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Information on the actions undertaken for the promotion of the rights of national or ethnic, religious or belief and linguistic minorities, within the legal and public policy framework.

The indigenous nationalities and peoples, the Afro-Ecuadorian people and the Montubio people make up 21% of the country's total population. The Ecuadorian State in its Constitution declares itself sovereign, independent, plurinational, intercultural and secular, and guarantees individual and collective rights, with principles of equality, inclusion and non-discrimination. "Individuals, communities, peoples, nationalities and collectives are holders and shall enjoy the rights guaranteed in the Constitution and in international instruments. Nature shall be the subject of those rights recognised by the Constitution", which also enshrines the rights of indigenous, Afro-descendant and Montubio communities, peoples and nationalities with regard to identity, ancestral traditions, equality and non-discrimination, in relation to:

- reparation and redress,

- conservation of community lands,

- possession of ancestral lands and territories,

- participation in the use and usufruct of renewable natural resources,

- free and informed prior consultation, management of biodiversity, their own system of coexistence and social organisation,

- exercise of authority and autonomy in their ancestral tetranslationECUADOR

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- exercise of authority and autonomy in their ancestral territories,

- practice of customary law, rritories,

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- knowledge and practice of science, technology and ancestral knowledge,

- practice of ancestral medicine,

- recovery and practice of culture and history;

- intercultural bilingual education system,

- participation in official bodies, and

- communication in their own languages.

Indigenous nationalities and peoples maintain their own language and manage to keep their ritual and knowledge systems alive.

National Council for the Equality of Peoples and Nationalities

In compliance with the constitutional norm, the National Councils for Equality were created in 2014 by an organic law. The National Council for the Equality of Peoples and Nationalities (CNIPN) ensures compliance with the specific rights of peoples and nationalities through the formulation and promotion of public policies contained in the Agenda for Equal Rights of Nationalities, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Ecuadorian People and Montubio People 2019 - 2021.

The Agenda is a planning instrument that sets out thematic axes, policies and guidelines to be taken into account in the Intersectoral and Sectoral Coordination Agendas, with the aim of reducing economic and social gaps and asymmetries, eradicating poverty, as well as promoting political and social inclusion, based on participation, respect for constitutional guarantees and rights and combating racism and discrimination, in addition to facilitating methodological tools for the incorporation of equality and inclusion, intercultural and plurinational issues.

The Agenda has incorporated 11 axes of intervention, those of Education, Culture and Justice are part of the actions for the promotion of the rights of national or ethnic, religious or belief and linguistic minorities.

The National Council for the Equality of Peoples and Nationalities is working on a strategy to mainstream the Agenda at all levels of government. Ecuador, as a constitutional state of rights and justice, requires all state functions, institutions and bodies to "ensure the full validity and effective enjoyment of constitutional individual and collective rights, as well as those provided for in international instruments".

Intercultural Bilingual Education

The Secretariat of the Intercultural Bilingual Education System, attached to the Ministry of Education, contributes to the construction of the plurinational and intercultural state from the perspective of the wisdom, knowledge, sciences, language, organisation and practices of the peoples and nationalities, with the contributions of science and technology, aimed at improving the conditions and quality of life of the communities.

The Secretariat is responsible for several educational centres throughout the national territory, where technical, pedagogical and administrative training processes are developed, from early childhood, family and community education to higher education, in the different processes, modalities and educational levels with the participation of indigenous, Afro-descendant and Montubio peoples and nationalities.

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Cultural rescue

Article 4 of the Organic Law on Culture establishes the following principles: interculturality, dialogue of the diverse cultures of peoples and nationalities; living culture, promoting the artistic and cultural expressions that arise from communities, peoples and nationalities; cultural sovereignty; the legitimate exercise of the promotion and protection of diversity, national cultural and creative production, social memory and cultural heritage. Its Art. 5 establishes the cultural rights:

(a) cultural and aesthetic identity, to decide on their belonging to one or several cultural communities;

b) protection of ancestral knowledge and intercultural dialogue, recognition of their cosmovisions as forms of perception of the world and ideas;

c) use and valuing of ancestral languages and languages of intercultural relations.

d) social memory, the right to construct and disseminate their social memory;

e) freedom of creation, the right to enjoy independence and autonomy to exercise cultural rights, to create, to circulate their artistic creations and cultural manifestations;

f) access to cultural and heritage goods and services, the right to have access to cultural goods and services, tangible or intangible, and to the information that public and private entities have about them;

g) training in arts, culture and heritage, the right to artistic, cultural and heritage training within the framework of a comprehensive educational process;

h) use, access and enjoyment of public space; and i) the right to efficient and quality public cultural services.

Intangible or immaterial heritage are all the values, knowledge, know-how, technologies, ways of doing, thinking and perceiving the world and, in general, the manifestations that culturally identify communities, peoples and nationalities.

The law also establishes the international mobilisation of national cultural heritage assets, the return of national cultural heritage assets, and the processes and procedures for doing so.

Quito, April 2021

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