



Activities of the 2024 Inter-American Week for Indigenous Peoples

August 5-9, 2024

The Organization of American States (OAS) will celebrate the **2024 Inter-American Week for Indigenous Peoples** under the theme, *“Empowering Indigenous communities to exercise their right to access to justice and to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.”* The activities seek to raise awareness about the right of Indigenous communities to a healthy environment and their right to protect communities, and the world, against the impact of climate change.

The commemorative Week will seek to recognize indigenous people’s ancestral knowledge and their guardianship of the ecosystem, and the importance of acknowledging and involving Indigenous communities as key actors and strategic leaders in the climate agenda.

The OAS will host a series of events to celebrate the Week in keeping with the aforementioned theme:

A. Launch of the Week

Monday, August 5 | 10:30am | Hall of the Americas, OAS Main Building

The Week will be officially launched at an in-person ceremony at the OAS Main building and will include presentations by the OAS Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General as well as a spiritual invocation from an indigenous leader and traditional cultural performances.

The opening will be followed by a short ceremony to unveil paintings donated by Member States on the wall to be designated as the “Wall in Recognition of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas.” A reception hosted by the Permanent Mission of Peru to the OAS will follow the unveiling.

B. Webinar on “Older Indigenous Peoples: Realities and Challenges”

Thursday, August 8 | 2pm | Facebook Live @OEAIInclusion

Organized by the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, in collaboration with ECLAC and PAHO, this event will delve into the unique experiences and challenges faced by older Indigenous individuals. Expert speakers will discuss critical issues such as healthcare access, cultural preservation, and social support, as well as their resilience and contributions, and the systemic barriers they face. The webinar will feature simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, English, and Portuguese. Viewers can tune in live on Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/OEAIInclusion>.

C. Special Session of the Permanent Council to Celebrate the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples and the Inter-American Week

Friday, August 9 | 10am | Simon Bolivar Room, OAS Main Building

The Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2022–2026) envisages, among other activities, the annual commemoration of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples on August 9, focusing on activities that promote and highlight the culture of Indigenous Peoples by sharing their traditions, recognizing, and appreciating their languages, transmitting their history, and highlighting their contributions in different areas.

D. Activities in Member States (Organized by the Representatives of the OAS Country Offices)

August 5-9, 2024

Lecture series: Prominent Indigenous leaders and indigenous youth as well as national authorities will be featured and interviewed on how indigenous communities are using traditional indigenous customs along with modern technology to foster environmental preservation and sustainable development.

Showcasing best practices in Indigenous communities which create a healthy environment in the fight against climate change: These best practices will be compiled and shared in various formats, subject to the discretion of the Country Offices.

E. Highlights of Indigenous leaders and Indigenous youth: their advocacy for healthier, cleaner environments

August 5 – 9, 2024

Written profiles or video messages from Indigenous leaders and Indigenous youth who have been recognized or identified as advocates for healthier, cleaner environments will be featured on the OAS website and social media platforms.

The messages will pay tribute to Indigenous young content creators in the Americas as agents of change, showcasing their invaluable work and contributions in preserving indigenous ancestral knowledge.

F. A Chat with the OAS - Special Edition

Monday, August 12, 2024 | 11am

Register in advance for this event:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltceqhrjgrHACs85FU4Ahc9EzbJlMUEBA>

A live online virtual conversation, between a high-level official from the OAS Member Countries and a senior official on the theme: *“Lessons learned from Indigenous Peoples to protect the environment and limit the impact of climate change”*.

The Chat will include interview discussions with recognized indigenous leaders to discuss the importance of empowering Indigenous communities to exercise their right to a healthy environment.