africans.*
- 3. In collaboration with international and regional organizations and universities, assist member states with the inclusion of the history of Africa and the population of African descent in the Americas, of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, and intolerance, and of the intercultural approach in study program*
- 4. Raise the visibility of the cultural, economic, political and social contributions of the Afro descendant population to progress in the region. “*

The Department of Social Inclusion and RIAFRO collaborated with ALARI to organize the Certificate in Afro-Latin American Studies. The Certificate was dedicated to the study of the experiences, stories, contributions and challenges of the Afro descendant population in Latin America from colonial times to the present.

It should be noted that, in 2019, the OAS Department of Education Professional Development Program awarded 31 full scholarships each valued at US \$250. Likewise, Roberto Rojas Dávila, head of the Section for Vulnerable Groups of the DSI, was a teacher of the Certificate.

In February 2017, an art exhibition on Afro descendants in the Americas was held, which took place in the Marcus Garvey Hall of Culture.

The works were loaned by the permanent missions of Belize, Costa Rica, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, the Observer Mission of France, and the staff of the OAS General Secretariat.

The exhibition was organized by the Office of the Assistant Secretary General in conjunction with the Art Museum of the Americas.

Between September and October 2017, the photographic exhibition “Bahia and Africa through Verger’s Lenses” was held by the renowned photographer Pierre Verger.

The exhibition was organized by the Art Museum of the Americas under the auspices of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS; and aimed to raise awareness on the similarities between Bahia and Africa.

Also, in October 2017, the “Punta Sol” video forum was held. The video forum was co-organized by the Art Museum of the Americas together with the Office of Latino Affairs of the Mayor’s Office of Washington D.C., the video forum aimed to promote a dialogue on the contributions of the Garífuna people in Central America.

In 2018, the Department of Social Inclusion and the MERCOSUR Institute for Public Policies on Human Rights (IPPDH) organized the “Afro descendants in the Americas” photo contest. The objective of the contest was to make Afro descendant people visible and create a space to debate and become aware of their rights, based on photography as art contributes to universal positive transformation.

In order to comprehensively and positively portray this group and their rights, the following categories were defined:

- Afro descendants and children;
- Afro descendants and youth;
- Afro descendant women;
- Afro descendants and migration, refuge, displacement and statelessness;
- Afro descendants and older persons;
- Afro descendants and people with disabilities;
- Afro descendants and LGBTI persons;
- Afro descendants and access to rights.

626 photographs were received in the contest, sent by 241 people from 15 countries of the Americas: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, USA, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay, Venezuela.

The selection jury was made up of Fabián Goncalves Borrega, coordinator of exhibitions at the Art Museum of the Americas of the OAS; Alejandro de la Fuente, director of ALARI; Marisa Fresco, Undersecretary for the Promotion of Human Rights of the Secretariat for Human Rights of the Argentine Nation; and Gabriela Zucolillo, a photographer who since 1992 exhibits her work related to the photographic image.

In 2019, the 12 awarded photos of the Afro descendants in the Americas contest were part of the “360 VR Photographic Exhibition: People of African descent in the Americas,” which was presented within the framework of the II Inter-American Week of People of African Descent at OAS headquarters.

The exhibition was organized by the Department of Social Inclusion and the IPPDH under the auspices of the Permanent Mission of Panama to the OAS and with the support of the OAS Art Museum of the Americas (AMA), ALARI, and RIAFRO.

It should be noted that the exhibition uses new technologies and art as a powerful tool that strategically contribute to the promotion of people of African descent. Likewise, it was structured under the concept of universal design, which allows accessibility for people with disabilities. The exhibition is available in Spanish, English and Portuguese and you can access the content at the following links:

**Spanish:**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja7kvX8z9b8> (360)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KokGwEnXv28&t=84s> (4K)

**English:**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak5vg09FgFs> (360)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDieSNyJxks> (4K)

**Portuguese:**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1LNzNx-Hvc> (360)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cfcg7m6eNpc> (4K)



Photo by MERCOSUR IPPDH

In 2019, the Department of Social Inclusion, AMA and ALARI-Harvard with the support of RIAFRO organized the exhibition “Afro descendant Art of the Art Museum of the Americas of the OAS”, which was organized in the framework of the II Inter-American Week for Afro descendants at OAS headquarters.

Also, in 2019, the Department of Social Inclusion, the AMA, and the Permanent Mission of Panama to the OAS with the support of ALARI and RIAFRO organized the presentation of the book “Erased: The Untold Story of the Panama Canal” by Professor Marixa Lasso, which was organized within the framework of the II Inter-American Week of People of African Descent at OAS headquarters.

## (c) Information gathering

### MANDATES:

1. *Support the States, upon request, in promoting the inclusion of the Afro descendant variable in national statistical systems.*

The Department of Social Inclusion has established a strategic alliance with the Population and Development area of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). In this regard, it should be noted that Fabiana del Popolo, an expert on census issues and the Afro descendant population at ECLAC, has participated in the activities carried out by the Department of Social Inclusion and RIAFRO.

## (d) Participation and inclusion

### MANDATES:

1. *Support member states in promoting public policies for the participation and full inclusion of persons of African descent in their societies.*
3. *Promote with the Member States, when relevant, electoral observation with the Afro descendant approach.*
6. *Develop awareness-raising processes to better understand the role of public policies in promoting the full social inclusion of the region's population of African descent.*
7. *Support the region's governments in designing, formulating, implementing and following up on inclusive public policies and establishing mechanisms for efficient and effective management, with particular emphasis on participation by Afro descendant civil society and on accountability.*

The Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas of the Department for Effective Public Management (PUICA for its acronym in Spanish) has been developing technical cooperation projects in countries with a majority Afro descendant population such as Haiti, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda to deliver identity and identification documents and modernize civil registration systems.

It is also implementing a project to support the Haitian government to deliver identity documents to Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic who are in a double situation of vulnerability because they do not have a regular immigration status and because they are Afro descendant.

In addition, PUICA is developing a mapping of the Civil Registry and Vital Statistics system in Guatemala and the terms of reference specifically include the disaggregation of data on Afro descendant populations.

The Department of Social Inclusion established a strategic alliance with the Anti-Discrimination Section of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to contribute to the preparation of the report “Towards the Construction of Instruments to Measure Equality”. The report aims to create indicators of racial equity in the region.

#### **MANDATES:**

*“4. Promote the participation of persons of African descent in OAS activities and, among other things, promote inclusion of their organizations in the OAS Civil Society Register, facilitate forums for dialogue with Afro descendant civil society organizations, create a Permanent Virtual Forum for Persons of African descent in the Americas, and facilitate the participation of persons of African descent as stakeholders in the Summits of the Americas process.”*

The Civil Society Section of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) facilitated the participation of 16 Afro descendant civil society organizations from 9 countries of the region in the 2016 General Assembly and 27 Afro descendant civil society organizations from 11 countries in the General Assembly of 2017. The Section facilitated the establishment of two coalitions of Afro descendant organizations in the framework of which the participants defined recommendations that were presented to the member states in the Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation and the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General with the Representatives of the Workers, Private Sector, Civil Society and Social Actors.

Likewise, in order to promote the participation of Afro descendants as a Social Actor in the Summits of the Americas Process, an Afro descendant coalition made up of more than 80 organizations and 16 social actors was established in preparation for the Summit of the Americas that took place in April 2018 in Lima, Peru. A virtual forum was also established for the coalition.

The DSI has an approved project entitled “Program for the Promotion of Participation of Indigenous and Afro descendant Leaders in the Inter-American System.” The main objective of this project is to train leaders to participate in political decision-making spaces and processes at the community, national and inter-American levels. It should be noted that currently this project does not have resources.

In addition, the DSI, in 2021, included the Afro descendant theme in the Digital Diploma on Leadership in Social Inclusion and Access to Rights. Afro descendant leaders participate in the Diploma.

In June 2019, the OAS General Assembly adopted the resolution “Effective Participation of Indigenous and Afro descendant Peoples in OAS Activities”. The resolution requested that the Relations with Civil Society Section of SARE, in consultations with the member states and taking into account the input of the IACHR on the matter, present a report in the first semester of 2020 to the Committee on Inter-American Summit

Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities on existing challenges related to the effective participation of Indigenous peoples and Afro descendant communities in OAS activities, in order to strengthen such participation.

It required the General Secretariat, within the framework of the “Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation with representatives of civil society organizations and other social actors,” make the pertinent arrangements so that representatives of Indigenous peoples and Afro descendant communities, who attend, have an effective participation, in order to strengthen their level of advocacy.

Due to the limitations that have arisen as a result of COVID-19 coupled with changes in the leadership of the Section, the report has not yet been presented by the Relations with Civil Society Section of the SARE and is expected to be presented in 2021.

## (II) Justice

### (a) Access to Justice

#### MANDATES:

2. *Promote the Judicial Facilitators Program in communities of persons of African descent and those that are predominantly African descent.*
3. *Include the Afro descendant approach in the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) and the OAS Observatory on Citizen Security.*
4. *Include the Afro descendant approach on the agenda of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women “Convention of Belém do Pará” (MESECVI).*
5. *Promote and apply measures aimed at combating racial profiling.”*

The Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators (IPFJ) included the Afro descendant issue in the “Diagnostic Study on the State of the National Service of Judicial Facilitators in Central America”. The objective of the Study is to provide the basis for preparing a work plan for the Program in conjunction with its counterparts.

Similarly, the IPFJ included a panel on groups in vulnerable situations, including Afro descendants, in the First Inter-American Meeting of the National Services of Judicial Facilitators. The panel was chaired by Roberto Rojas Dávila, head of the Vulnerable Groups Section of the Department of Social Inclusion.

The meeting was a space for the exchange of experiences regarding the Service, where good practices were shared to benefit access to justice in Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras and Nicaragua.

As a result of the meeting, the IPFJ prepared the **“Manual of Good Practices: I Inter-American Meeting of the National Service of Judicial Facilitators 2019”**. The Manual contains information on the panel on groups in vulnerable situations, as well as good practices on the Afro descendant population.

Additionally, the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) does not have specific studies on the Afro descendant population; however, OID protocols allow the inclusion of ethnic groups according to the needs of the countries that apply them.

Regarding the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), member states generally do not have data on drug policies specifically on Afro descendant populations, although the MEM reports do report whether the National Drug Observatories of the OAS Member States have statistical information related to the demand and supply of drugs disaggregated by ethnic groups.

Afro descendant issues are also included in the topics discussed by the Meeting of Ministers on Public Security Matters (MISPA) and related Technical Groups, as well as in the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons.

In addition, the Department of Public Security of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security has included the Afro descendant issue in the Hemispheric Action Plan to Guide the Elaboration of Public Policies to Prevent and Reduce Intentional Homicide, and in the projects “Increase of protection factors for the prevention of violence and crime in vulnerable groups in Tela, Honduras” and “Countering the Proliferation and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition, and its Impact in Latin America and the Caribbean ”.

Regarding the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), it should be noted that a module of diversity indicators has been incorporated into the follow-up of the implementation of the Convention that seeks to account, on the one hand, for the specific experiences of violence by Afro descendant women and, on the other hand, for the degree of openness and inclusion of the processes of formulation, implementation and monitoring of public policies on this issue.

Likewise, the Draft Strategic Plan 2018-2023 establishes a regional mapping of the situation of women, girls and adolescents, older women, Indigenous women, Afro descendant women and women with disabilities in the region.

Regarding the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia of the Department of Democratic Sustainability and Special Missions of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (MAPP/OEA), it monitors the effective access of Afro-Colombian victims to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP, for its acronym in Spanish)

Likewise, it implements the Access Project for the Afro-Colombian, Black, Raizal and Palenquera Population to Transitional Justice and Participation of Community Councils in the Processes as Special Intervenors. The objective of the project is to monitor and generate support mechanisms that facilitate the entry of Afro-Colombian peoples to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP, for its acronym in Spanish) and their effective participation in the processes.

The MAPP/OAS carries out monitoring with differential approaches to make visible territorial dynamics (impacts, impacts of strategies to reduce illicit crops, and social conflict) that involve or affect Afro descendant populations.

Furthermore, the MAPP/OAS has developed field missions whose main result is the preparation of documents or presentations with strategic information and recommendations to institutions responsible for implementing public policies in the territories, which constantly refer to the need to incorporate a differential approach to care for Afro descendant issues.

Additionally, the MAPP/OAS has a professional specialized in ethnic issues and professionals specializing in security conditions. Also, the regional multidisciplinary team of the Mission has knowledge of a differential approach and work experience with the Afro descendant population.

## (b) Special Measures

### MANDATES:

- 1. Promote an affirmative action policy for communities of persons of African descent under the OAS Academic Scholarship Program and Internship Program.*
- 2. Create an affirmative action policy for the community of persons of African descent in all OAS training activities, and in hiring and promoting staff in the Organization.*
- 3. Encourage the creation of affirmative action policies for persons of African descent in the Inter-American Human Rights System, including the institutionalization of scholarships for young professionals of African descent in the internship program and for lawyers of African descent*

The Rowe Fund of the OAS does not have an affirmative action policy for the Afro descendant population. However, they do support international students with financial aid to study in the United States, including those of African descent. Likewise, they establish that they have no way of quantifying the beneficiaries of African descent, since they do not have the ethnic-racial question in the application forms.

The OAS Department of Human Resources also does not have an affirmative action policy for the Afro descendant population. However, it makes the following non-discriminatory mention at the time of publishing job offers: “The Organization of American States does not discriminate against any individual, employee or job application on the basis of race, color, marital status, religion, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or parental status”.

In this context, in August 2020, the Department of Social Inclusion with the sponsorship of the OAS Staff Association and the support of the Office of the Ombudsperson organized the Webinar on “Ethnic-Racial Diversity in Multilateral Organizations.” The event aimed to promote equity to address discrimination and racism within international organizations, as well as to share good practices on ethnic-racial diversity in multilateral workplaces.

The webinar was attended by Ms. Mónica Oldham - World Bank Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Ms. Ria Jordan - Diversity and Inclusion Advisor at the Inter-American Development Bank, and Ms. Zakiya Carr Johnson - Founder and CEO of Odara Solutions and was directed to all the personnel of the OAS and affiliated entities.

As a result of the webinar, the Department of Social Inclusion sent a memorandum with the conclusions and recommendations to the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, and the Director of Human Resources of the Organization. It mapped the tools for adopting and implementing protocols and measures proposed in the inter-American instruments and in the institutional policies of the Organization for the inclusion of Afro descendants and Indigenous peoples, and which were discussed and refined during the webinar.

It should also be noted that, in 2020, the Department of Social Inclusion was supported by Sharún Gonzáles, the Department’s first intern of African descent.

In addition, the DSI has prepared the proposed Policy for Mainstreaming the Inclusion of Groups in Situations of Vulnerability in the General Secretariat of the OAS (GS / OAS), which includes the Afro descendant approach in the human resources of the GS/OAS. The proposal is under review by the Office of the Secretary General.

### (III) Development

#### (a) Right to Development and Anti-Poverty Measures

##### MANDATE:

- “1. Include the rights of people of African descent on the agendas of the Inter-American Committees and Networks, secretariats, departments, programs and strategic initiatives of the OAS and in the development of work related to the 2030 Agenda.”*
- 5. Support the region’s governments in formulating, implementing and following up on inclusive and efficient public policies with emphasis on the participation of people of African descent”.*

Regarding the Department of Economic Development (DED) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), the DED included the Afro descendant issue in the Management Model for Developing Sustainable Community-based Rural Tourism for the Americas within the framework of the work plan of the Inter-American Committee on Tourism (CITUR).

Additionally, the GS/OAS, through the Department of Social Inclusion, signed a framework agreement with Associated Universities Inc. (AUI) with the objective of promoting the inclusion of groups in situations of vulnerability - including the Afro descendant population - in the sciences, particularly in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education.

The Department of Planning and Evaluation of the Strategic Counsel for Organizational Development and Management for Results is performing actions to facilitate the inclusion of a focus on the rights of people of African descent, such as:

- Participation of the SARE Specialist in the CEP Working Group Meetings, in which the projects are presented.
- In the project profile, a special section has been established in which the areas of the General Secretariat must explain how issues related to Afro descendants are considered and taken into account in the design of a project.
- The Department directly requests the different areas of the General Secretariat to coordinate with the SARE in cases where a project includes or may include issues related to the Action Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas.



Photo by Seth Boyle in Unsplash

Along the same lines, the CIM and the Department of Social Inclusion have held training sessions on intersectionality, including Afro descendant issues, for the staff of the OAS General Secretariat.



Photo by Santi Vedrí in Unsplash

On October 28, 2020, within the framework of the II Inter-American Meeting of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population, the webinar “Economic Empowerment and the Afro descendant Population” was held.

The main objective of the webinar was to analyze and give recommendations for the economic empowerment of the Afro descendant population in the Americas in the post-COVID-19 context. Judith Morrison - Principal Advisor of the Gender and Diversity Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Germán Freire - Principal Economist of the World Bank, Luana Garcia Ozemela - Founder and CEO of Development Impact Managers & Advisors (DIMA), and Jhon Murillo - Representative of the Chamber of Congress of the Republic of Colombia participated in the event.

The webinar recordings can be found at the following links:

- [https://fb.watch/1wjPH14O\\_u/](https://fb.watch/1wjPH14O_u/) (Spanish)
- <https://fb.watch/1wjTyzWatf/> (English)

## (b) Health

### MANDATES:

- “1. Promote the Afro descendant approach in health policies and encourage campaigns to promote sexual and reproductive health in communities with an Afro descendant presence, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).”*

The Department of Social Inclusion, in July 2016, co-organized with PAHO the Launch Plan of Action for the Decade of Persons of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025), which took place in the city of Washington DC, United States of America.

The launch was attended by more than 50 people, including representatives of the Permanent and Observer Missions to the OAS and PAHO, as well as civil society and academia.

In response to the COVID 19 emergency, in March 2020, the Department of Social Inclusion organized in conjunction with the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law of Georgetown University the webinar “The Exercise of the Right to Health during the Coronavirus Pandemic.”

The webinar included the topic of protecting groups in situations of vulnerability during the coronavirus pandemic. Roberto Rojas Dávila, head of the DSI’s Groups in Situations of Vulnerability Section, gave a presentation on the Afro descendant population.

In April 2020, the Department of Social Inclusion also prepared the “Practical Guide for Inclusive Responses with a Rights-Based Approach to COVID-19 in the Americas”.



Photo by August de Richelieu in Pexels

In the Guide, Roberto Rojas Dávila, head of the DSI Groups on Situations of Vulnerability Section, contributed to the chapter focused on “COVID-19 and the Afro descendant Population”.

Also in April 2020, RIAFRO held the “Virtual Meeting on Responses and Challenges to COVID-19 in the Afro descendant Population.” The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information and good practices by the RIAFRO member states and

international organizations on public policy responses and gaps in the protection of the Afro descendant population in the context of a pandemic.

The meeting included the participation of the authorities on Afro descendant policy from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru, as well as representatives of PAHO, ECLAC, World Bank, IDB, DSI and ALARI.

RIAFRO issued a Public Statement with the results of the meeting sharing a series of recommendations for the OAS member states. The Press Release is available at the following link:

- <http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/press/RIAFRO-and-COVID-19-Press-Release.pdf>

It should also be noted that the OAS Secretary General supported the recommendations issued by RIAFRO with a statement regarding the pending agenda in the protection of people of African descent from COVID-19.

On October 29, 2020, within the framework of the II Inter-American Meeting of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population, the webinar “Health and Afro descendant Population” was held.

The main objective of the webinar was to analyze and provide recommendations to address the health of the Afro descendant population in the Americas in the post-COVID-19 context. Rose Santos - epidemiologist and researcher in health of the Afro descendant population, and Gabriela Noles - doctor, health worker and researcher in health of Afro descendant population both participated in the event.

The webinar recordings can be found at the following links:

- <https://fb.watch/3I0fOXuDbW/> (Spanish)
- [https://fb.watch/3I0IB\\_09F5/](https://fb.watch/3I0IB_09F5/) (English)

## Plan Implementation and Follow-up

### MANDATES:

*“The OAS General Secretariat will collaborate with other organizations, universities, the public and private sectors in order to create synergies for the execution of the Plan.”*

In compliance with this mandate, the Department of Social Inclusion has signed cooperation agreements with Harvard University, the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City, the Office of the Ombudsman of Panama, the Ministry of Culture of Peru, the Central American Parliament, the Central American Integration System (SICA), the National Human Rights Institution and the Ombudsman’s Office of Uruguay, and Associated Universities.

Likewise, the Department of Social Inclusion has established strategic alliances for the execution of the Action Plan with the Anti-Discrimination Section of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the Pan-American Health Organization, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Central American Parliament, the Presidential Commission against Discrimination and Racism of Guatemala, the National Council to Prevent Discrimination of Mexico - CONAPRED, the Office of Planning and Budget of the Presidency of the Uruguay, the Municipality of Montevideo, the National Institution of Human Rights and the Ombudsman’s Office of Uruguay, American University and Morgan State University.



Photo by MERCOSUR IPPDH

Moreover, the Department of Social Inclusion –by mandate of the General Assembly of the OAS- created the Voluntary Fund for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025). To date, the Permanent Missions of Panama and Costa Rica have contributed to this Fund.

These contributions made it possible to design and print the paperback copies of the Plan of Action for the Decade of Persons of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025), organize the photographic contest “People of African Descent in the Americas”, the virtual “Photographic Exhibition 360 VR: People of African Descent in the Americas”, and participate in some activities to promote the Action Plan.

Likewise, the DSI received in-kind contributions from the Ministry of Culture of Peru, the Government of Costa Rica, the IDB, and ALARI for the organization of the I and II Inter-American Meetings of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population.

## B. Member States

The main advances shared by the OAS member states, in compliance with the objectives of the Plan of Action, are summarized below.

### (I) Recognition

#### (a) Right to equality and non-discrimination

##### OBJECTIVE 2:

1. *Promote awareness campaigns about the rights of persons of African descent, including campaigns against the multi-faceted discrimination of which they are victims.*
2. *Promote the inclusion of the focus on the rights of [persons] of African descent in programs and projects aimed at vulnerable persons.*
3. *Encourage the signing, ratifying and adherence to the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance, and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.*



Photo by Agencia Télam

## Argentina

Regarding the possibility of adopting new measures to strengthen the fight against discrimination and the integration of Afro-Argentines, Argentina reported that the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (INADI for its acronym in Spanish) works daily to promote social inclusion and equal access to rights for Afro descendants. Likewise, t INADI has an Afro descendant program, dependent on the Directorate of Policies and Practices against Discrimination, which sensitizes society and promotes the dissemination and study of the subject.

In the same sense, it was reported that, in 2020, INADI created the Commission for the Historical Recognition of the Afro-Argentine Community which aims to contribute to the realization of the full enjoyment of the rights of the citizens that make up the Afro-Argentine community, promoting the participation of said community in the processes of elaboration of public policies that affect it.

In addition, Argentina informed that the Secretariat of Human Rights of the Nation, through its National Directorate of Racial Equity, Migrants and Refugees (DNER-MR), prepared the proposal for the development of the National Afro Policy for the period 2021-2024. The proposal aims to be a roadmap for the management of public policies that contributes to the inclusion and improvement of the living conditions of the Afro-Argentinian, Afro descendant and African population of the entire national territory, recognizing their contributions and promoting specific actions for their development within the framework of the Decade.

## Brazil

Brazil reports that the main Federal Government agency for promoting racial equality in Brazil is the National Secretariat for Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality of the Brazilian Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (SNPIR for its acronym in Portuguese).

The SNPIR, formerly known as SEPPIR, is the Brazilian state body responsible for guaranteeing policies to promote ethnic-racial equality, in order to comply with the obligations and duties set forth in Brazilian positive law and international law, in terms of confronting, combatting and overcoming racism and other forms of discrimination and intolerance in the country, with an emphasis on the Afro descendant population.

In this sense, it was communicated that the SNPIR participates in at least two relevant networks in the region: The Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for the Afrodescendant Population (RIAFRO) and the Ibero-American Network Agencies and Organizations Against Discrimination (RIOOD).

Brazil also reported that the SNPIR has promoted several campaigns among government agencies, public and private companies, and advertising campaigns with nation-



al coverage. The country is currently working on its social networks (Facebook, Instagram etc.) and is part of the Integra Brasil Project, launched in 2020. The project aims to raise awareness, promote and address human rights violations, promote education in anti-doping values and sportsmanship, and reinforce the prevention of the consumption of alcohol and other drugs in different sports spaces and settings and through football. It should be noted that the first action of the project, in the Quilombola Kalunga Community, had to be temporarily suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was also shared that the SNPIR has acted directly in the promotion of human rights and in the fight against each and every one of the forms of ethnic-racial discrimination, in the defense of the ethnic-racial agenda with respect to international norms and national institutions, and in coordination with federal, state and municipal organizations for the development of the National System of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality - SINAPIR.

In this context, Brazil affirmed that up to now 112 federated entities have joined SINAPIR, demonstrating the national commitment to strengthen the ethnic-racial agenda.

It was also reported that the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance was approved by the House of Representatives on December 9, 2020 and by the Federal Senate on February 10, 2021, therefore It is in its final stage of ratification, which will materialize by act of the President of the Republic.

## Canada

Canada reported that, on January 30, 2018, it officially recognized the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). The State views the Decade as an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the important contributions that people of African descent have made and continue to make to Canadian society. It also recognized the continuing need to understand and remove the barriers that prevent Black Canadians from experiencing full and equal participation in all of society.

In that sense, to help coordinate the State's action in this area, the new Federal Anti-racism Secretariat of the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Department of Employment and Social Development of Canada have established an interdepartmental Working Group on the International Decade of People of African descent.

Moreover, since February 1996, the State has been officially celebrating Black History Month. Through annual campaigns that encourage Canadians to participate in festivities and events that honor the legacy and contributions of people of African descent past and present to the settlement, growth and development of the country.

In 2020, the theme for Black History Month was “ Canadians of African Descent: Going Forward, Guided by the Past, Inspiring the International Decade for People of African Descent.”



Photo by Adrian Wyld

Likewise, it was reported that the State provides funds for the holding of community events to celebrate Black History Month through the Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. In 2020, the Program provided more than 1.2 million Canadian dollars (CA\$) in funding that supported 57 community events to celebrate Black History Month in Canada.

Canada also reports that it has invested 9 million CAD over three years, through the Department of Canadian Heritage, to improve local and community support for Black Canadian youth. Of that amount, approximately CA\$2 million was invested in education and awareness, and outreach and participation.

Likewise, Canada points out that, in 2019, it made a national call for proposals to select proposals for a National Anti-Black Racism Education and Awareness Campaign. In that context, Urban Rez Solutions Social Enterprise was selected through this process to lead this campaign. Their project Say it Loud received CA\$430,000 from the Government of Canada.

In addition, Canada reported that the remainder of the approximately CA\$2 million has been invested to support outreach and engagement activities, research projects and performance measurement activities. For example, in 2018-2019, the Government of Canada provided financial support for the Design the Future Black Youth initiative, led by the Michaëlle Jean Foundation in partnership with the Somali Center for Family Services and 15 other community organizations.

The initiative resulted in a series of 11 face-to-face consultations with Black Canadian youth and organizations serving youth. More than 600 youth participated in the consultations, resulting in a better understanding of the barriers faced by Black Canadian youth and organizations serving youth and how the Government of Canada could best address these barriers.

Finally, it was reported that of the CA\$9 million allocated to the Department of Canadian Heritage, over 7 million was used to create a new community fund called the Community Support for Black Canadian Youth Initiative (CSBCY).

CSBCY provides funding for projects that address the unique challenges Black Canadian youth faced by: combating discrimination through awareness raising and/or digital literacy; providing opportunities for and empowering Afro-Canadian youth by promoting Afro-Canadian history, culture and identity; and developing leadership skills and civic engagement.

Following a public call for proposals, 56 community projects were funded over 2 years under the CSBCY, for a total investment from the Government of Canada of approximately \$ 7.7 million.

## Colombia

The Colombian Government reported that the Directorate of Affairs for Black Communities, Afro-Colombians, Raizales and Palenqueras of the Ministry of the Interior (NARP, for its acronym in Spanish) is the national entity responsible for public policy for the Afro descendant population in the country.

The NARP has information systems that show the socioeconomic characterization of the Colombian population, where variables are incorporated for identify people who self-recognize as part of ethnic peoples and communities. These include: the System for Identification and Classification of potential beneficiaries (SISBEN) under the National Planning Department (DNP), together with all the census exercises conducted by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE).

In addition, the NARP has an Observatory for the analysis of the different forms of racial discrimination, in order to guarantee the production of documents, and nurture relevant elements for campaigns and conferences, for the purpose of preventing the forms of discrimination to which Afro descendant communities are subjected in Colombia.

That said, the main advances reported by the entity are:

- ◆ Accomplishment of accompaniments, campaigns and work sessions with the members of the NARP Communities that are part of the LGBTI population. For the 2020 period, work sessions were carried out between the team of the Directorate of affairs of Black Communities, Afro-Colombians, Raizales and Palenqueras (NARP) of the Ministry of the Interior and the National LGBTI Board with participation of the entity's Human Rights Directorate. The objective was to carry out activities of the socialization of Decree 762 of 2018 "By which the Public Policy is adopted to guarantee the effective exercise of the rights of peo-

ple who are part of the LGBTI social sectors and of people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities”. In this way, a schedule was established for holding assemblies.

- In November 2020, the meeting of normative and legal strengthening for the LGBTI population with a NARP approach was held. This event was held in the city of Cali-Valle del Cauca. The objective of this event was to conduct workshops, trainings and empowerment sessions based on the conceptualization of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and the reality of NARP communities.
- Workshops with a legal, economic, social and cultural approach were held to reinforce the Action Plan with a differential ethnic LGBTI approach, support the incorporation of the differential ethnic approach for the NARP population and strengthen the visualization of the LGBTI- NARP population within their spaces for participation at the national and regional level. These meetings contribute in a cross-sectional manner to initiatives that focus on this community as a target population, through public policy, advances in their characterization, the action plan and the relationship of these communities with the institutions.



Photo by Bianca Maia

- Regarding the importance of the intersectionality of the ethnic differential approach with the gender equity approach for NARP women; in 2020, affirmative actions were instituted to guarantee the effective participation of NARP women. The main advances and results are as follows:
  - a. Holding technical assistance meetings and conferences during the second semester of 2020 with women from Community Councils in Departments of Nariño, Cesar, Valle, Cauca and Chocó under the strategy of Empowerment, Equity and Ethnodevelopment. The goal was to empower women of these Community Councils in participation, in their own planning instruments planning and within their communities in dialogue with other actors. As a result of this work, as of November 2020, this strategy reached about 250 women. Likewise, additional days were held on the effective incorporation of the Gender Differential Approach for of Women’s and ethnic equity in the public policy for women in the Department of La Guajira.
  - b. Since October 2020, steps have been taken to effectively establish the NARP Inter-Institutional Roundtable for Women, which will boost the effective participation of women with different organizations and entities at all territorial levels (national, departmental and municipal).

## Costa Rica

Costa Rica reported that the entities responsible for matters related to the Afro descendant population include the Presidential Commissioner for Afro descendant affairs and the office of the First Vice Presidency of the Republic.

In this sense, the Executive Power is promoting the creation of the National Council of Afro descendant Peoples and Communities (CONAFRO for its acronym in Spanish), the govern-

ing body that will be in charge of national and international legal frameworks and policies for the full development of Afro descendants in Costa Rica.

It was also indicated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica has worked hard on the Second Plan of Action for state institutions to implement the National Policy against Racism, Xenophobia and Racial Discrimination, where state institutions are called to implement guidelines and actions to fight racism and racial discrimination and report their actions; a process that was resumed in October 2019. The final product is about to be published and will enter into effect as soon as it is published.

Costa Rica also reported that it has led and promoted the following efforts to strengthen the international agenda for the Afro descendant population:



- Commitment of San José, to Accelerate the Fulfillment of the Rights of People of African Descent in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Report “Afro descendants and the matrix of inequality in Latin America” created by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in conjunction with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), at the request of the government of Costa Rica.
- Declaration of the International Day of People of African Descent within the framework of the United Nations.
- High Level Meeting and Forum “Advancing in the Rights of People of African Descent”.
- Forum of Afro descendant Women of Latin America, with a visit from the High Commissioner.
- Commemoration of the World Day of African and Afro descendant Culture.
- Adoption of the paragraphs on people of African descent within the framework of the OAS General Assembly, including the mandate to the OAS General Secretariat to prepare a regional report on the current situation of people of African descent and the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025)
- Adoption of the priority axes on people of African descent in the Presidency of ECLAC and in the Pro Tempore Presidency of SICA (I semester 2020).
- Initiatives in Costa Rica’s role as Chair of the Management Committee of the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Afro descendant Policies (RIA-FRO).

## Ecuador

Ecuador reported that the entity responsible for policy for the Afro descendant population is the National Council for the Equality of Peoples and Nationalities, in accordance with the mandate of the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador.

The State reported that, in 2016, it approved Executive Decree 915 by which it declared the national policy to meet the objectives and goals of the Program of Activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development 2015-2024.

In this context, the National Council was able to incorporate the objectives and goals of the Agenda for the Decade for People of African Descent-Ecuador Chapter, in the Agenda for Equal Rights of Nationalities and Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Ecuadorian People and Montubio People 2019-2021. The incorporation is the result of a joint effort by Afro-Ecuadorian organizations, under the auspices of the Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control and the National Secretariat for Policy Management, in the course of 2017 and 2018. The incorporation implied:

- The disaggregation, according to the identity group (Indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubios), the treatment of the historical and conceptual foundations and the data of the statistical approach.
- The equitable incorporation of approaches of the three identity groups in the 11 axes of the National Agenda.
- The reproduction of the Matrix of Public Policy Proposals for the implementation of the Decade for People of African Descent -Ecuador Chapter in its entirety and as a specific chapter.



Additionally, it was reported that, in December 2020, the Secretariat for Human Rights, through the Undersecretariat of Nationalities, Peoples and Social Movements that is part of the Roundtable of People of African Descent of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), held the International

Afro-Andino Forum in the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent: Progress and Challenges in its Implementation 2015-2024. Other institutions such as the National Council for the Equality of Peoples and Nationalities and representatives of Afro-Ecuadorian organizations participated in the Forum.

## Mexico

Mexico reported that, with the creation of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI) in December 2018, Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples are recognized as fundamental subjects of public law.

In this sense, INPI is the Authority of the Federal Executive Power in matters related to Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, with the objective of defining, regulating, designing, establishing, executing, guiding, coordinating, promoting, monitoring and evaluating policies, programs, projects, strategies and public actions to guarantee the exercise and implementation of the rights of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, promoting their integral and sustainable development and the strengthening of cultures and identities.



Photo by INPI – México

Likewise, it reported that on August 9, 2019, the recognition of Afro-Mexican peoples and communities as part of the multicultural composition of the nation was included in section “C”, article two of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States.

The State indicated that the legal and constitutional reform was a process of dialogue and consultation with the 68 Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, through 54 regional forums, including a specific forum for Afro-Mexicans, and a National Forum.

The purpose of this process was to receive opinions, proposals and approaches on the principles and criteria that should support an initiative for constitutional and legal reform, the objective of which will be to harmonize the national legal system with international standards of full respect for the rights of Indigenous and Afro-Mexicans peoples. It also highlights that a Follow-up Commission was formed with 668 Indigenous and Afro-Mexican representatives, and a National Liaison Committee (CNE) made up of 110 representatives.

## Panama



The Panamanian Government reported that the entity responsible for the policy for Afro descendants in the country is the National Secretariat for the Development of Afro-Panamanians (SENADAP), which was created by Law No. 64 of December 6, 2016 and is attached to the Ministry of Social Development-MIDES.

Similarly, Panama reports that there have been a series of legislative reforms at the national and local level for the incorporation of the Afro descendant population and to combat discrimination in the country. These are:

- Law No. 7 of February 14, 2018, that adopts measures to prevent, prohibit and punish discriminatory acts and adopts other provisions.
- Proposal for Law No. 405 that modifies Law No. 49 of 1984, which dictates the Organic Regulations of the Internal Regime of the National Assembly for the inclusion of Afro descendant culture and changes the name of the Indigenous Affairs Commission to the Indigenous and Afro descendant Affairs Commission.

- Municipal Agreement No. 133 of July 23, 2019, by which the administrative structure, functional levels and objectives in the Mayor's Office of Panama are modified for the creation of the Ethnic Groups Directorate, including a Subdirectorate of Afro descendant Groups.

Panama also reported that within the Government Strategic Plan - PEG 2019-2024, commitments directed at Afro-Panamanian issues are established at. Within the framework of the Plan, the Afro Technical committee was created, comprising the following tasks:

- Reviewing Law 64 of 2016 to give strength and vigor to SENADAP, it was institutionally transferred to MIDES, providing it with sufficient resources and the ability to achieve greater recognition and visibility of Afro-Panamanians.
- Complying with international conventions and agreements on discrimination and inclusion of Afro descendants.
- Incorporating public sector policies in a transversal manner for Afro-Panamanians as a population that must be served.

It was also reported that the country is carrying out consultations for the ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance.

## Peru

Peru reported that the Directorate for Afro-Peruvian Population Policies of the Ministry of Culture of Peru is the national entity in charge of the protection, promotion of the rights and development of the Afro-Peruvian people; as well as the elimination of ethnic-racial discrimination against this group.

In this context, it reported that, at the public policy level, the State has:

- National Policy for the Mainstreaming of the Intercultural Approach (PNTEI for its acronym in Spanish). The PNTEI aims to guide, articulate and establish the mechanisms for State action to guarantee the exercise of the rights of the country's culturally diverse population, particularly Indigenous peoples and the Afro-Peruvian population.
- National Development Plan for the Afro-Peruvian Population 2016-2020 (PLANDEPA). PLANDEPA established specific measures for public institutions in order for the Afro-Peruvian population to enjoy the full exercise of their rights within a framework of equality and without discrimination.
- The 2030 National Policy on Culture. The Policy establishes specific measures aimed at groups with special protection or in situations of vulnerability, such as Indigenous or native peoples and the Afro-Peruvian people.

In this sense, Peru highlighted that the PNTEI establishes that all sectors, State institutions and different levels of government must adapt their regulatory framework to this Policy. It also entrusts the Ministry of Culture of Peru, through the Vice Ministry of Interculturality, with the coordination, implementation and monitoring of the Policy.

The country also stated that the Ministries, Regional Governments and Local Governments and public institutions, within the scope of their competences were entrusted with the execution and fulfillment of PLANDEPA. Likewise, the Ministry of Culture of Peru, through the Vice Ministry of Interculturality, was entrusted with the supervision and monitoring of compliance with the Plan. Currently the validity of this instrument has ended.

It was also reported that one of the guidelines of Priority Objective 1 the 2030 National Policy on Culture is to “strengthen the appreciation of cultural diversity”, the generation of strategies to strengthen the cultural identity of citizens, with emphasis on Indigenous or native peoples and Afro-Peruvians.

Despite all these advances, the State recognizes that the problems related to this group are not addressed in an articulated and comprehensive manner. For this reason, the Culture Sector prepared a relevance analysis for the formulation and approval of a National Policy for the Afro-Peruvian People. This document was approved by the National Center for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN for its acronym in Spanish) and the first deliverable is currently being formulated.

The Directorate of Cultural Diversity and Elimination of Racial Discrimination (DEDR) of the Ministry of Culture of Peru administers the Platform for Action against Ethnic and/or Racial Discrimination “Alert against Racism” (ACR), which provides information and guidance to citizens on ethnic-racial discrimination issues, providing them with tools to identify and take action against these acts. These reports make it possible to make this type of discrimination visible, monitor the problem and promote the formulation of relevant public policies.

It was also highlighted that the ACR Platform has three digital platforms (a Web platform, Facebook page, and Twitter page), through which pedagogical information is disseminated to contribute to a better understanding of the problem of racism among citizens and other social actors, and where it speaks out against episodes of racism and ethnic-racial discrimination. Also, in addition to these digital platforms, there is a telephone number and an email from the Ministry of Culture of Peru. Through this set of tools, more than six hundred (600) alerts were registered from citizens who received legal guidance on their rights or the mechanisms available to report, depending on the area in which the discriminatory acts occurred.

In this regard, it was pointed out that, since December 2019, the ACR report form was modified, and an ethnic identification question was added. Thus, the ACR has a question aimed at identifying whether the victim, who reports having experienced an episode of discrimination, identifies with a historically discriminated group, such as

the Afro-Peruvian people. Similarly, the inclusion of this question allows the Sector to have differentiated reports on cases of ethnic-racial discrimination, which take into account the ethnic identification of Afro descendant victims.

Axis III of the National Policy for the Mainstreaming of the Intercultural Approach is called “Elimination of ethnic-racial discrimination”, which has two guidelines: i) guarantee the right to equality, non-discrimination and prevention of racism; and ii) promote the formation of intercultural citizens. In addition to the above, the action aims to generate positive recognition of cultural and linguistic diversity and promote the social inclusion of Indigenous peoples and the Afro-Peruvian people.

Finally, Peru reports that, at the international level, the Ministry of Culture of Peru together with the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS, and the Afro-Latin American Research Institute of Harvard University (ALARI) organized the First Inter-American Meeting of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population, which was held from June 11 to 13, 2018 in Lima, Peru.

As a result of the Meeting, the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro descendant Population (RIAFRO) was created. The director of the Directorate on Policies for the Afro-Peruvian Population, Susana Matute, was elected president of the Network Management Committee for the 2018-2020 period.

## (b) Education on equality and awareness

### OBJECTIVE 2:

1. *Promote campaigns to highlight culture and the economic, cultural and social contributions of persons of African descent.*
2. *Promote the inclusion of the history of Africa and the population of African descent, of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, and intolerance, and of the intercultural or ethno-educational approach in study programs.*
3. *Promote the recognition of the intangible Afro descendant cultural heritage.*
4. *Encourage investment and the formalization of Afro descendant Culture Research Centers.*
5. *Work for the implementation of educational programs aimed at raising the positive contributions made by Afro descendants as protagonists in constructing of the region's nations and their economic, political, social, cultural and historical contributions to development.*
6. *Promote the recovery, collection, and dissemination of Afro descendant stories, in particular those of women, that enhance the visibility of their contributions and give them a voice in communities, organizations, and families.*
7. *Encourage the consideration of special measures, including affirmative actions, for access to quality education at all levels for persons of African descent.*

## Argentina

Argentina reported that the Commission for the Historical Recognition of the Afro-Argentine Community has among its tasks to propose to the National Executive Power the declaration of monuments, places and historical events for the preparation of the Map of Memorial Sites of the Afro-Argentine Community, to make or sponsor publications on the Afro-Argentine community, as well as to organize, sponsor or participate in congresses, seminars, meetings, workshops, journalistic programs and any other activity on the Afro-Argentine community.

## Brazil

Brazil indicated that the Palmares Cultural Foundation, a public entity linked to the Ministry of Culture of Brazil, aims to promote the preservation of cultural, social and economic values resulting from the Afro descendant influence in the formation of Brazilian society, in addition to promoting the right of access to culture and the indispensable action of the State in the preservation of Afro-Brazilian manifestations.

In addition, it was reported that through Law 10.639 / 2003 the National Day of Black Awareness (November 20) was instituted, in honor of the day of the death of the Quilombola leader Zumbi dos Palmares. Black Awareness Day is marked by the fight against racial prejudice in Brazil.

Likewise, Brazil informed that, among the initiatives undertaken, the one provided for in Law 10,639 / 2003, modified by Law 11,645 / 2008 stood out. It requires the teaching of Afro-Brazilian, African and Indigenous history and culture in all schools, public and private, from primary to secondary. As a result of this Law, teachers must emphasize Afro-Brazilian culture in the classroom as a constituent and formative element

of Brazilian society, in which Afro descendants are considered historical subjects, thus valuing the thought and ideas of important Afro-Brazilian intellectuals, culture (music, gastronomy, dance) and religions of African origin.

It was also reported that the Federal Constitution of 1988 establishes respect and tolerance for the various cultural expressions and religions of African origin. In addition, it points out that discrimination on religious grounds is a crime in Brazil through Law 9.459/2007, which is punishable with a fine and/or imprisonment of one to three years for those who mock or offend another person for the creed they profess or who prevent and disturb religious ceremonies. In such cases, it is not possible to post bail for the accused to respond to the process at liberty. It was also emphasized that there is no statute of limitations for this type of crime.

Likewise, the Brazilian Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) has a consultancy to specifically deal with the right to freedom of religion. In addition, in 2018, it launched the “Religious Diversity - Know. Respect. Value” campaign.

The National Secretariat for Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality (SNPIR) instituted the “Racial Equality in Schools” project. The project is a pilot initiative with the objective of promoting the training of teachers of basic education I (1st or 5th grade), stimulating awareness under equal conditions, for the implementation of actions aimed at raising awareness about racial equality in schools. This project will be implemented through a technical cooperation agreement to be signed between the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) and the Ministry of Education (MEC). The agreement is scheduled to begin in the first semester of 2021.

Along the same lines, it was reported about the organization of the course “Ethnic-Racial Policies: Concepts and Methods to Overcome Racism and Inequalities.” The course has the following modules: Module I “The Black Population in Brazil: Challenges and

Struggles”, Module II “Public Policies to Promote Ethnic-Racial Equality”, and Module III “International Mechanisms to Combat Racism and Ethnic-Racial Discrimination It should be noted that the course will be part of the National Program for Continuing Education in Human Rights (PNEC-DH) and is scheduled to begin at the beginning of the first semester of 2021 through the ENAP platform.

In order to encourage or invest in the formalization of research centers for Afro descendant culture, the SNPIR, through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), has made R \$ 850,000.00 available for agreements with the Nuclei of African Studies (NEAB).

It should be noted that the history of the NEABs, linked to Institutions of Higher Education in Brazil (IES), began in 1959 with the creation of the Center for Afro-Oriental Studies (CEAO) at the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA). From then on, other public and private HEIs will create related bodies, favoring the acronym NEAB.

During the period 2015 to 2020, the SNPIR signed about 82 instruments - between agreements and terms of decentralized execution - related to the implementation of public policies to promote ethnic-racial equality and actions to combat gender equality. racism:

In 2020, 15 voluntary transfer instruments were signed. Currently, 54 instruments are in execution, for a total of R \$ 11,892,645.23, benefiting a total of 1,170 Afro descendant women, 5,820 Indigenous and quilombolas, and 4,210 public servants.

Likewise, it was reported that, in 2019, the SNPIR made R \$ 2,500,000.00 available for public tenders for decentralized actions developed by instances of promotion of racial equality in States and Municipalities, through voluntary transfers of financial resources - Plataforma Mais Brasil - SICONV and more than R \$ 900,000.00 for concession

agreements with civil society organizations - CSOs, to support projects to strengthen and expand the National System for the Promotion of Racial Equality - SINAPIR. Through two actions and the provision of resources to the NEABs, the Secretariat allows the decentralization of financial resources for members of federated entities, academia and civil society.

## Canada

Canada reported that, in late 2018, Viola Desmond was selected to appear on the Canadian \$10 bill. This is the first time that a person of African descent and a Canadian woman are included in a Bank of Canada note that circulates regularly.

Viola Desmond was a successful Afro descendant businesswoman from Nova Scotia who is known for refusing to leave an all-white area of a movie theater in 1946. She was subsequently jailed, convicted, and fined. Her court case was the first known racial segregation legal challenge filed by an Afro descendant woman in Canada.

The State reported that, on July 31, 2020, it announced four new designations of national historical importance that commemorate Black History in Canada. These dates include:

- ◆ The Enslavement of African people in Canada (c. 1629–1834): More than 4,000 people of African descent were enslaved in the British and French colonies (Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick).
- ◆ The West Indian Domestic Plan (1955-1967): This targeted immigration program allowed some 3,000 Caribbean women to come to Canada to work as domestic workers as a path to citizenship, at a time when discriminatory government policies restricted non-white immigrants to settle in Canada.

- Richard Pierpoint (c. 1744–1838): Born in Africa, Pierpoint was captured, forcibly transported to the Americas, and later sold as a slave as a teenager. He regained his freedom by fighting for the British during the American Revolution.
- Larry Gains (1900-1983): One of the most talented boxers of the first half of the 20th century who was a Canadian heavyweight champion, a world colored heavyweight champion, and a British Empire heavyweight champion.

The new designations illustrate some of the collective and personal experiences of Afro-Canadians who fought for freedom, justice, and equality. They also recognize that the struggles have led to the Canada of today and help Canadians reflect on ways to build a more inclusive society.

In the same vein, it reports that Canadians can propose new designations through the National Program of Historical Commemoration, which includes some 2,150 designations to date.

Canada invested 25 million Canadian dollars over five years from 2019-20 in the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to create the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative (SBCCI).

SBCCI undertakes specific steps to manage projects and capital assistance to celebrate, share knowledge, and build capacity in Afro-Canadian communities.

To date, the SBCCI has launched a network of high-capacity organizations to act as intermediaries. These intermediaries are completing open and transparent calls for proposals to provide funding to Black-led grassroots organizations across Canada for capacity-building projects. In addition, ESDC recently completed the first call for capital proposals for Black-led organizations, which will invest up to C \$ 10 million to help Afro descendant-led community organizations improve their work and community spaces, as well as purchase equipment.

SBCCI is also working to establish a Canadian Institute for People of African descent, which will be the first national institute with an intended mandate to provide research and inform policy development on a wide range of issues affecting Canadians of African descent. A feasibility study was completed in October 2020 by the Caribbean African Canadian Social Services (CAFCAN), a third-party organization, to determine the initial scope and steps to create this institute. ESDC is currently working to develop recommendations and next steps for the institute.

### Costa Rica

Costa Rica reported that, in 2021, the Protocol for Action in Situations of Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia (We Are All Equal) was adopted that the Ministry of Public Education has implemented in the different educational centers through student life.

### Ecuador

Ecuador reported that, in the course of 2020, through the National Council for Equality of Peoples and Nationalities (CNIPN) a component to support the development of the ethnic education proposal was implemented, which is one of the central points of The Agenda for the Decade for people of African descent - Ecuador Chapter. Through this action, a variety of proposals that have been raised in this regard in recent years were collected and systematized by the Bureau for the Decade and the Bureau for Ethnic education (Afro-Ecuadorian civil society platforms), the Ministry of Education, and the caucus of peoples and nationalities of the National Assembly.

In this regard, the State emphasized that, as a result of these efforts and with the support of the mediation of the CNIPN, the issue of ethnic education was fully included in the text of the draft Reform to the Organic Law of Intercultural Education, which was approved by the corresponding specialized Commission for the second debate on the Assembly Plan.

Similarly, it reported that the Ministry of Education of Ecuador has a small work unit on ethnoeducation incorporated into the Secretariat of the Intercultural Bilingual Education System.

## Mexico

The Mexican Government reported that through the 2020-2024 Institutional Program of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI), derived from the National Development Plan (PND), the Afro-Mexican population is included. Some of the strategic objectives of the Program are:

- ◆ Promote the implementation of the rights of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples.
- ◆ Promote the constitutional and legal recognition of the rights of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, especially their nature as subjects of public law.
- ◆ Strengthen the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities.

It was indicated that the program promotes cultural heritage, traditional medicine and Indigenous communication through the System of Indigenous Cultural Radios (SRCI). The System transmits in 35 of the 68 linguistic groups that exist in Mexico and dialect variants in its daily broadcasts, in addition to Spanish, in 17 states of the

country. It has an audience of approximately 16.5 million people and is considered a reliable source of information for Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities. Among them, the Voice of the Costa Chica (Oaxaca) stands out, and its programming has been modified in response to the needs of the Afro-Mexican people.

Mexico also reported that, on March 6, 2020, the first House for the Development of Afro-Mexican Women (CADEM, for its acronym in Spanish) was created on the border with the state of Guerrero, equipped with a shelter for victims and medical, legal and psychological clinics.

The Houses of Indigenous or Afro-Mexican Women are spaces in which Indigenous or Afro-Mexican women provide care to other women, from a gender, intercultural and human rights perspective to prevent violence against women and girls, and the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights. To date, there are 35 Houses of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Women, located in 17 states.

It was also reported that the INPI implements the Indigenous Education Support Program (PAEI, for its acronym in Spanish) to contribute to the permanence, development and completion of the grade and academic level of children, adolescents and young students belonging to Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities enrolled in public schools at the elementary, middle and higher educational levels. The ages of the beneficiaries are between 5 and 29 years old.

The PAEI responds to the demands of the Indigenous and Afro-Mexican population in terms of access and permanence in the different educational levels, providing accommodation and food. It also promotes the strengthening of cultural identity and encourages recreational and leisure activities for the beneficiaries, so that they can develop their capacities, knowledge, skills and values in a comprehensive manner in their respective teaching and learning processes.

## Panama

Panama reported that within the Government's Strategic Plan (PEG 2019-2024), commitments are established aimed at Afro-Panamanian issues. Within the framework of the Plan, the Afro Technical Table was created, comprising the following tasks:

- ◆ Incorporating the historical and cultural contributions of Afro-Panamanian people to transform the educational system will be incorporated.
- ◆ Honoring Afro-Panamanian intellectuals, professionals, academics, artists, athletes, musicians and experts to make their participation and contribution to national life visible.

It was also reported that the Ministry of Education of Panama (MEDUCA) has committed to the Afro-Panamanian social movement the incorporation of the history of the contributions and participation of Afro descendants in the construction of Panamanian nationality into the school curriculum. The main thematic axes being the elements related to the culture and history of Afro descendants, as well as the values of diversity and the rejection of racial prejudice.

Panama also shared that the National Secretariat for the Development of Afro-Panamanians (SENADAP) is promoting the project "Generating a Public and State Policy for the Inclusion of History and Contributions of Afro descendants in the Panamanian Educational Curriculum."

Furthermore, the National Institute for Women of Panama (INAMU), a body called upon to propose and recommend public policies to promote gender equality in access to and control of resources for the development of women, developed the study "Situation of Afro-Panamanian Women", which concludes, among other things, that:

*“The information presented by this diagnosis showed that not all Afro-Panamanians are the same, that there is great heterogeneity, not only ethnic-cultural, but also in terms of the intersection of various inequalities such as the generation to which they belong, geographical, among others, and all of them influencing their different aspirations and needs. That is why all the recommendations must address not only gender, but also age, the region where they live and their particular culture”.*

## Peru

Peru reported that it officially commemorates Afro-Peruvian Culture Month every June. Through the commemoration of the Month, the contributions of the Afro-Peruvian population to the construction of the country are celebrated and promoted.



Since 2016, the Ministry of Culture of Peru, within the framework of the National Meetings of Afro-Peruvian Organizations “We are Family”, organizes a series of events to promote the recognition and exercise of political, economic and social rights and cultural aspects of the Afro-Peruvian population at the national level.

It was also highlighted that, since 2016, the Ministry of Culture of Peru has organized Research Meetings on Afro-Peruvian Culture. In the fourth edition (2020), 32 exhibitors from different regions of the country and abroad will participate, in 9 thematic tables: a) History and archeology, b) Ancestry, c) Afro-Peruvian woman, d) Afro-Peruvian music, e) Politics and politics public, f) Documentary art, g) Racism and discrimination, h) Racism and public policies, i) Afro-Peruvian personalities.

### St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reported that it has always been proud to be associated with everything and anything of African and or Afro-Descent. Therefore, through its Department of Culture, most of the programs it has undertaken involve and embrace its Afrocentricity. They celebrate their Afro descendants all year round, but within the year they especially celebrate:

- March: Heroes and Heritage Month. Celebration of the Indigenous Heritage or Garinagu (Garífuna), especially of the supreme chief Joseph Chatoyer, the first and only National Hero of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines until now.
- Also, during the month, the works of prominent Vincentians are promoted and exhibited, who speak of their heritage, having made a significant contribution in different fields of the creative and cultural industries: Dance, music, media, poetry, fashion, etc.



Photo by Nelson A. King

- ◆ In March 2021, the Garifuna Heritage Foundation with the assistance from the Ministry of Culture hosted the Garifuna Folk Festival of the National Schools under the slogan “Children of Chatoyer”; Fruits of Our Heritage”, where they not only showed the artistic talents of the students, but simultaneously showed their heritage and pride in their heritage. The organization also held various workshops and / or facilitated talks that addressed issues that affect people of African descent.
- ◆ May: Maroon & Arrowroot festivities and African Liberation Day. The Maroon Festivity is celebrated with African costumes, dances and songs fused with the famous Big Drum Dance, Nation Dance and other traditional dances unique to the Southern Grenadines, namely Union Island. This ceremony honors African ancestors as they celebrate a harvest where they pray for rain and a healthy harvest of crops. The Maroon is based on the ancient harvest rites brought from West Africa by enslaved people who were brought to work on the cotton plantations. The one-day festival takes place on a full moon in May and includes songs, the aforementioned dances and drum rhythms, passed down from generation to generation.

- African Liberation Day turns into a week of activities to celebrate and educate about African heritage, through debates, lectures, stories by African and Caribbean heroes, photo exhibitions, radio and television programs, film screenings, celebrations spiritual marches and demonstrations, etc. This particular activity makes visible the Rastafarian community that remains aware of its Afrocentrism, in an effort to keep African culture alive.
- The Arrowroot Festival celebrates Indigenous roots through songs, dances and banquets in the north of San Vicente, where a considerable number of Indigenous people live. More than a harvest festival, this event recalls the earliest history, as the harvest has likely been cultivated in these lands for more than 2,000 years.
- August: Emancipation Month. Activities are held throughout the month to celebrate black consciousness. Cultural exhibitions including African fashion shows are organized and facilitated. In fact, over the years, various government ministries have invested in dressing in African fashion and the media visit these ministries to showcase the styles of ministry employees.
- Also, the general population speaks publicly about what emancipation means to them and how they can maintain their traditions so that future generations can learn, feel proud and be motivated to pass them on.
- They also celebrate everyone's status as free individuals during Emancipation Month. This is an activity of learning, of remembrance and of homage to the ancestors who traveled through the Middle Passage.
- During this Emancipation Month, they do not only showcase cultural representations, but conferences and exhibitions are also organized, usually held in collaboration with different entities in search of educating about who they are and where they come from, how they went from being enslaved to winning their freedom.
- Likewise, the breadfruit festival is organized, where a part of the African and Afro descendant culture is tasted.
- September: Dance Season. In a competitive and non-competitive way, the various dance genres are showcased, including traditional and creative folk dances, passed down by African ancestors.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also reported that, in July 2018, the South Leeward Highway was renamed the Nelson Mandela Highway.

It was also reported that the country has sought to strengthen relations with the African Union since 2001 and its authorities have delivered speeches at the African Union headquarters on three occasions.

It was also highlighted that the country continues to share good collaborations with the African continent, including several visits by African authorities to the country. Notable among them is the 2020 visit of his Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Ado, President of Ghana. They highlight that the African president mentioned that 2020 is the “Year of Return” and encouraged African diasporas, including descendants of enslaved people who were forcibly transported to the Americas, to go to Africa to settle and invest. He also noted that the African Union recognizes Africans in the Diaspora as the sixth region of Africa.

Moreover, the Reparations Committee was created, which is a government body whose objective is to seek reparations for the genocide and forced deportation of the Garifuna and Callinago peoples, for the “stolen” lands and for the enslavement of Africans in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In addition, it was shared that various committees were created, including: the African Heritage Foundation, the Garifuna Heritage Foundation, the Order of Nyabinghi, the Rastafarian Working Committee, the Global African Congress and Youth Black Faith.

Currently, through the Ministry of Culture, is in the process of reviving some of the organizations that, for various reasons, became dormant. This with the purpose of involving or incorporating the ideas of these organizations and promoting and preserving the life and works of Afrocentrism in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

## (c) Information gathering

### OBJECTIVE 2:

1. *Compile, analyze, disseminate, and publish reliable national data and local statistical information, and take other related necessary measures to assess the status of persons of African descent in the Americas.*
2. *Promote the greater statistical visibility of the population of African descent for the formulation of public policies and the effective observance of human rights.*
3. *Promote diagnostic studies on the current forms of discrimination against persons of African descent.*
4. *Incorporate the Afro descendant variable in the collection of statistical data on migrant populations, refugees and those requesting refugee status to serve as a basis to establish public policy for economic and social inclusion and the effective exercise of their rights.*

## Brazil

The Brazilian Government reported that the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, for its acronym in Portuguese), in addition to collecting information on the Afro descendant population through the population census every 10 years, also periodically conducts research that addresses social and economic issues. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 census will take place in 2021.

In addition, it was also shared that the National Secretariat for Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality (SNPIR, for its acronym in Portuguese) signed a technical cooperation agreement with IBGE so that, for the first time in history, the Quilombola population is automatically identified in order to conduct studies and monitor public policies.

It was also noted that various federal government agencies and other entities collect data disaggregated by race/color. Part of the data was compiled in a single system, the Ethnic-Racial Policies Monitoring System (SIMOPE, for its acronym in Portuguese). The SIMOPE allows the analysis of data and indicators in order to monitor and improve public policies on the Afro descendant population, traditional communities, and communities living in poverty. The final version of the SIMOPE is the result of an alliance between the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH, for its acronym in Portuguese), through SNPIR, with the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), and will be available to the general public in the course of 2021.

Brazil also reported that, within the scope of the Federal Government, there are currently two tools with similar objectives: the General Registry of Quilombola Information of the Palmares Cultural Foundation of the Ministry of Culture of Brazil, and the Platform of Traditional Territories of the Federal Public Ministry of Brazil.

## Canada

Canada recognized that more accurate and consistent data collection, monitoring and measurement is necessary for any effective anti-racism effort. That is why it reported that it has made investments to improve data and research.

In the same vein, the Department of Canadian Heritage has commissioned three research reports on issues that affect Black Canadian youth: a needs assessment, a jurisdictional analysis, and a report on best practices found in culturally specific programs within the three levels of government. In addition, new performance indicators are being developed to assess the overall performance of the Afro-Canadian youth approach administered by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

## Colombia

Colombia reported that the variable for the identification of black, Afro-Colombian, Palenquera and Raizal communities are already included in most of the information systems of the competent entities in social initiatives and the closing of gaps.

## Costa Rica

The Costa Rican Government reported that more self-identification variables for the Afro descendant population have been included in the technical commission established for the purposes of the 2021 Population Census.

The importance of achievement was also highlighted, since, like other States, this information is vital for decision-making in the search for a more equitable and inclusive society.

## Mexico

Mexico reported that, in 2015, it carried out the INEGI Intercensal Survey 2015 (EIC 2015) to obtain information on the issue of ethnicity under the criterion of self-recognition, considering the identification of the Indigenous population and, for the first time, of the Afro descendant population.

It was also reported that, in 2020, the Afro-Mexican population was included in the 2020 Population and Housing Census, obtaining the information that 2,576,213 inhabitants (49.6% men and 50.4% women) are considered Afro-Mexican or Afro descendant people. This represents 2.0% of the national population and 7.4% of them speak an Indigenous language.

The entities with the highest proportions of people who consider themselves Afro descendants are: Guerrero (8.6%), Oaxaca (4.7%), Baja California Sur (3.3%), Yucatán (3.0), Quintana Roo (2.8%), Veracruz (2.7 %), Campeche (2.1%), Mexico City (2.0), San Luis Potosí (2.0) and Morelia (1.9%). The aforementioned entities concentrate 45.1% of the population that recognizes itself as Afro-Mexican or Afro descendant.

## Panama

Panama reported that the question on the Afro descendant variable has been improved for the next Population and Housing Censuses, taking into consideration the failed results of the 2010 Census. It was also reported that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 Census was temporarily suspended.

In addition, it was pointed out that, in November 2020, the National Secretariat for the Development of Afro-Panamanians (SENADAP) has restructured the Afro-Census Technical Table in its acronym METACENSO. Currently, the Board is made up of Afro-Panamanian professionals from various disciplines who, based on their professional experiences, will provide the necessary technical coordination to accompany the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC, for its acronym in Spanish) in the next National Population and Housing Censuses.

In that sense, the State highlighted that the coordination of the Roundtable is the responsibility of SENADAP with the support of INEC. Its main proposals are aimed at:

- Being an instance of analysis, orientation and study.
- Directing a route or strategy to achieve the collection of statistical data on the reality of the Afro descendant population in the country.
- Analyzing statistical data to determine strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the Afro-Panamanian population, in the application of the Afro-Panamanian Development Plan.
- Analyzing the 2010 Census data, based on the result.
- Reviewing and analyzing data from household surveys and others, which have made it possible to adjust the question on Afro descendants.
- Promoting self-recognition of the Afro descendant population in order to empower them in terms of their identity and citizenship at the national level.
- Guaranteeing a differential, multidimensional, and inclusive analysis for persons with disabilities (sign language and Braille system), and older persons (English, French, Patois).

Additionally, Panama reported that census commissions have been created, with the support and participation of civil society and the Afro-Panamanian movement, which will accompany the next census process.

## Peru

Peru reported that the Ministry of Culture of Peru, through the Directorate on Policies for the Afro-Peruvian Population, has promoted the incorporation of ethnic self-identification questions in different official sources of information, such as National Censuses, surveys and administrative records, with the objective of identifying the Afro-Peruvian people.

In addition, the State reported that the Ministry of Culture of Peru developed the geo-ethnic Map of the concentrated presence of the Afro-Peruvian population in the national territory. This instrument provides official information on the geographic location and number of Afro-Peruvian population groups that live in Peru, which are located mainly along the coast. This information is of utmost importance for the definition of targeted public policies, from the various levels of government, to guarantee the exercise of the rights of the Afro-Peruvian people. This instrument is in the process of being updated to a Map of the Afro-Peruvian People, based on information obtained in the 2017 National Censuses.

## (d) Participation and Inclusion

### OBJECTIVE 2:

- 1. Promote the inclusion of Afro descendant persons and civil society organizations in the processes of development, formulation, execution and follow-up of public policies in the establishment of efficient and effective management mechanisms and accountability, through consultative mechanisms that facilitate their participation.*
- 2. Encourage leadership training of the population of African descent and promote their political participation.*

## Argentina

The Argentine Government reported that the Commission for the Historical Recognition of the Afro-Argentine Community has the tasks of keeping the National Register of Organizations of the Afro-Argentine Community, providing advice to process the legal status of the organizations of the Afro-Argentine Community, as well as promoting the annual organization of the National Meeting of the Afro-Argentine Community.

The Commission's task is also to carry out exchange and cooperation activities for the development of public policies issued by the National, Provincial and/or Municipal governments in conjunction with civil society organizations.

## Brazil

Brazil reported that the National Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality (SNPIR) has benefited from the participation of civil society, through the National Council for Racial Equality (CNPIR) and the National Council of Traditional Peoples and Communities (CNPCT). Both are collegiate bodies linked to the structure of the SNPIR, made up of representatives of the Federal Government and representatives of civil society organizations.

It was also shared that, in 2020, these councils held seven and three meetings respectively, and the CNPIR held its first meeting in 2021.

Additionally, it was pointed out that in addition to the Councils, the SNPIR has already organized four National Conferences (CONAPIR), the last in 2018. National conferences are traditionally called every four years.

## Colombia

Colombia reported that from the Directorate of Affairs for Black, Afro-Colombian, Palenqueras and Raizales Communities of the Ministry of the Interior (DACNAPR) has the Single Registry of Community Councils and Organizations of Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizales and Palenqueras Communities. Additionally, there is a strategic commitment to improve this registry by 2021, by increasingly taking into consideration the particularities of the Community Councils and the other organizational forms of the black, Afro-Colombian, Raizales and Palenqueras communities.

In the same way, the DACNAPR fulfills the function of coordinator and articulator of the different institutions and actors that make up the National Government and the spaces of national representation of the black, Afro-Colombian, Raizales and Palenqueras communities.



Photo by Ministerio del Interior - Colombia

Along these lines, the creation of the High-Level Consultative Commission and the National Space for Prior Consultation are noteworthy. Both, under the regulations and legislation in force at the national and international levels, in compliance with ILO Convention 169, guarantee the right to prior, free and informed consultation with ethnic peoples and communities.

Likewise, the Colombian Government reported that the DACNAPR provides support and guarantees the participatory processes of the black, Afro-Colombian, Palanquera and Raizal communities in the departments and municipalities where organizational strengthening is required in the forms and uses of these communities.

## Costa Rica

The Costa Rican Government reported the creation of the First Edition of the National Directory of Afro descendant Organizations and Institutional Links.

## Panama

The Panamanian government reported that, for more than 20 years, Afro descendant civil society has been collaborating with public institutions for the preparation of plans of action and their follow-up.

It also highlighted that, in a significant way, the Afro-Panamanian social movement organizations have participated in spaces for the creation of policies in different areas at the local, national and regional levels, such as:

- In 2016, several leaders of the Afro-Panamanian social movement participated in the National Consultation on Priorities in Ethnicity and Health of the Indigenous and Afro descendant Population, organized by MINSA/PAHO in Panama City, giving their contribution to the creation of a regional and local policy on ethnicity and health.
- In 2020, several leaders of the Afro-Panamanian social movement participated in work sessions as members of the Afro-Panamanian Technical Roundtable and the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), with a view to the 2020 National Population Census. Due to Covid-19, the 2020 Census had to be temporarily suspended.
- In 2020, several leaders of the Afro-Panamanian social movement participated in the National Commission of the Bicentennial of the Independence of Panama from Spain (1821-2021). The commissioners have the task of directing and guiding the actions carried out by said National Bicentennial Commission and is made up of the ministers of Government, Education and Culture, the Tourism Administrator, the General Manager of the National Bank, professors of the University of Panama, members of private companies, historians and representatives of Indigenous and Afro descendant peoples.

It also reported that, in 2020, the Secretariat for the Development of Afro-Panamanians (SENADAP) reinforced the training and workshops for civil society and the Afro-Panamanian movement, with the aim of strengthening self-recognition and Identity concepts of Africanness and ethnic-cultural diversity of the Afro-Panamanian population. Additionally, projects formulated can be presented from civil society to local, national and international governments in pursuit of sustainable development marked in the Objectives of the 2030 Decade and the Decade for persons of African descent.

## Peru

Peru reported that the Working Group with the Afro-Peruvian Population (GTPA, for its acronym in Spanish) was created. It is in charge of coordinating, proposing and following up on public policies involving the Afro-Peruvian population among representatives of the Vice Ministry of Interculturality of the Ministry of Culture of the Peru and the Afro-Peruvian population, through their representative organizations. In addition, it was reported that the Directorate on Policy for the Afro-Peruvian Population (DAF) acts as Technical Secretariat of the GTPA. The representatives of each area of the country (north, center and south) of the GTPA must have representatives by gender (one man and one woman) and a young person under 30 years of age. Thus, it is ensured that there is permanent representation by Afro-Peruvian women.

Likewise, the State reported the creation of the Registry of Representative Afro-Peruvian Organizations of the Ministry of Culture (ROA), whose administration, updating and maintenance is the responsibility of the General Directorate of Intercultural Citizenship (DGCI), through the DAF. In this sense, through the InfoCultura Portal, information is generated and processed on the number of representative organizations of the Afro-Peruvian population. It should be noted that the registration form for the Registry of Representative Afro-Peruvian Organizations (ROA) requires that at least one of its members self-identify as Afro-Peruvian.

## II. Justice

### (a) Access to Justice

#### OBJECTIVE 2:

1. *Take the necessary measures towards the implementation of the recommendations made by the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) in its report on the Judicial System and Racism against Persons of African Descent in the Americas.*
2. *Promote instruments and channels of cooperation and dialogue between the security forces and communities of persons of African descent or those that are predominantly Afro descendant.*
3. *Promote the inclusion of the Afro descendant approach in the reports of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Convention of Belem do Para (MESECVI).*
4. *Promote public policies focused on providing equitable non-discriminatory treatment vvhich will allow for equal access to the justice system for persons of African descent.*
5. *Promote the training of justice administrators and operators and security forces, especially on national and international legislation to combat ethnic and racial discrimination, and on protection standards for persons of African descent, to prevent and eradicate racial profiling and excessive use of force, especially against persons of African descent.*
6. *Work for the establishment of protocols for dealing with cases of ethnic and racial discrimination.*
7. *Promote and apply measures aimed at combating and punishing racial profiling.*

## Brazil

Brazil reported that the Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil determines as a fundamental objective of the Republic, in its article 3, paragraph IV: “to promote the good of all, without prejudice to origin, race, sex, color, age and any another form of discrimination “. Likewise, in article 4, subsection VIII, it establishes that: “Brazilian international relations are governed by the repudiation of terrorism and racism.”

It was also stated that it has Law No. 7,716 of January 5, 1989, which prohibits practices that promote discrimination or prejudice on the grounds of race, color, ethnicity, religion or national origin. The Law was modified by Law No. 9,459 of May 13, 1997, which added the terms ethnicity, religion and national origin, and extended the protection of the Law to various types of intolerance. Likewise, the Law establishes penalties for the manufacture, commercialization, distribution or placement of symbols, emblems, ornaments, badges or advertising of a prejudicial nature.

In addition, it was pointed out that the Law also establishes a penalty of one to five years for anyone who prevents a person from having access to public transport and public places such as restaurants, clubs, sports facilities, public or residential buildings, elevators and stairs, and educational institutions. The Law also typifies the crimes of prejudice based on race and color, establishing sanctions for cases of discrimination in the public and private labor sphere.

In this context, it was reported that in order to strengthen the implementation of this Law and other laws created to combat racism and promote racial equality, the Federal Public Ministry of Brazil (MPF) created, within the scope of the Citizenship Office, the Working Group to Combat Racism and Promote Racial Equality. The Group was created with the following guidelines:

- To act to strengthen public policies aimed at the protection and promotion of racial equality and the valuation of the social and cultural contribution of the black population.
- To propose cross-cutting actions of the Federal Attorney General's Office for Citizens' Rights in areas such as health, education, social assistance, combating police violence and protection of religious and cultural diversity, based on the issue of racial discrimination.
- To combat exclusionary public practices and policies, or those that harm individuals or groups based on their race, ethnicity, nationality and religion or other related social categories.
- To suggest improvements for the implementation of the Statute of Racial Equality (Law 12.288 of 2010).

The National Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality (SNPIR), whose aim is not only to combat the practice of racial discrimination but also to reduce violence against the Afro descendant population, is working on an articulation for the conclusion of a Technical Cooperation Agreement (TCA) with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security of Brazil (MJSP), through the Secretariat of Management and Education in Public Security. The TCA will focus on the production of content for a distance-learning course to be delivered on a virtual educational platform for members of the Unified Public Security System (SUSP), and the promotion and qualification of actions and activities to promote ethnic-racial equality. through symposia, seminars, webinars, publications and research on the subject of public safety and the promotion of ethnic-racial equality. It is estimated that the TCA will be signed in the first semester of 2021.

Along the same lines, the SNPIR is working on the cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Women, the Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) and the National Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (DEPEN/MJSP). The agreement will include the production of content for a distance-learning course that will be taught on a virtual educational platform aimed at security agents,

as well as the incentive to teach actions and activities to promote ethnic-racial equity to workers and users of the National Penitentiary System. The course is planned to have two modules and to be launched during 2020/2021.

In order to reduce violence against the Afro descendant population, the SNPIR belongs to the working group to monitor the “Em Frente Brasil” program. The program is a pilot project that aims to confront and combat violent crime. Five Brazilian municipalities were selected for the first phase: Ananindeua/PA, Cariacica/ES, Goiânia/GO, Paulista/PE and São José dos Pinhais/PR.

Finally, it was reported that the National Ombudsman’s Office of the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights has the mission of receiving, examining and forwarding complaints and reports on human rights violations. The Defensoría uses classes to describe the various forms of violations caused by racial prejudice and discrimination.

## Canada

Canada reported that, in 2019, it announced C \$ 45 million in funding for the Building a Foundation for Change: Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy (2019-2022).

The Strategy aims to counter racism in its various forms, with a strong focus on community projects. It is designed as a first step that lays the foundation for longer-term federal action against racism and discrimination in Canada and supports the following three principles:

- **Demonstrating Federal Leadership:** The Government of Canada must take a leadership role in addressing systemic racism and discrimination and has established a new Anti-Racism Secretariat for this purpose. The Secretariat leads a government-wide approach to working with federal organizations to identify

systemic barriers and gaps, develop new initiatives, and consider the impacts of new and existing policies, services, and programs on racialized, Indigenous, and religious minority communities.

- **Empowering Communities:** The Government of Canada should support organizations on the ground that have experience in addressing various forms of racism and discrimination.
- **Building Awareness and Changing Attitudes:** Public education and awareness are essential to the elimination of racial discrimination and inequality. The Strategy will support a National Public Education and Awareness Campaign to increase awareness and understanding and will fund data and evidence activities to improve the identification of gaps and measure the effectiveness of government programming.

As part of the Strategy, the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) has launched a new Action Against Racism Program (ARAP) that is designed to address barriers to employment, justice and social participation among racialized communities, including Afro-Canadian communities. The first call for proposals for the ARAP closed in January 2020, and in October 2020 funding of CA\$ 15 million was announced for 85 projects.

Simultaneously, the Strategy contributed to the launch of the Federal Anti-racism Secretariat in the PCH, which is leading all government action on addressing systemic racism, discrimination and hate.

It should be noted that the Secretariat recently partnered with the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to co-chair the Working Group on the International Decade for People of African Descent, which coordinates the Government's efforts to advance the goals of the decade.

In the Fall 2020 Economic Statement, the Government of Canada made a firm commitment to address systemic problems in the criminal justice system that have resulted in the over-representation of certain groups, including Afro-Canadians. This has included:

- Addressing the impact of race and culture assessments on sentencing through a committed investment of CA\$ 6.6 million over 5 years and CA\$ 1.6 million to support the implementation of the Race and Culture Impact Assessments, which allow sentencing judges to consider the disadvantages and systemic racism that contributed to the interaction of racialized Canadians with the criminal justice system.
- Supporting Community Justice Centers through a committed investment of CA\$ 28.6 million over 5 years to support Community Justice Center (CJC) pilot projects in British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario. CJsCs bring together justice, health and social services to address the root causes of crime, divert people accused of non-violent crimes from incarceration, and connect them with social supports. By integrating culturally appropriate services, CJsCs can help decrease the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples and Afro-Canadians in the criminal justice system and provide solutions to systemic problems.

Also, the Canadian Department of Justice, through the Qualitative Look at Serious Legal Problems initiative, is conducting a series of research studies in the 2020/2021 period, two of which are qualitative studies on communities. Afro-Canadians. These are:

- A study on the legal problems faced by Black Canadian youth in the greater Toronto area, which provides legal aid, information and assistance. The study took place between March 2020 to January 2021.
- A study on the serious legal problems facing urban Afro-Canadians in Montreal, in collaboration with community organizations and civil rights organizations. The study took place between March 2020 to January 2021.

Finally, it was reported that this series of research studies complements the upcoming Canadian Legal Problems Survey, which will help address the data gap on access to civil justice in Canada. The survey will measure the prevalence of serious legal problems in Canadians' lives over the past three years, how they did or did not solve these problems, and the impact of these problems on their well-being.

## Costa Rica

Costa Rica reported on the adoption of the Joint Declaration of the Presidents of the Supreme Powers against Racism and Racial Discrimination, which includes the paragraph to promote training for officials on racial profiling.

It also reported that the Judiciary has the Institutional Policy for Access to Justice for Afro descendants and its Plan of Action.

Likewise, it was also pointed out that the Judicial Branch has the Institutional Policy that is constantly renewed through circulars such as No. 173-2019, with the subject Modification to the Brasilia Rules on Access to Justice for People in Conditions of Vulnerability. Through the circular, all judicial offices in the country and the general public were informed about the amendment, which in preliminary chapter 1 includes section 4-Indigenous Peoples and Communities, People of African Descent.

In addition, the amendment incorporates the section Belonging to other ethnic and cultural diversities. In which it mentions that:

*“It will be understood that there is discrimination against people of African descent or belonging to other ethnic or cultural diversities, when situations of exclusion, restriction or preference occur based on reasons of race, color, lineage or national, ethnic or cultural origin that nullify or undermine the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, under conditions of equality, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural spheres or in any other area of the public thoroughfare”*

The Judicial Branch also approved the circular on the Differentiation of Various Terms on Racism and Xenophobia addressed to all judicial authorities, lawyers, lawyers and the general public.

The Law against Violence and Racism in Sports was also reported.

Lastly, it was noted that, in the international context, the Declaration of the Governing Council of Costa Rica against manifestations of racism and its solidarity with the death of George Floyd was adopted.

## Peru

The Peruvian Government reported that on June 4, 2020, the Executive submitted the Bill for the Promotion of Cultural Diversity for the Prevention and Punishment of Racism and Ethnic-racial Discrimination, Bill No. 5442/2020-PE to the Congress of the Republic.

The bill that was prepared by the Ministry of Culture of Peru to establish concrete measures for State entities and citizens in the fight against acts of discrimination based on the ethnic or racial origin of individuals and groups of people, through the promotion of the country’s cultural diversity, the prevention and punishment of racism and

ethnic-racial discrimination. This bill is currently in the Commission of Culture and Cultural Heritage of the Congress of the Republic of Peru.

It was highlighted that among the most notable changes, the aforementioned bill contemplates, for the first time in the Peruvian legal system, a tacit prohibition of racism and ethnic-racial discrimination, expressed in the rejection of any practice or omission, theory or doctrine, ideology or set of ideas based on racial superiority or supremacy. It also rejects any act that directly or indirectly excludes, restricts, nullifies or undermines the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights of individuals or groups of people. Likewise, the normative proposal also proposes the modification of some laws in order to have a consistent and systemic legal framework to prevent, eliminate and effectively punish racism and ethnic-racial discrimination.

Regarding the Penal Code, the bill proposes to incorporate article 323-A, in order to classify incitement to ethnic-racial hatred. Consequently, in the Bill, the following first supplementary amending provision is proposed:

**FIRST. - Incorporation of article 323-A to the Penal Code**

*Incorporate article 323-A to the Penal Code, in the following terms:*

***“Article 323-A.- Incitement to ethnic-racial hatred***

*Anyone who, by himself or through third parties, by any means, disseminates or promotes ideas based on superiority or ethnic-racial hatred will be punished with a custodial sentence of not less than two years nor more than four years.*

*The proposal also contemplates a series of provisions and legislative modifications aimed at strengthening the sanction mechanisms against acts of ethnic-racial discrimination in various fields, such as the public function, civil service, the health field, the education, the workplace and the disciplinary regime of the national police of Peru.*

The Public Defense Service of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, through the General Directorate of Human Rights, requested technical assistance from the Ministry of Culture of Peru in the incorporation of an ethnic self-identification question in its affidavits, on socioeconomic situation, which collects information about persons who would need a public defender. Coordinations are ongoing, but the question has not yet been incorporated and, therefore, there is no information disaggregated by ethnicity.

Coordination has also been ongoing with the National Penitentiary Institute to collect information on persons deprived of their liberty by ethnicity through a self-identification question. However, there is still no approved directive that provides for the measure and, consequently, there is no information disaggregated by ethnicity.

## **(b)** Special measures

### **OBJECTIVE 2**

- 1. Promote the adoption of special measures, including affirmative actions for persons of African descent in public service, and encourage the establishment of such measures to promote the hiring and promotion of persons of African descent in the public and private sectors.*
- 2. Promote the adoption of measures that facilitate political participation and equal opportunity to seek election of persons of African descent to office.*

## Brazil

The State reported that, in October 2020, the Federal Supreme Court (STF, for its acronym in Spanish) put an end to the decision on racial criteria to divide the time of non-broadcast advertising on television and in the electoral fund. As a result of the decision-making, political parties must allocate financial resources and advertising time, respecting the proportion of white and Afro descendant candidates. The amount of time allotted to white candidates should be the same for Afro descendants, thus ensuring greater equality of tenure in elective political positions.

It was pointed out that, the National Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality (SNPIR) was created the same year that the National Policy for the Promotion of Racial Equality (PNPIR) was adopted. The Policy is in correlation with international instruments included in the Preamble of Decree No. 4,886/2003, among them, the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and the Durban Plan of Action (the result of the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance).

There was also significant progress through the PNPIR, such as affirmative actions aimed at balancing racial and ethnic inequalities and the Racial Equality Statute (Law 12.288 / 2010).

In this context, in 2009, the Brazilian Government approved the National Plan for the Promotion of Racial Equality - PLANAPIR, by Decree No. 6,872 of June 4, 2009. PLANAPIR includes a set of activities related to the following areas: work and economic development, education, health, cultural diversity, human rights and public safety, traditional peoples and communities, international politics, social development and food security, infrastructure and youth.

Likewise, the Statute of Racial Equality (Law No. 12,288 / 2010) guarantees and defends two collective and diffuse individual rights to combat discrimination and other forms of ethnic-racial and religious intolerance.

The Statute institutionalized a series of initiatives in the fields of education, culture, sports, work, justice, health, work, housing, access to land, security and communication, and inaugurated a new stage in the struggle of the Afro descendant population in the country.

Among other measures, the creation of the Institutional Statute or National System for the Promotion of Racial Equality - SINAPIR (Decree No. 8,136 / 13) is noteworthy, which is a form of organization and articulation that aims to implement a set of policies and services overcoming racial inequalities in Brazil. In addition, it guarantees the Afro descendant population equal opportunities, in defense of the guidelines and in the fight against discrimination and other forms of intolerance. Today, SINAPIR has the support of most of the country's federal entities: four of the seven states in the Northern region; seven of the nine states in the Northeast region; and all states in the Midwest, Southeast, and South regions.

Another significant advance was the institutionalization of the quota system for Afro descendant students in public universities and public competitions through the approval of Laws No. 12,711 / 2012 and Law No. 12,990 / 2014.

In this sense, there is still no scope of dimensions of Decree No. 4,927/2018 that reserves 30% of the annual vacancies offered to Afro descendants in the selections for internships outside the scope of direct, autonomous and federal foundational public administration.

In 2019, the SNPIR in association with the United Nations Development Program - UNDP offered the Municipalities and States participating in the National System

for the Promotion of Racial Equality - SINAPIR, the opportunity to participate in the Training Course on Racial Promotion Policies. The following States and Municipalities were served:

Saints; Feira de Santana; Tomé-Açu; Belo Horizonte; Pompey; Sao José do Rio Preto; Aparecida de Goiânia; Campinas; Orange trees; Mountain range; Savior; Governor of Valadares; Criciúma; Niterói, Curitiba; Great swamp; Jundiáí; Cariacica; New file; White River; Saint Vincent; Joinville; Safe Harbor; Mosque; Patos de Minas; Horizon; Brasilia; Tavares; Caxias del Sur; Guarulhos; Great field; State of Rio Grande do Norte; Score; Araçatuba; Mansa Bar; State of Ceará, Cachoeiro de Itapemirim; Andradina; Victory of the conquest; San José de los Campos; South Cruise; State of Mato Grosso; State of Goiás; State of Amapá; State of Espírito Santo; Municipality of Rio de Janeiro; Mustards; Force; State of Rio Grande do Sul; State of Minas Gerais; State of Mato Grosso do Sul; Maranhão State; Itajaí; State of Paraná; São Mateus do Maranhão; State of Rondônia; Barretos; State of Rio de Janeiro; and Pontal do Paraná.

The Training Course on Racial Promotion Policies covers content related to affirmative policies from an ethnic-racial perspective, policies aimed at poor and traditional communities and guidelines on how to develop the Municipal or State Plan, as well as projects to attract economic resources.

The 14-hour training is delivered by specialized consultants, trained by SNPIR and contracted by UNDP, within the BRA 15/010 Program. In addition, the consultants conduct a situational diagnosis of public policies on issues and thematic demands that the local Afro descendant population has in relation to national policies, based on the participation and contribution of the managers and the Council for the Promotion of Racial Equality.

Currently, the SNPIR is working on the substantive review of Project BRA 15/010, to improve the implementation of this system based on the consolidation of its institutional arrangements and the expansion of federative participation.

Between 2014 and 2020, voluntary transfers of financial resources were made through agreements with States and Municipalities, with an accumulated value of the order of R \$ 242,120,976.06 for the implementation of affirmative action public policies and guarantee of ethnic-racial diversity.

### Ecuador

The Ecuadorian State reported that it continues to monitor compliance with the affirmative action on the inclusion of professionals of the peoples and nationalities of Ecuador, including Afro descendants, in the public service, established by Executive Decree 60 and the National Plan to eliminate racial discrimination.

### Canada

The State reported that it has established a path to permanent residence for asylum seekers working in the health sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, many of whom are of African descent and have entered Canada irregularly. Under this measure, asylum seekers across the country who work on the front line providing direct care to patients in health care institutions can apply for permanent residence if they meet the criteria.

### (III) Development

#### (a) Right to development and antipoverty measures

##### OBJECTIVE 2

1. *Encourage inclusion of the rights of persons of African descent on the agenda for social development and anti-poverty policies and programs.*
2. *Encourage the formulation of public policies for the population of African descent within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*
3. *Encourage member states to include the rights of persons of African descent in their country indicators and in their respective reports on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*
4. *Promote the inclusion of the Afro descendant population in programs for science, innovation and technology, trade and economic empowerment, culture and tourism, sustainable development, and the environment, in particular among communities with an Afro descendant presence.*
5. *Encourage the creation of financial education training programs in communities with an Afro descendant presence.*
6. *Encourage the inclusion of cultural and tourism industries in communities with an Afro descendant presence.*
7. *Promote training on the rights of persons of African descent for public officials working on development programs and policies on the Afro descendant approach, as well as on the multiple forms of discrimination suffered by persons of African descent in vulnerable situations.*

## Argentina

Argentina reported that the Commission for the Historical Recognition of the Afro-Argentine Community has the task of carrying out exchange and cooperation activities for the development of public policies emanating from the National, Provincial and/or Municipal State in conjunction with civil society organizations.

## Brazil

Brazil reported that it has maintained policies to combat poverty, such as, the Bolsa Familia Program, which mainly benefits the Afro descendant population.

Additionally, in 2020, the National Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality Policies (SNPIR) launched the Selective Process No. 01/2020, which aims to select a Sub-Executing Institution - Legal Entity, through the letter of agreement process, which meets the requirements and terms contained in this call, such as the interest and capacity to carry out the planning activity, application in pilot format and systematization of the methodology to promote entrepreneurship, generate income and value the Afro-Brazilian culture and the knowledge present in the Afro descendant peoples and communities in the State of Rio de Janeiro, in order to comply



Photo by Julia M Cameron in Pexels

with Product 11 of the Project BRA 13/020. The aforementioned notice is in its final stage.

Along the same lines, the SNPIR developed the Creative Economy Pole Project, within the framework of the “Abraço o Marajó” Program to be carried out in 2021-2022. The project aims to improve the regional product, the verticalization of production, improve the business environment, increase the quality of the regional product, and expand markets and local productivity.

Likewise, the SNPIR is also responsible for the management of public policies for traditional peoples and communities, the majority of whom are Afro descendants. In this context, in 2019, the SNPIR launched the Cisternas Project (National Program to Support Rainwater Capture and Other Social Technologies for Access to Water).

Within the framework of the Project, 2,343 cisterns were delivered to Quilombola families in the Brazilian semi-arid region and the Kalunga Territory in Goiás, with the construction of cisterns for the first water, through a decentralized execution period (TED 014/2018 and TED 017 / 2018). These 2,343 cisterns delivered are the object of an alliance established with the Ministry of Citizenship, which represents 61% of a total of 3,857 units, with a total investment of R \$ 14 million. The forecast is that by the end of 2021 all the cisterns will be available to Quilombola families to guarantee drinking water for consumption during the dry season.

Territorial regularization of quilombola territories, whose areas were already with a Presidential Expropriation Decree published in the DOU and with suitable processes for the filing of legal claims for expropriation, the SNPIR made available, through the TED with the National Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform - INCRA, the amount of R \$ 2,571,127.10 for the payment of the indemnities filed, enabling the definitive title of five quilombola communities located in the States of Paraíba and Ceará, guaranteeing a total of 403,3075 hectares of regularized area.

With the conclusion of the addendum, the proposal is to indemnify three more properties, located in the States of Maranhão, Tocantins and Cuiabá-MT, which comprise a total area of 3,661,067.

It was also reported that the SNPIR and the Brazilian Army Command held TED No. 08/2019, for the amount of R \$ 168,000.00, whose purpose is the implementation and maintenance of a video surveillance system in ports located in the Community Quilombola de Forte Príncipe da Beira, Special Border Platoon of the Brazilian Army in the Municipality of Costa Marques / RO, in compliance with the Judicial Agreement of Ordinary Action Period No. 6050-05.2014.4.01.4101 signed between representatives of the Federal Public Ministry (MPF), the Quilombola Forte Príncipe de Beira Association (ASQFORT), the Brazilian Army, the INCRA / Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) and SNPIR / MMFDHM.

In addition, a guidebook was prepared for the Quilombola Forte Príncipe da Beira Community on the Coexistence Agreement with the Brazilian Army, as well as the presentation of the material for consultation by the community, with subsequent approval in 2019. It is expected that the material in question will be completed in the first half of 2021.

The SNPIR concluded the preparation of the draft Decree for Recreation of the Quilombola Social Agenda Management Committee (CGASQ), a collegiate body originally created with Decree No. 6,261, of November 20, 2007; and in compliance with the provisions contained in arts. 36 to 38 of Decree No. 9,191, of November 1, 2017 and in art. 6 of Decree No. 9,759, of April 11, 2019.

The aforementioned Commission aims to propose and articulate intersectoral actions for the comprehensive development of actions that constitute the Quilombola Social Agenda (ASQ), grouping the actions of the different Federal Public Administration

(APF) agencies directed at the communities into four axes: access to land; infrastructure and quality of life; productive inclusion and local development and rights and citizenship. The draft decree has already been sent for analysis and consideration by the Executive Secretariat of the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights.

In relation to food and nutritional security in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights, through the National Secretariat for the Promotion of Equality Racial (SNPIR), signed Decentralized Execution Terms No. 3 and 4 with the National Supply Company (CONAB), the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) and the Palmares Cultural Foundation for the distribution of 424,167 food baskets for the amount total of R \$ 41,146,731.85. In this context, 319,873 families of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities were served.

In addition, to face the pandemic, the Emergency Aid bonus was instituted in the amount of R \$ 600.00 (six hundred reais) for low-income informal workers. It was initially granted for three months, extended to five months and revised for four additional complimentary vouchers of R \$ 300.00, which represents a total of R \$ 4,200.00 per beneficiary.

The State indicated that the target audience for emergency aid is divided into three groups:

- Beneficiaries of the Bolsa Familia Program.
- Registered in the Unique Registry of Social Programs - CadÚnico, who are not beneficiaries of the Bolsa Familia Program
- Not registered in CadÚnico (registered by CAIXA-TEM).

Around 235,368 people in quilombola families registered in CadÚnico benefited from payment of emergency aid. On the other hand, it is not possible to obtain infor-

mation related to race/color or belonging to traditional peoples and communities in those registered by CAIXA-TEM, since these questions are not part of the form made available for the registration of aid beneficiaries whose families are not registered in CadÚnico.

## Canada

Canada reported that, in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is making an investment of 350 million Canadian dollars to support Canadians in situations of vulnerability, including the Afro descendant population, through charities and non-profit organizations that provide essential services to those who need them.

It was also reported that it is working closely with the provinces and territories to ensure that all necessary and appropriate supports are available to ensure a comprehensive coordinated response to COVID-19. The Government of Canada is providing support to provinces and territories in the areas of:

- Health: Supporting the critical needs of the healthcare system and mitigation efforts.
- Economy: Helping provinces and territories to safely restart their economies.
- Education: Ensuring a safe return to school.
- Employment: Supporting through the temporary wage supplement for essential low-income workers.

## Ecuador

Ecuador reported on the elaboration of the instrument called “Approaches to Equality in Local Planning”, which facilitates the incorporation of the policies of the National Agendas for Equality in the updating/formulation of the Development Plans and Territorial Ordering of the GAD Provincial, Municipal and Parish. The instrument is a work prepared in conjunction with the Planifica Ecuador Technical Secretariat and the National Councils for Equality.

The country also reported on the design of a tool for monitoring the implementation of the National Agenda that is being executed in 2021, which includes the objectives and goals of the Afro descendant Decade - Ecuador Chapter.

In addition, it was pointed out that the National Council for the Equality of Peoples and Nationalities (CNIPN, for its acronym in Spanish) has promoted and participated, in coordination with the Secretariat of Human Rights, in the preparation of an investment project with financing from the World Bank for 40 million dollars.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the territorial economies of Indigenous peoples and nationalities, the Afro-Ecuadorian people and the Montubio people, which considers as specific components the issues that have been raised by Afro descendant organizations: support for territorial palenques, entrepreneurship urban areas and access to higher education.

The loan has already been authorized by the Board of the World Bank and the procedures for the start-up of the project are being completed.

## Mexico

Mexico informed that through the Institutional Program 2020-2024 of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI), derived from the National Development Plan (PND), the Afro-Mexican population is included. Some of the strategic objectives of the Program are:

- To contribute to the integral development and common welfare of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, strengthening their economy, improving and expanding their infrastructure, and making sustainable use of their lands, territories, and resources;
- To promote cross-cutting coordination of the Federal Public Administration, the state and municipal governments and the Indigenous and Afro-Mexican authorities, for the design, execution and evaluation of public policies with economic, social and cultural relevance.

In this same sense, the objective is to contribute to the strengthening of the economies of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities located in the Indigenous regions of focused and priority attention defined by the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI), through the implementation of economic projects; tourism; mitigation and adaptation actions to the effects of climate change; generation of added value; access to credit and support for marketing; with community and regional impact, from a participatory, territorial and gender perspective, to achieve the integration of value chains, in order to promote integral, intercultural and sustainable development in these regions.

For this purpose, the program has the following components, types of support and modalities:

- Economic Projects with Community Impact (Community projects for food self-sufficiency in Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities, community projects of primary production for value chains and Community transformation projects for value chains).
- Community Projects of Nature Tourism.
- Mitigation and Adaptation Actions to the Effects of Climate Change with Community Impact.
- Strategic Training Actions and Certifications.
- Marketing and Access to Credit.

It was reported that, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Afro-Mexican people benefiting from the Indigenous Education Support Program (PAEI), have received basic food contingency packages in their communities since May 2020. In addition to the food that they receive on a regular basis in the shelters and dining rooms, basic hygiene and health kits (soap, gel, face masks) are included.

## Panama

Panama shared that within the Strategic Government Plan - PEG 2019-2024, commitments are established aimed at Afro-Panamanian issues. Within the framework of the Plan, the Afro Technical Roundtable was created, comprising the following tasks:

- Rescue the efforts to implement the National Development Master Plan for Afro-Panamanians, which was officially established in 2007.



Photo by Julia Volk in Pexels

The Afro descendant population is also included in the Colmena Plan. The Plan aims to territorially organize the comprehensive implementation of public policies through an articulated multisectoral offer that guarantees the right to development for more than 777 thousand Panamanians living in poverty.

The Plan's coverage is national, however, in its first phase it will reach the 63 districts and 300 townships with the highest level of multidimensional and income poverty in rural and urban areas, of which 29 districts have an Afro descendant population.

Peru also reported that Executive Decree No. 400 of March 27, 2020, the Panama Solidarity Plan was created. The Plan was created to respond to Panamanians and Panamanians affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this context, the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) has been providing direct support to local authorities in the distribution of food bags and solidarity vouchers throughout the nation. The State acknowledges that they have not been able to determine precise data on the Afro descendant population that benefitted; however, it was affirmed that the support has reached Afro-Panamanian populations with the highest poverty rate and vulnerable and marginalized areas, as well as Afro-Panamanians who, due to the pandemic, have been laid off from their direct or indirect jobs.

## Peru

Peru recognized that the Household Targeting System (SISFOH for its acronym in Spanish) does not incorporate identification or targeting criteria according to ethnicity. Similarly, no social program incorporates criteria for identification or prioritization by ethnicity. Consequently, measures have not yet been established in the programs aimed at alleviating poverty, nor is there any information disaggregated by ethnicity.

In the framework of the COVID-19 health emergency, regulatory instruments have been issued related to the adequate care of the Afro-Peruvian people and that have an intercultural approach:

- ◆ Guidelines for the incorporation of the ethnic variable in the administrative records of public entities, within the framework of the Health Emergency declared by COVID-19, approved by Supreme Decree No. 005-2020-MC (05/30/2020).

**Objective:** Establish guidelines to incorporate the ethnic variable in the administrative records of public entities that provide services and carry out actions for the protection and care of Indigenous or native peoples, within the framework of the COVID-19 Health Emergency, through the generation of information on the various cultural ethnic groups at the national level in a timely, pertinent and efficient manner; in order to guide state policies for their protection and care.

**Arranged measures:** Identification of the need to adapt the administrative registry, identification of the administrative registry to incorporate the variable, incorporation of the ethnic variable in the administrative registries and formulation of questions; and the follow-up and monitoring of information.

- Guidelines for the implementation of the alert strategy for the identification of suspected cases of COVID-19 in Indigenous or native peoples and the Afro-Peruvian people, and for follow-up and monitoring during the medical treatment of cases, within the framework of the Health Emergency declared by COVID-19, approved by Supreme Decree No. 010-2020-MC, on Friday, July 31, 2020.

**Objective:** Establish guidelines to implement the alert strategy, through the management of information in real time, in order to timely detect suspected cases of COVID-19 in the Indigenous or native population and the Afro-Peruvian population at the national level, and thereby refer their immediate care to the corresponding health institutions, in order to contribute to the reduction of the health impact in the community transmission; and to follow-up and monitor them during the care and treatment process of Indigenous or native populations, and Afro-Peruvians, within the framework of the COVID-19 Health Emergency.

**Proposed measures:** Identification of alerts for suspected cases of COVID-19, communication with suspected cases of COVID-19, follow-up and monitoring of the health status of suspected cases of COVID-19, management of information on suspected cases of COVID-19 with the Public Health Care Providers, follow-up and monitoring of the care for Public Health Care Providers, and reporting actions taken regarding the alerts identified to informants, ongoing coordination with the Decentralized Directorates of Culture and systematization and storage of information.

Finally, the Ministry of Culture of Peru has initiated the formulation of a specific policy measure for the care of the Afro-Peruvian people within the framework of the COVID-19 health emergency, called: “Guidelines for Care with Cultural Relevance and Appropriateness of the Afro-Peruvian People, in the Framework of the COVID-19 Health Emergency and the Resumption of Economic Activities”. Currently, the working document has been reviewed from a technical perspective and approval from the sectors involved is under way.

## (b) Employment

### OBJECTIVE 2

1. *Promote the creation of job training programs in communities with an Afro descendant presence.*

## Canada

Canada reported that it announced investments of almost 221 million Canadian dollars (CA\$), of which CA\$ 93 million will come from the Federal Government, to launch the first Black Entrepreneurship Program in Canada.

Under this initiative, investments of up to CA\$ 53 million are being made to develop and implement the National Ecosystem Fund to support Black-led business organizations across the country. This will help Afro-Canadian entrepreneurs and business owners access financing and equity, mentorship, financial planning services, and business training.

Also under the Black Entrepreneurship Program, Afro-Canadian business owners and entrepreneurs will be supported through the Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund that will provide loans of between CA\$ 25,000 and \$ 250,000.

Moreover, COVID-19 has had particular impacts on racialized communities, religious minorities and Indigenous peoples. The disruption created by the pandemic impacts social cohesion, diversity and inclusion, and exacerbates existing barriers and inequality caused by systemic racism and discrimination.

In this context, a study carried out by Innovative Research Group and the African Canadian Civic Engagement Council (based in Edmonton) is highlighted, as it indicates that Afro-Canadians are more likely to get sick and be hospitalized as a result of COVID-19 than other ethnic groups.

In addition, Afro-Canadians are also more likely (56% to 43%) to report layoffs or reduced working hours in their household and are more concerned, in the coming months, about paying rent (45% to 36%). They are also more likely than the average Canadian to say that their household finances have been negatively affected by COVID-19.

For this reason, as part of the Government of Canada's ongoing commitment to understand the impact of COVID-19 on various groups of Canadians, Statistics Canada added a new question to the Workforce Survey asking respondents aged 15 to 69 years to report the population groups to which they belong.

This new information will be used on an ongoing basis to shed light on the evolution of labor market conditions for population groups designated as visible minorities, including the extent to which they are determined by regional and sectoral conditions.

Data from the Labor Force Survey show that the national unemployment rate in August 2020 (11.1% among the population aged 15 to 69, not seasonally adjusted) masks significant differences between population groups. For example, Canadian Arabs (17.9%), Afro descendants (17.6%), and Southeast Asian (16.6%) continued to have significantly higher unemployment rates than Canadians who were not members of a population group designated as racialized and did not identify as Indigenous. (9.4%, not seasonally adjusted).

In this context, through the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat and the Canadian Department of Women and Gender Equality, an interdepartmental Task Force to address the different and disproportionate ways in which COVID-19 is affecting communities who deserve equity, including Afro-Canadian communities was established.

The Committee is made up of 25 federal organizations that have focused significantly on the relationship between racism against people of African descent and health, economic and social outcomes for communities of African descent in Canada.

In addition, it was noted that measures have been introduced to help Canadians and companies to cope with the health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example:

- Sick benefits for workers who cannot work because they have contracted COVID-19.
- Caregiving benefits for those unable to work because they need to care for children due to school closings or family members who have contracted COVID-19.
- Specific initiatives to support students, older persons and Indigenous peoples.
- Canada Emergency Response Benefit that provides a taxable benefit of CA\$ 2,000 every 4 weeks for up to 24 weeks to eligible workers who have stopped working or whose work hours have been reduced due to COVID-19.

It was also reported that a number of grants for Canadian businesses have been introduced, from help with payroll through Canada's emergency wage subsidy to assistance with expenses through interest-free loans. These supports are helping to avoid layoffs, allowing the rehiring of employees and the creation of new jobs. For example:

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) provides a 75 percent wage subsidy for qualified employers, up to C \$ 847 per week per employee. CEWS has supported some three million employees by helping them stay in the workforce or return to work.

- The Government of Canada is also working to support businesses through the Canada Emergency Commercial Rental Assistance Program which provides relief to small businesses experiencing financial difficulties due to COVID -9.
- The Government of Canada is also providing specific measures for women and young entrepreneurs, for the self-employed, for Indigenous businesses and for sectors that have been particularly affected by COVID-19 and tend to employ a significant proportion of Afro descendant workers, such as tourism, air transport, culture, heritage, sports, agriculture and food.

Likewise, Canada is investing CA\$ 93 million in the Black Entrepreneurship Program, which will help thousands of Afro-Canadian business owners recover from the COVID-19 crisis and grow their business.

## Peru

Peru reported that, in 2019, the National Program for the Promotion of Labor Opportunities “Impulsa Perú” (Impulsa Perú), incorporated the questions of ethnic self-identification in the General Directive No. 001-2019-MTPE/3/24.3/CE/UGCC-UGE “Provisions and Guidelines for the Targeting Process: Identification, Accreditation and Registration of Potential Beneficiaries for Training Services for Job Placement, Certification of Labor Competencies and Training and Technical Assistance for Self-Employment of the National Program” Impulsa Perú “However, there is no information on the beneficiaries.

Also, the Impulsa Peru Program of the Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion of Peru, within the framework of the activities of the Afro-Peruvian Culture Month of 2019, carried out a training called “Canvas Business Model for Afro-Peruvian Entrepreneurs”. In this way, 21 Afro-Peruvian entrepreneurs were trained and certified.

Additionally, the General Directorate for the Promotion of Employment of the Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion of Peru (DGPE for its acronym in Spanish) does not incorporate any ethnic variable, because the ethnicity questions do not constitute eligibility or prioritization criteria in its work programs. The aforementioned programs consist of the Program for the Generation of Inclusive Social Employment “Trabaja Perú” (hereinafter, the Trabaja Perú Program) and the National Youth Employment Program “Jóvenes Productivos” (hereinafter, the Young Productive Program).

## (c) Health

### OBJECTIVE 2

- 1. Promote the inclusion of the Afro descendant approach in the social determinants of health through intersectoral policies and promote the creation of health programs for persons of African descent.*
- 2. Encourage campaigns to promote sexual and reproductive health in communities with an Afro descendant presence.*
- 3. Encourage the creation of national health policies taking into consideration ethno-racial and intercultural perspective*
- 4. Promote the development and implementation of protocols for comprehensive healthcare for recurrent non-communicable diseases in the population of African descent.*

## Brazil

Brazil reported that important progress has been made with the creation of the National Health Program for the Black Population, including the race/color category through Ordinance No. 344 of February 1, 2017, in addition, with the mapping of the most common genetic or hereditary diseases in the Afro descendant population.

In addition, in 2017, Resolution 16 was published, which provides for the III Operational Plan (2017-2019) of the National Health Policy for the Black Population (PNSIPIN) in the Unified Health System (SUS).

Also, in 2015, the Ministry of Health issued SCTIE Ordinance No. 30 of June 30, 2015, by which the decision to establish, within the scope of SUS, allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation related to the treatment of sickle cell anemia was made public.

In the same way, the Primary Health Care Secretariat of the Ministry of Health is preparing the Operational Plan for Equity in Primary Health Care 2020-2022, with the objective of creating the National Equity Policy within the scope of SUS.

Likewise, in the National Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality (SNPIR) in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, through the Secretariat of Primary Health Care (SAPS for its acronym in Spanish), is seeking to sign a technical cooperation agreement on health care to develop strategies and intersectoral initiatives aimed at promoting equity, addressing social determinants and improving the health conditions of the Afro descendant population, the albino population, and traditional peoples and communities in situations of social vulnerability. The SNPIR and SAPS technical areas are working on the draft of the agreement and work plan, with a schedule and deadlines. The instrument is expected to be signed in the first half of 2021.

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Federal Government prepared a contingency plan for contamination by the novel coronavirus in quilombola communities and traditional communities, and the Ministry of Health prepared the National Contingency Plan for Assistance to the rural population, forests and waters, gypsy people and traditional communities, in response to Recommendation No. 8/2020 / 6th CCR / MPF issued by the Public Ministry.

It was also communicated that, to better serve the target audience - including traditional peoples and communities - channels for complaints and requests for help (Dial 100 and 180) have been established so complaints can be received and information about places of public assistance can be shared. Both these channels are in addition to the service (Dial 136) of the SUS General Defender's Office.

Also, in compliance with Ordinance No. 344 of 02.01.2017, the Ministry of Health included the race/color variable in the mandatory notification forms, and in the e-SUS VE notifier, according to the Suspicion Investigation Form of Coronavirus Disease 2019.

Among other ongoing actions, the variable is included in: vaccination for groups in situations of vulnerability; the rapid test for COVID19 aimed at traditional populations and peoples; in the materials, information on COVID19, both aimed at the population and at health professionals; in the EPI for health professionals who work in the care of populations in situations of vulnerability; in the identification of the epidemiological profile of the quilombola population to structure lines of Primary Health Care and the implementation of the Ministry of Health to reinforce the health of the quilombola population in Alcântara-MA (where around 3000 thousand doses of the H1N1 vaccine were applied 16.5 )

The Brazilian Government recognized the need to build specific post-pandemic public policies for the Afro descendant population as one of its current challenges facing is,

based on a survey and mapping of the damage and consequences caused by COVID19, especially on the mental health of the Afro descendant population, particularly young people and adolescents.

In this sense, Brazil recognized that it is essential to strengthen public health and social assistance policies and services with an ethnic-racial profile in the National Program for the Promotion of Equity in Health, whose objective are i) the recognition of social differentiations; ii) the expansion of access to the Unified Health System for populations in situations of vulnerability; iii) the establishment of strategies for the dissemination of health equity policies; iv) the articulation of intrasectoral and intersectoral actions, focused on the health of rural, forest and coastal populations, the gypsy population, the Afro descendant population, Indigenous peoples, quilombola communities, and Indigenous peoples and traditional communities; and v) the inclusion in this policy of persons deprived of liberty, migrants, refugees and stateless persons.

## Canada

Canada reported that it invested CA\$ 10 million over five years, through the Public Health Agency of Canada, to conduct research in support of culturally sensitive mental health programs in Afro-Canadian communities, to address significant and unique challenges facing Afro descendants of Canada.

To this end, the Public Health Agency of Canada established the Promoting Health Equity: Mental Health of Black Canadians Fund (MHBC). The initiative partners with community organizations, researchers, and others in Afro descendant communities to generate new evidence on culturally focused programs and interventions that address mental health and its determinants for Afro-Canadians. The MHBC includes two sources of funding:

- **Incubator Stream:** Provides short-term funding to support capacity building activities that help organizations design, develop, implement and evaluate projects that promote the mental health of Black Canadians.
- **Implementation Stream:** Provides funding to grantees for community-led projects that implement and evaluate culture-focused programs that promote mental health and address its causes for Black Canadians.

This Implementation Stream also includes an open solicitation focused on understanding the unique needs of Black LGBTQI+ populations in Canada, with respect to mental health and its determinants. This will help raise awareness and develop a greater capacity to respond to their needs and address the barriers they experience.

Therefore, there are eight projects currently being financed from each of the financing flows for a total of CA\$ 5,277,945 (\$ 600,000 under the incubation flow and \$ 4,677,945 under the implementation flow). The remaining funds are reserved to support incubator projects to advance to the implementation phase.

### Costa Rica

Costa Rica reported that, in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic and with the collaboration of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), recommendations for the prevention of COVID-19 in the Afro descendant population were issued; the material was also produced in the Limonense Creole language.

### Mexico

The Mexican Government reported that the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI) created a Coordinating Center of the Afro-Mexican People, in Pinotepa Nacional, Oaxaca, where a significant Afro-Mexican population is concentrated.

It should be noted that the Coordinating Centers have first-hand information on the key public health issues of importance for its dissemination in both Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities. Within its territorial structure throughout the country, there are 23 Representative Offices and 103 Indigenous Peoples Coordinating Centers (CCPI).

In addition, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, INPI actively participates in the Inter-institutional Technical Group of the National Epidemiological Surveillance Committee (CONAVE for its acronym in Spanish) and, therefore, accompanies step by step and participates in discussions on the actions taken in this critical area of the country's health sector. This resulted in two epidemiological documents, at the national level and in the Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities. These documents are:

- Overview of COVID-19 and the population recognized as Indigenous.
- Standardized Guidelines for Epidemiological and Laboratory Surveillance of Respiratory and Viral Disease.

Likewise, INPI prepared the Guide for the Care of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples and Communities in the Health Emergency Generated by the SARS-CoV2 Virus (COVID-19). This document was prepared in accordance with Mexican and international regulations on Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, as well as various international recommendations. Included among its lines of action, are:

- Translation and dissemination with cultural and linguistic relevance.
- Attention to suspicious cases.
- Implementation of measures with cultural relevance.
- Care of the deceased.
- Respect for self-determination and autonomy.
- Economic and social recovery strategy.
- Transfers.
- Interpretation.

INPI also participates in the design and implementation of the new Community Health Model of the National Health System that corresponds to Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities. The model comprises:

- ◆ Primary health care, nutrition, education and territorial management relevant for a comprehensive response to COVID-19.
- ◆ Active participation and co-responsibility of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities, in coordinated action with state health care structures (clinics and hospitals of the Ministry of Health and the IMSS-Bienestar System).

## Panama

Panama reported that, in 2016, the Ministry of Health (MINSAs) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) carried out a national consultation on priorities in ethnicity and health of the Indigenous and Afro descendant population. They emphasized that, within the framework of the consultation, leaders of the Afro-Panamanian social movement made their contribution to the creation of a regional and local policy on ethnicity and health, through their participation in the design, implementation, evaluation and reformulation of health plans, programs and policies for the Afro descendant population.

They highlighted that, as a result of this event, the proposal to build a regional policy is strengthened so the Panamanian State has included in its agenda of priorities and work for Afro descendants, the implementation of the Strategy and Plan of Action on Ethnicity and Health 2019- 2025.

They also reported that the National Secretariat for the Development of Afro-Panamanians (SENADAP) will soon be managing the project “Analysis of Genomic

Markers and their Implication in Predictive, Preventive and Personalized Medicine of the Panamanian Population - Pilot Project: Afro-Panamanian Population”. The project has a scope of 10% of the population with the following objectives:

- Define the structure of the population sample and the strategy to collect genetic, phenotypic and medical information from health personnel.
- Generate a database that contains the genealogical, phenotypic and clinical genomic information of the Panamanian population.
- Identify the size of the Afro descendant population in Panama through genetic ancestry.
- Identify the genetic variants associated with a greater predisposition to develop different types of cancer, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, among others, in the Afro-Panamanian population.
- Evaluate the presence of genetic markers that lead to the development of metabolic diseases in Panamanian newborns.
- Evaluate the presence of genetic markers that can contribute to the development of severe development of severe SARS-Cov-2.
- Elaborate population genetic reports for the Panamanian population sample as a whole.
- Provide participating individuals and health personnel involved with an informative report of the findings on their Disseminate the results of this research to the participating Afro descendant groups and communities.
- Design and implement components of a training program for the involved health personnel to foster their understanding of the use of genomic tools in their professional practice.

## Peru

Peru reported that the Administrative Directive for the Registration of Ethnicity in the Health Information System (Administrative Directive No. 240-MINSA/2017/INS) was approved, which aims to strengthen the registration process of ethnicity in information systems of institutions that provide public and private health services.

In this regard, this Directive regulated the incorporation of an ethnic self-identification question in the HIS File, which consists of a record that compiles information generated by health establishments on a daily basis.

However, it was pointed out that there is no information on the response rate to this question, nor on the number of Afro-Peruvians treated according to this registry.

It was also recognized that the implementation of the Directive has had its difficulties. In the first place, there is no standardized methodology for health personnel to collect the information, and some of the personnel did not even ask the question, which is primarily a question of the capabilities of the human resources. Secondly, the criterion for coding the ethnicity of the users is the observation of physical characteristics without asking any kind of question; thus, the majority of informants indicated that they frequently registered people as “mestizos.”

The approval of the Technical Health Standard for the management of the Clinical History (Technical Norm No. 139-MINSA/2018/DGAIN) was reported. It aims to establish administrative technical procedures for the management, conservation and disposal of medical records, in addition to standardizing the basic content that will be recorded. In this context, it was recognized that there is currently no record on research, prevention and health care programs focused on prevalent diseases of the

Afro-Peruvian people that have been designed or implemented by the Ministry of Health or Regional Governments.

They also reported that, in terms of concrete actions that are not related to specific programs, MINSA, through the Directorate of Indigenous or Native Peoples, carried out comprehensive health and ethnic self-identification campaigns for Afro-Peruvians in the district of Pisco<sup>10</sup>, La Victoria<sup>11</sup>, Chulucanas<sup>12</sup>, where preventive and promotional medical services were offered.

Moreover, Peru reported on the approval of the Administrative Directive for the adaptation of health services with cultural relevance in the first level of care (Administrative Directive No. 261-MINSA / 2019 / DGI / ESP), which aims to establish criteria and procedures for health facilities of the first level of care so that they may make their services more culturally relevant. The standards and indicators for measuring cultural relevance, indicated in the Directive, incorporate care for people of African descent.

## (d) Housing

### OBJECTIVE 2

1. *Facilitate access to decent and dignified housing with basic utility services for persons of African descent, especially those in vulnerable circumstances.*

## Canada

Canada reported that, in October 2020, the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) co-organized a virtual town hall in which they involved Black-led organizations led, Indigenous and racialized individuals, to identify the housing challenges they face, especially in light of the disparities revealed as a result of COVID-19.

In addition, the Federal Secretariat presented many of the recommendations for policies, programs, and services related to housing that address systemic racism against people of African descent to Federal Government counterparts. Following the session, the Government of Canada committed CA\$ 40 million to tackle systemic racism against people of African descent in housing. Funding will be distributed through CMHC and the national nonprofit Habitat for Humanity Canada.

The budget is slated to create approximately 200 energy-efficient homes nationwide for Black Canadians. This new funding is in addition to the CA\$ 32.4 million partnership between the Government and Habitat for Humanity Canada to build up to 414 new homes across Canada.

This builds on the Government of Canada's work to address systemic racism against Black Canadians and takes steps to advance the Canadian anti-racism strategy, justice reforms, and improved local community support for Black Canadian youth.

In addition, in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, support is being provided to organizations that help Canadians. This includes, for example, an investment of CA\$ 350 million to support Canadians in vulnerable situations through charities and non-profit organizations that provide essential services to those in need.

Additionally, the Rapid Housing Initiative is being introduced to help address the urgent housing needs of vulnerable Canadians through the rapid creation of new affordable housing. This CA\$ 1 billion initiative will cover the construction of modular homes, as well as the acquisition of land and the conversion of existing buildings into affordable housing. It is expected to enable the rapid creation of up to 3,000 new affordable housing units nationwide and will also help stimulate the economy.



Photo by Matheus Coelho Destefani

# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

---

Racism, racial discrimination and related forms of intolerance, including colorism, have been and continue to be part of our societies and have a direct impact on the lives of people of African descent and, in an aggravated manner, on those belonging to other groups in situations of vulnerability within the Afro descendant population.

Given this situation where their human rights are being affected and violated, it is important to highlight that the OAS member states and the OAS General Secretariat have been implementing a series of actions to make visible and improve the situation of people of African descent in the Americas.

However, many efforts remain pending in order to promote the full, free and equal participation of Afro descendants in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life; as well as, to face the scourge of racism, discrimination and intolerance in our societies, which is a problem that affects society in general.

The Plan of Action for the Decade of Afro descendants in the Americas (2016-2025), through its implementation, serves as a roadmap to take concrete measures to combat racism, racial discrimination and related forms of intolerance against people of African descent, and to eliminate the barriers that prevent their inclusion in all aspects of life in the societies of the Americas.

In this regard, the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS recommends:

- Political and economic support for actions for the inclusion of the Afro descendant population in the member states and in the OAS.

- The financing of Afro descendant government institutions and policies for the Afro descendant population in the member states and at the OAS.
- The provision of human and financial resources for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025) in the member states and in the OAS.
- The institutionalization of affirmative actions for the Afro descendant population in the member states and in the OAS, in accordance with the mandates of the Plan of Action and International Human Rights Law.
- Regular training on Afro descendant issues for public officials at all levels in the member states and at the OAS.
- The establishment of strategic public-private alliances for the inclusion of the Afro descendant population in the member states and in the OAS.
- The ratification, accession and implementation of the Inter-American Conventions against Racism, All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.
- The effective civil and criminal sanction of racial discrimination and intolerance against people of African descent in the member states.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

## (a) Publications and Press Releases

Antón, J. and others. Afrodescendientes en América Latina y el Caribe: Del reconocimiento Estadístico a la realización de derechos, Serie Población y Desarrollo [Afro descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: From Statistical Recognition to the Realization of Rights, Population and Development]. Series, No. 87. 2009

Bello, Álvaro. Rol de los Políticos y los Partidos Políticos en el Combate al Racismo, la Discriminación Racial, la Xenofobia y las Formas Relacionadas de Intolerancia [Role of Politicians and Political Parties in Combating Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance]. Presentation to the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2016

World Bank, Afro descendants in Latin America: Towards a Framework of Inclusion. 2018

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Social, Racial and Gender Profile of the 500 Largest Brazilian Companies and their Affirmative Actions. 2017

United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. General recommendation No. 34: Racial Discrimination against Afro descendants. 2011

Del Popolo, Fabiana, and Schkolnik, Susana. Pueblos indígenas y afrodescendientes en los censos de población y vivienda de América Latina: avances y desafíos en el derecho a la información [Indigenous and Afro descendant Peoples in the Population and Housing Censuses of Latin America: Progress and Challenges in the Right to Information], Population Notes, No. 40. 2013

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Situación de las personas Afrodescendientes en América Latina y Desafíos de Políticas para la Garantía de sus Derechos [Situation of Afro descendant people in Latin America and Policy Challenges for the Guarantee of their Rights]. 2019

Afrodescendientes y la matriz de la desigualdad social de América Latina: Retos para la inclusión [Afro descendants and the matrix of social inequality in Latin America: Challenges for inclusión]. 2020

People of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean: Developing indicators to measure and counter inequalities. 2020

Afro descendant women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Debts of Equality. 2019

Situación de las personas afrodescendientes en América Latina y desafíos de políticas para la garantía de sus derechos [Situation of People of African descent in Latin America and Policy Challenges to Guarantee their Rights. 2017

Contar con Todos: Caja de Herramientas para la Inclusión de Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes en los Censos de Población y Vivienda [Counting on Everyone: Toolbox for the Inclusion of Indigenous and Afro descendant Peoples in Population and Housing Censuses

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), The Situation of People of African Descent in the Americas. 2011

Second Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas. 2012

Police Violence against Afro descendants in the United States. 2018

Indigenous Peoples, Communities of African Descent, Extractive Industries. 2016

El País newspaper. Una diputada negra denuncia “racismo institucional” tras detener la policía su coche en Londres [A black female MP claims “institutional racism” after the police stop her car in London]. 2020

La Nación newspaper. Epsy Campbell alega sufrir campaña racista y machista en su contra [Epsy Campbell claims to suffer from a racist and sexist campaign against her]. Costa Rica. 2018

Organization of American States. Estándares de Protección de Afrodescendientes en el Sistema Interamericano: Una Breve Introducción [Standards for the Protection of Afro descendants in the Inter-American System: A Brief Introduction]. 2011

Manual de Formación de Formadores de Líderes Afrodescendientes en las Américas [Training Manual for Trainers of Afro descendant Leaders in the Americas]. 2012

Observing the Electoral Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro descendants: A Manual for OAS Electoral Observation Missions. 2015

International Labor Organization (ILO), Third Supplementary Report: International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). 2016

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Policy on ethnicity and health. 2017

Press Release: Countries urged to face challenge of better access to health for populations of African descent in COVID-19 pandemic. 2020

## **(b) Submitted Reports**

Verbal Note from the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the OAS.

Document of the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of the Argentine Nation.

Proposal for the Preparation of the National Afro Plan - Interministerial Working Document sent by the National Directorate for Racial Equity, Migrants and Refugees of the Secretariat for Human Rights of the Argentine Nation.

Subsídios do Estado Situação Das Pessoas Afrodescendentes no Plano De Ação Da Decade Two Afrodescendants Nas Americas.

Government of Canada Report on Canada's Progress regarding the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).

Report of the Government of Colombia on the Current Situation of People of African Descent and progress in the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade of Persons of African Descent in the Americas.

Inputs from the Government of Costa Rica for the Regional Report of the Plan of Action for the Decade of Persons of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).

Verbal Note from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the OAS.

Technical Report of the National Council for Equality of Peoples and Nationalities of Ecuador on the Implementation of Actions of the Decade.

Report of the Mexican Government on the Situation of People of African Descent and progress in the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade of People of African Descent in the Americas.

Report of the National Secretariat for the Development of Afro-Panamanians – SENADAP on the Situation of People of African Descent and Progress in the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade of Persons of African Descent in the Americas.

Report of the Directorate of Policies for the Afro-Peruvian Population of the Ministry of Culture on the State of the Situation of People of African Descent and progress of the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade of Persons of African Descent in the Americas.

Verbal Note from the Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the OAS.

Verbal Note from the Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the OAS.

Verbal Note from the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the OAS.

Information from Saint Vincent and Grenadines about the Progress of the Implementation of the Decade for Persons of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).





ISBN 978-0-8270-7259-7



**OAS**

More rights for more people

ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

SECRETARY FOR ACCESS  
TO RIGHTS AND EQUITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
INCLUSION