

SHADOW REPORT ON THE SEVENTH REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE COLOMBIAN STATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

SITUATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND BLACK AND AFRO-DESCENDANT COMMUNITIES IN THE COLOMBIAN PACIFIC REGION (2018-2024)

Colombian Pacific Regional Coordination -CRPC-, 2025

Presentation

1. The Colombian Pacific Regional Coordination (CRPC - Coordinación Regional del Pacífico Colombiano) is a network that brings together and coordinates 15 ethnic-territorial and social organizations, seven ecclesiastical jurisdictions of the Catholic Church present in the region, as well as academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, The CRPC seeks to create common agendas on the defense of life, the territory, ethnic rights, and contribute to the construction of territorial peace with a differential approach.
2. In recent years, the CRPC has monitored the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). This monitoring included participation of Indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombian and Black communities in the Colombian Pacific region¹ who are affected by rights violations. This report covers the 2018 to 2024 period, encompassing the Iván Duque (2018-2022) and Gustavo Petro (2022-2026) administrations. In 2017, the CESCR made 54 recommendations to the Colombian State with the aim of ensuring compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Of these recommendations, nine² refer specifically to Indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples, and six are related to the rights prioritized in the monitoring performed by the Colombian Pacific Regional Coordination (CRPC).
3. Although nine of the 54 recommendations directly involve aspects related to the rights of ethnic groups, it was decided to focus monitoring on those related to the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement (AFP) with the FARC-EP (2016), the reconfiguration of the armed conflict, and the situation of human rights defenders and ethnic authorities, which are central issues for ethnic-territorial organizations in the Pacific and which the CESCR assessment confirmed to be one of its central concerns.
4. However, the in-depth analysis focuses on four rights that, according to the ethnic-territorial organizations in the region, have been most affected during this period: first, the right to self-determination, consisting of the conditions and guarantees for ethnic groups to freely decide on the present and future of their territories, exercise authority, control, self-government, and self-manage their collective life; second, the right to food, which is substantial as an expression of identity, culture, and forms of production that privilege the food autonomy and sovereignty of ethnic peoples; thirdly, the right to water, which is essential because, according to Indigenous worldviews, it is a source of life and spirituality for Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities; and lastly, the right to the environment, as the element that links spiritual and cultural life with ancestral practices in the management and use of the territory and natural resources. The connection among

¹ This region is located in the west of the country, a strip extending from north to south of the national territory, between the Panama border in the northwest and the border with Ecuador to the south, known as the Chocó biogeographic region. It covers 47 municipalities in five departments: Chocó (31), Nariño (10), Cauca (3), Antioquia (2), and Valle del Cauca (1), equivalent to 4% of all administrative territorial entities and 7% of the total national territory. More than 1.5 million people live in this region (2.8% of the country's total population), of whom 80% are Black, Afro-descendant, Raizal, and Palenquera; 12% belong to Indigenous ethnicities (Emberá Dóbida, Katío, Chamí, Eyabida, Wounaan, Guna Dule, Zenú, Eperara Siapidara, and Awá), and 8% are mestizo.

² The recommendations are grouped into the following themes: Rights of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples; Discrimination against Indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples; Equality between men and women; Gender gaps in the workplace; Access to land; Right to health; Right to education; and Cultural rights.

these rights is considered fundamental to guarantee a dignified life for ethnic peoples in their territories.

5. In addition, this report references emblematic cases that illustrate the impacts suffered in the different subregions that make up the Pacific region, to highlight the territorial, environmental, cultural, social, and economic damage and impacts that currently affect ethnic groups in this region. Recommendations are suggested for the CDESCR to include in its general observations to the Colombian State with the aim of promoting, protecting, and guaranteeing their economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (DESCR). The report concludes with a section on general conclusions.
6. This report also seeks to maintain an ethnic, differential, and intersectional approach, given that an omission of the approaches often leads to a homogeneous treatment of the population that does not take into account the historic structural inequalities faced by Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. This leads to public policies that do not respond to the true territorial, cultural, and socioeconomic conditions, national indicators that do not reflect deep ethnic and territorial gaps, and a lack of knowledge of Indigenous peoples' own knowledge, forms of social organization, worldviews, and systems of production, health, justice, environmental care, and education.

A. Introduction

7. During the period covered by this report (2018 to 2024) the ethnic peoples and communities of the Pacific experienced a systematic deterioration of their DESCR and their rights to self-determination and autonomy (United Nations, 1966, Art. 1), associated with five factors: (i) the persistence of a system of exclusion and structural racism against ethnic peoples and communities and their forms of self-government; (ii) the continuity of a development model based on intensive extractive activities (legal and illegal) with irreparable socio-environmental damage; (iii) the expansion of inequality and multidimensional poverty, aggravated during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the lack of differentiated actions to address the crisis;³ (iv) the lack of a comprehensive implementation of the AFP—in particular the Ethnic Chapter (CE)⁴—which contributed to a reconfiguration of the conflict and expansion of illegal armed groups, delaying promises of transformation and territorial development; and (v) the presence and socio-territorial control of illegal armed groups seeking to replace the State locally, using a criminal governance strategy based on the drug trafficking economy and the exploitation of natural resources.
8. In the period analyzed in this report, the combination of these factors has generated a humanitarian crisis, of such magnitude that it has seriously endangered not only the survival of ethnic peoples, but also the major biodiversity and ecosystemic wealth of the Chocó biogeographic region.

B. General concerns and recommendations on the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement (AFP), the reconfiguration of the armed conflict, and the situation of human rights defenders and ethnic authorities in the Pacific region

9. During the reviewed period, there was a lack of significant progress generated by the last two Colombian administrations in response to the observations and recommendations made by the CDESCR in 2017 on AFP implementation (No. 8) and the protection of human rights defenders (No. 10, paragraphs a, b, and c).
10. The Iván Duque administration (2018-2022) was characterized by a lack of recognition of the AFP's legitimacy, leading to implementation delays, particularly regarding political participation and comprehensive rural reform. Of special note is the absence of territorial transformation plans with

³ Although there is limited analysis on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Colombia's ethnic populations (especially Indigenous peoples), it is known that the fatality rate for the Afro-descendant population was 25% higher than the rest of the population (Larrahondo and Viáfara, 2020). This is due to the existence of higher comorbidity rates and precarious access to living conditions and basic sanitation, which in 2018 were estimated at 33.6%. In turn, the pandemic had differential impacts on the multidimensional poverty experienced by the ethnic populations in this region, as evidenced by the MPI, which in 2020 was 20%, 1.9% higher than the national average (18.1%).

⁴ The Ethnic Chapter, which is crosscutting in the Agreement, recognizes the rights of Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants as collective subjects of rights, incorporating their worldviews and norms, and guarantees their participation in the implementation, monitoring, and verification of the AFP.

an ethnic focus (PDET). The Petro administration has designed a roadmap to implement the AFP, based on a reformulation of the Implementation Framework Plan (PMI) and the design of territorial transformation plans, however they lack concrete implementation. By 2024, only 34% of the AFP provisions had been fully implemented, 19% showed intermediate progress, 38% showed minimal progress, and in 9% implementation had not yet begun. This data indicates that almost half of the commitments (47%) did not have the material, institutional, or contextual conditions to ensure fulfillment by 2031. With regard to the Ethnic Chapter, 61% of all measures were found to have minimal progress (Kroc Institute, 2024) and 43.48% of the 100 PMI indicators had been implemented (IEANPE, 2024).

11. The AFP's poor implementation contributed to illegal armed groups occupying territories abandoned by the FARC and has prevented the necessary territorial transformations from occurring and thus ensuring a dignified life for the ethnic communities and peoples of the Pacific region. During the Duque administration, there was a significant increase in illegal groups, with a 15% growth (Ministry of Defense, 2023) of organized armed groups (GAO) in the country: The Gulf Clan (also known as the Gaitan Self-defense Forces of Colombia-AGC, which is currently self-denominated as the Gaitan Army of Colombia-EGC); National Liberation Army (ELN); and FARC splinter groups led by Gentil Duarte and the Second Marquetalia (Pares, 2022). During the Petro administration, despite efforts under the Total Peace Policy, illegal armed groups have increased in strength and grown by 7%: Gulf Clan (EGC), ELN, ELN splinter groups, and five factions of the former FARC guerrilla group that did not join the AFP (Reuters, 2025). In conclusion, during the current administration, GAOs have grown by 45% since the signing of the AFP; this new spiral of violence has had serious repercussions on the guarantee of the rights for the population in the Pacific region.
12. According to the Human Rights Ombuds' Office (2025), there are four active humanitarian emergencies in the Pacific region: (i) in Chocó, clashes between the ELN and the EGC, as well as the recent incursion of a FARC splinter group led by alias "Mordisco," have created a situation of confinement due to armed clashes and the presence of anti-personnel mines near villages and schools; (ii) in Nariño, the confrontations between Mordisco's splinter group and the Comuneros Front of the South (formerly ELN) over drug trafficking routes and illegal mining have made this the department most impacted by forced displacement nationally (OCHA, 2024); (iii) in the Pacific region of Cauca, the military offensive against FARC splinter groups has led to serious international humanitarian law infractions, including the stigmatization, harassment, and displacement of communities; (iv) in the Pacific Valle del Cauca region, especially in Bajo Calima, there are disputes between the ELN, EGC, and the "Wilson González" splinter group, leading to confinement, kidnappings, recruitment, and homicides, with a disproportionate impact on Afro-descendant and Indigenous communities.⁵
13. The victimizing acts perpetrated by armed actors that most impact ethnic communities in the Pacific include: an increase in accidents caused by anti-personnel mines and an increase in the recruitment and use of children and adolescents for war (a concern also expressed by the CESCR in 2017 (*EC12COLCO6, para. 44*). In 2023 alone, the departments with the highest number of reported victims of MAP/UXO were Nariño, Chocó, Cauca, and Bolívar, which accounted for 80% of reported victims. (UNMAS, 2024). Regarding forced recruitment, between 2019 and 2024, cases of children and adolescents being involved in or recruited into the armed conflict increased by 89%, from 67 cases reported in 2019 to 127 in 2024, according to reports by the Coalition Against the Involvement of Children and Youth in Armed Conflict in Colombia (COALICO).
14. Despite the political dialogues and socio-legal conversation spaces (ECSJ) that the current national government maintains with different illegal armed groups within the framework of the Total Peace Policy, no significant progress has yet to be observed in the territories. The temporary ceasefire agreements reached with some of these groups have not led to an improvement in the humanitarian

⁵ The situation of urban violence in the main cities of the Pacific region, Quibdó and Buenaventura, is also a cause for concern. In Quibdó, capital of the department of Chocó, there are seven armed criminal structures ("Los Mexicanos," "Locos Yam," "RPS," "Los Z," "Revolución Cabi") and two illegal armed groups of a national character (EGC and ELN) (OPT; 2025). In the urban area of Buenaventura, there is an active dispute between the urban armed groups Shottas and Espartanos.

situation in the region, nor have they included the humanitarian relief proposals developed by ethnic organizations.⁶

15. The armed conflict's reconfiguration in the Pacific region has mainly impacted the lives and physical and psychological integrity of leaders, ethnic authorities, and defenders of ethnic-territorial rights. During the Duque administration, violence against this population intensified, with the Pacific region being one of the regions most affected by high murder rates: 340 murders in Cauca; 151 in Nariño; 117 in Valle del Cauca (Indepaz, 2022); although Chocó suffered violence in its territories, there are not clear public figures. The state response to this phenomenon was ineffective. On the other hand, in the first year of Petro's administration, there was a 10% reduction in the number of cases compared to the previous administration, while between 2023 and 2024⁷ there was a 7% reduction (Indepaz, 2024). Despite the reduced numbers, impunity and a lack of state protection continue.
16. These attacks have mainly affected individuals and organizations that champion the defense of the territory, natural resources, victims' rights, land restitution, community agendas, and AFP implementation in the territory. One factor contributing to the persecution and attack of ethnic leaders is related to the interests of elites and regional power groups that oppose the AFP and the reforms and changes it entails (especially in relation to returns, land restitution, and reparation measures). It is presumed that these groups have allied themselves with legal and illegal armed actors to persecute and attack social leaders and human rights defenders and supporters of the AFP. (Human Rights Ombuds' Office, 2017).
17. **Given the prior, it is proposed that the CESCER make the following recommendations to the Colombian State:**
 - a. Require governments (national and local) to comply with their constitutional duty to implement the AFP and the CE, as these were enshrined as State policy and are not merely government policy. To this end, emergency plans should be designed, with a sufficient and disaggregated budget allocation, to enable faster progress to implement the PDET's with a differential ethnic approach, carrying out the prior consultation and consultation exercises necessary to implement the CE.
 - b. Implement effective measures to end the armed conflict and consolidate territorial peace through dialogue and negotiation, recognizing and implementing the humanitarian relief proposals developed by ethnic groups.
 - c. Advance toward a comprehensive model of collective protection for ethnic organizations and communities in a concerted manner, to strengthen organizational initiatives and defend territories, with an emphasis on ethnic leadership and authorities, taking into account the collective protection models that have been autonomously developed to mitigate the impacts of armed confrontation and guarantee ESCER.
 - d. Promote a comprehensive plan for the prevention, immediate response, and investigation of the recruitment and use of children and adolescents in the Pacific region. Ethnic organizations must participate in the design of this plan.

C. Main ESCER violations in the Pacific and recommendations to fully guarantee the conditions that ensure a dignified life for Indigenous peoples and Black and Afro-descendant communities.

18. During this period, there has been a lack of significant progress in response to the general observations and recommendations made by the CESCER in 2017, especially those related to: the right to adequate food (No. 58); the right to water, the protection of water resources and access to drinking water (No. 60); overcoming structural discrimination in the enjoyment of ESCER by Indigenous peoples and Black communities (No. 24); equal access to ESCER for rural and ethnic women (No. 26); and the right to prior consultation in decision-making that can impact the exercise of ESCER by Indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples (No. 18, paragraphs a, b, and c).

⁶ These proposals include: the Chocó Humanitarian Agreement Now! and the Humanitarian Strip of Bajo Calima (Buenaventura) and San Juan (Chocó).

⁷ That year, there were 17 murders in Nariño (Indepaz, 2024), 18 in Valle del Cauca, and 23 in Cauca, while in Chocó there was a 600% increase in violence, although detailed figures are not available (Somos Defensores, 2024).

19. The Duque administration had a low level of compliance in response to the recommendations, characterized by: (i) partial and slow implementation of gender measures, with an approach to equity that focused on security rather than rights, limiting the effective guarantee of ESCER for rural and ethnic women; (ii) the continuation of an economic model based on attracting large-scale capital and the intensive exploitation of natural resources, instead of promoting development focused on decent work, territorial protections, and environmental sustainability; (iii) disregard for the differential ethnic-racial approach, evidenced in tensions between imposed institutional legal frameworks and Indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples self-government, as well as a lack of protection of ethnic knowledge, practices, and ways of life as pillars of the social, economic, and territorial organization; and (iv) the lack of substantive progress in prior consultations and effective participation of ethnic peoples in decision-making that affects their rights. (PCDHH, CEEU & Alianza, 2021).
20. The Petro administration has shown greater political will to advance in the implementation of the recommendations, promoting measures aimed to: (i) reduce inequality gaps through the creation of the Ministry of Equality and Equity, promote social reforms on labor, healthcare, and social security, and adopt a series of decrees to strengthen the administrative control of ethnic territories by their authorities and self-government bodies; (ii) advance the guarantee of environmental rights, including biodiversity conservation policies, a decarbonization of the economy, and mitigation of climate change impacts; (iii) promote local economies and the production of healthy food; and (iv) promote guarantees on the right to water in excluded and marginalized territories, promoting the protection, care, and sustainability of water sources.
21. However, these policies have not been implemented in a concrete, effective, and sufficient manner in the Pacific region due to factors related to the functioning of the State and its institutional design; the overlap of unresolved conflicts (social, political, and armed); the difficulty of achieving substantial results in the Total Peace policy; the entrenched nature of an economic model that runs counter to these objectives; and the historical debt owed to the territories of ethnic peoples in terms of consolidating the social rule of law.
22. Between 2018 and 2024, the Pacific region maintained its historical trend of multidimensional poverty indexes (MPI) that are higher than the national average, with a considerable increase during the pandemic (2020). In 2023, the Pacific was the region with the second highest MPI at 12.6%, while in 2024 it was ranked third,⁸ with an index of 11.8% (DANE, 2025) (Table 1).

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX							
President	Iván Duque					Gustavo Petro	
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Colombia	19.1%	17.5%	18.1%	16%	12.9%	12.1%	11.5%
Pacific	22.5%	17.7%	20%	14.9%	14.6%	12.6%	11.8%

Table 1. MPI 2018-2024. Prepared using statistical information (DANE, 2025)

23. With regard to the variables relating to the fulfillment of economic and social rights protected by the ICESCR, since 2018 the Pacific region has lagged in most variables, exceeding national indexes, in particular the right to education and work, which shows a persistent ESCR violation. (Table 2). These figures support complaints made by social organizations about the prevalence of structural racism from the Colombian State against the ethnic population living in the Pacific region.

⁸ This was surpassed by the Amazon-Orinoco region with 20.3% and the Caribbean with 18.5% multidimensional poverty.

ESCR INDICATORS 2018 TO 2024															
VARIABLES		PERCENTAGES IVÁN DUQUE GOVERNMENT								PERCENTAGES GUSTAVO PETRO ADMINISTRATION					
		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
		COL	PAC	COL	PAC	COL	PACÍF	COL	PACÍF	COL	PACÍF	COL	PACÍF	COL	PACÍF
EDUCATION	Illiteracy	10	11.9	9.3	10.6	8.4	9.9	8.4	9.4	7.7	8.6	7.5	8.5	7.1	8.3
	Low educational achievement	44.5	52.1	44	52.4	42.2	46.5	40.8	47.6	40.9	48.3	39.4	45.7	38.3	44.1
	School absenteeism	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.6	16.4	17.1	5.5	3.9	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.2	1.8	2
	School delays	27.4	27.5	25.8	24.5	25.9	24.3	24.9	24.2	24.3	23.6	24.3	23.8	22	21.1
HEALTH	Barriers to access health services	6.2	9.9	5.5	4.4	2.2	2.6	2.2	2.4	2	2.2	1.8	1.6	2.9	3
	No health insurance	11	10.1	11.3	8.7	10.8	8.9	10.1	8.4	8.4	7.1	6.7	5.1	6.0	4.9
WATER	No access to treated water sources	11.7	15.2	11.5	15.6	9.7	14.6	10.9	17.8	9.8	15.7	8.8	15.2	8.6	13
EMPLOYMENT	Long-term unemployment	12.1	11.8	12.4	13.4	14.2	14.3	14.1	14.2	13.3	13.8	13.8	13.8	13.3	14
	Informal employment	72.7	77.4	72.9	78.1	74.2	76.9	73.5	79.3	72.7	77.3	71.4	75.5	70.7	76.8
HOUSING	Critical overcrowding	8.3	6.2	8.6	5.5	7.9	5.3	7.9	5.6	7.4	5.7	7.1	4.6	6.1	4.2
	Inadequate human waste disposal	11.6	13.7	11	12.8	10.2	11.3	10.4	12.7	9.7	11.2	9.3	10.5	9.1	10.3
	Inadequate exterior wall material	2.7	3.8	2.6	3	2.5	3.4	2.4	3.3	2.3	3.2	2.1	3.1	2.1	2.7
	Inadequate flooring material	6.2	5.6	6.4	5.6	6.3	5.2	5.9	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.5	4.9	4.2

Table 2. ESCER indicators 2018-2024. Prepared by the author based on statistical information from DANE (2018 to 2024)

24. These conditions of exclusion and impoverishment have been exacerbated by the dynamics of armed conflict. In the Pacific region, violence has historically served as a mechanism to expropriate collective territories, the material foundation to realize the life plans and ethno-development of ethnic peoples and, therefore, of ESCER from an ethnic perspective.
25. **Given the prior, it is proposed that the CDESCR make the following recommendations to the Colombian State:**
 - a. Include the recommendations of previous and future CDESCR reports in municipal and departmental development plans for the Pacific region, as well as a roadmap for their implementation, with participation of the institutions and entities responsible nationally, regional and local administrations, and ethnic authorities.
 - b. Implement policies and programs to overcome deficits in the guarantee of ESCER, especially those with the largest gaps (education, healthcare, work, and social protection), taking into account the specific characteristics of ethnic territories and ensuring the participation of communities in the design and implementation, to advance in overcoming historic inequality in the region.

Right to autonomy and self-government as an exercise of people's free self-determination (Article 1 of the ICESCR)

26. The Indigenous peoples and Black communities of the Pacific region continue to suffer alarming violations of their right to autonomy due to armed violence and the lack of state protections in ethnic territories, which is evident in the weakening of their self-government institutions and mechanisms, as well as in threats to territorial rights. This has prevented ethnic peoples from exercising full use, control, and enjoyment of their territories for the free pursuit of individual and community life, in line with their own visions and commitments for the future. This seriously jeopardizes their physical and cultural survival and demonstrates an ongoing ethnocide.
27. For ethnic-territorial organizations, central elements that violate the right to autonomy and self-government include: (i) the presence and socio-territorial control of armed groups in collective territories; (ii) the consolidation of territorial dispossession and lack of a committed and effective

state action to guarantee the restitution of community territorial right; (iii) systematic violation of the right to free, prior, and informed consultation; (iv) threats and attacks against the life and physical and psychological wellbeing of leaders and ethnic authorities, as well as defenders of ethnic-territorial rights; (v) low level representation and recognition of ethnic authorities in decision-making spaces and the lack of an institutional framework that recognizes their territorial autonomy.

28. The presence and socio-territorial control of illegal armed groups in ethnic territories seeks to establish a criminal governance model⁹ (Johnson, et al. 2025) based on a monopoly of illegal economies associated with drug trafficking, mining, and intensive deforestation. These groups have used a strategy mixing coercion and economic incentives to involve entire communities in illegal and illicit economies, thereby establishing a regulatory social order that inhibits the autonomy and self-government of community councils and Indigenous reservations, exposing the population to further violence. The range of actions used by armed groups to exercise socio-territorial control include:
- (i) Restricting the free movement of communities, as well as the transit and sale of goods and food through the imposition of fixed checkpoints or roadblocks within collective territories.
 - (ii) Confinement and forced displacement, disrupting the productive, social, and spiritual practices that sustain family and community life.
 - (iii) The imposition of rules and norms aimed at regulating daily life, disregarding the norms that the communities themselves have established within the framework of their own laws to manage community coexistence.
 - (iv) Usurping State functions through actions such as tax collection, community infrastructure construction, and the administration of justice.
 - (v) Co-opting self-government bodies in favor of the armed group's interests, through the imposition of external authorities, as well as the persecution and elimination of any form of opposition.
 - (vi) Recruitment, use, and exploitation of community members, especially children and adolescents, to infiltrate different areas of community life, putting community safety at risk and fragmenting community cohesion.
29. The consolidation of a territorial dispossession project¹⁰ and the lack of committed and effective State action to guarantee a restitution of territorial rights for ethnic communities has intensified violations of the right to self-determination. The illegal appropriation of collective lands is underwritten by private economic actors and armed groups, to implement agro-industrial, mining, and illicit crop projects, in the context of organizational weakness and a co-opting of ethnic initiatives and leadership. Faced with this situation, the State has not taken effective measures to counteract and prevent the appropriation of collective territories by third parties, nor has it made timely progress to resolve collective land title applications. Thirteen years after the adoption of Victims' Law 1448, it has also failed in its obligation to return the collective lands that were seized, or to guarantee comprehensive reparations for ethnic groups victims of the internal armed conflict.
30. The systematic violation of the right to free, prior, and informed consultation is perpetrated by: (i) the State's restrictive interpretation and application of this right, which in most cases denies the existence of direct impacts from economic projects promoted by the State or third parties in ethnic territories, a clear contradiction with the related Constitutional Court case law; (ii) the preponderance of "security criteria" as a condition to carry out consultations, ignoring the fact that most ethnic territories are controlled by illegal armed actors; (iii) the asymmetry of power and lack

⁹ Criminal governance refers to a situation where criminal groups exercise control over a given territory and population, especially in areas that lack real sovereignty and a regular State presence, establishing parallel informal institutions. These governance models include dimensions ranging from security (protection, especially from external threats), administration of justice (primarily conflict resolution), and the imposition of rules and punishments, to regulation of the economy, such as taxation. (Johnson, et al. 2025)

¹⁰ Currently, land dispossession has become more sophisticated, mutating from forced methods such as displacement to other strategies, including: (i) "mutual agreement" arrangements, such as indefinite lease contracts, improvement agreements, or the purchase of collective lands; (ii) the gradual and sustained incursion of outsiders (known as settlers or *chilapos* from other regions) who settle in ethnic territories with the intention of working and executing economic projects and who, after a few years, claim land ownership; and (iii) the "seizure of land" by illegal armed actors in the form of penalties for non-payment of rent or taxes.

of guarantees for communities to access complete information has made prior consultations a harmful scenario to negotiate the impacts of business projects, in addition to mitigation and compensation proposals.

31. The intensification of threats and attacks against the life, physical and psychological wellbeing of leaders, ethnic authorities, and defenders of ethnic-territorial rights has weakened organizational initiatives and the self-government of ethnic groups in the region, generating a loss of their own authority figures and truncating efforts for an intergenerational transmission of knowledge, skills, and roles to future leaders. This has impacted the ability of communities and peoples to influence decision-making at different levels of representation and dialogue (local, national, and international), making it impossible to defend rights due to the fear, distress, and despair that have taken hold in communities.
32. The low level of representation and recognition of ethnic authorities in decision-making at the local, regional, and national levels; the lack of an institutional architecture that recognizes and incorporates ethnic territorial autonomy with sufficient and differentiated administrative, budgetary, and technical powers into its administrative levels; and the absence of effective mechanisms to ensure proper coordination and interdependence among the entities has resulted in the exclusion of ethnic communities from access to and management of national development benefits and has impeded a full exercise of autonomy (Tauli-Corpaz, A/74/149, 2019).
33. It is important to recognize that the current administration has taken a series of measures aimed at advancing respect for, promotion of, and guarantees of the right to autonomy, such as the issuance of decrees on ethnic affairs.¹¹ These provisions represent significant regulatory progress in the establishment of Indigenous territorial entities (provided for in Article 329 of the Colombian Constitution) and in the consolidation of administrative control by the community councils of Black communities, giving legal force to the auxiliary case law standards and principles issued by the Constitutional Court in specific cases.
34. However, in response to these measures, ethnic organizations have expressed concern about: the lack of a clear implementation roadmap with sufficient budgetary allocations; challenges to their implementation posed by the de facto power of local elites regionally and the interests of armed actors in ethnic territories; in addition to the lack of a strategy to strengthen the technical, administrative, and legal capacities of ethnic authorities, allowing them to overcome the current weakness of self-government mechanisms and institutions and prevent possible internal divisions and conflicts in these territories.
35. **Given the prior, it is proposed that the CESCR make the following recommendations to the Colombian State:**
 - a. Adopt urgent measures to accelerate the land restitution and collective reparation processes for ethnic communities in the Pacific region that have been victims of the armed conflict, including actions aimed at guaranteeing the effective enjoyment of their collective rights and material equality in access to ESCER. Likewise, enact and strengthen comprehensive protection measures for ethnic territories to halt land dispossession enacted by third parties occupying lands in bad faith; and guarantee the expansion, healing, and titling of ethnic communities' collective territories where required. *Welcoming the recommendations in the Concluding Observations on sixth periodic report on Colombia (EC12COLCO6, para. 50, subparagraphs a and b).*
 - b. Respect, protect, and guarantee the exercise of self-government by the ethnic peoples of the Pacific and create conditions to restore their autonomy through the strengthening of ethnic authorities; the allocation of resources to formulate and/or update and implement life plans,

¹¹ In the case of **Indigenous peoples**, the following are noteworthy: Decree 1275 of 2024, which confers environmental powers to Indigenous authorities and regulates their effective coordination with other environmental authorities and/or State entities; Decree 488 of 2025, which lays down the necessary rules to implement Indigenous Territories; Decree 480 of 2025, which establishes and implements the Indigenous Intercultural Health System (SISPI); Decree 481 of 2025, which recognizes and establishes the Indigenous Education System (SEIP). In the case of **Black communities**, the regulatory decrees of Law 70 of 1993 are noteworthy, namely Decree 1384 of 2023, which regulates Chapter IV on the management of renewable natural resources and the environment in the territories of Black, Afro-descendant, Raizal and Palenque (NARP) communities, and Decree 1396 of 2023, which regulates Chapter V, adopting special mechanisms to promote and execute mining activities in the collective territories of NARP communities.

safeguarding and ethno-development, internal regulations, and environmental management plans; and the strengthening of Indigenous and maroon guards. *Welcoming the recommendations in the Concluding Observations on sixth periodic report on Colombia (EC12COLCO6, para. 18, subparagraph c).*

- c. Enact a statutory law that comprehensively regulates the right to free, prior, and informed consultation in accordance with the case law of the Constitutional Court and relevant international law provisions. *Welcoming the recommendations in the Concluding Observations on sixth periodic report on Colombia (EC12COLCO6, para. 18, subparagraph a).*

Right to food (Article 11 of the ICESCR)

36. For the ethnic peoples of the Pacific, the right to food is related to the free availability of natural resources and goods, their wealth, and the capacity to be self-sufficient in accordance with the productive dynamics inherent to the community. They defend food autonomy and sovereignty as a model that provides material support to exercise self-government and autonomy over collective territories. According to their worldview, guaranteeing this right means: tenure, use, and control of land and its resources; a healthy and ecologically balanced environment; cultural integrity; local development; technical assistance; sales and distribution channels; and the safeguarding of ancestral knowledge, such as the protection of native seeds and care for nature.
37. In 2017, the CESCR recommended that the State intensify its efforts to combat climate change impacts as an essential element to guarantee the right to food. However, little progress has been made. The State imposition of macroeconomic policies, violent dispossession strategies for land accumulation aimed at the implementation of extractive megaprojects, as well as pollution of water sources, air, and changes in the morphology of territories and soils (especially due to indiscriminate spraying of illicit crops in the context of the war on drugs) have impacted ecosystems and land use, transforming their agricultural vocation and consequently affecting the ancestral practices and knowledge of the traditional food system.
38. During the period under review, the right to food for the ethnic peoples of the Pacific was marked by structural violations and access restrictions, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.¹² The Pacific region food crisis stems from factors such as: (i) environmental degradation due to pollution and changes in land use, as described in the previous paragraph; (ii) systematic violence associated with the dispute over territorial control by illegal armed actors, which restricts free movement and access to traditional food sources; (iii) production models that prioritize monoculture, such as bananas, oil palm, and coca, which deplete soil nutrients, require the use of chemicals, and reduce biodiversity; and (iv) the ineffectiveness of public policies that guarantee this right, based on welfare approaches that ignore the reality of the territories, culture, and worldview of ethnic groups, which additionally have not been consulted. Of particular concern is the loss of native seeds associated with these factors and the implementation of projects from a limited food security approach.¹³
39. Although the Food and Nutritional Security Policy (PSAN) is in place, respect, protection, and the guarantee of this right have been deficient due to the lack of a structural, sustained, and comprehensive approach by the State. This situation was aggravated by the welfare-based approach to this right during the Duque administration, which limited resources for structural transformation and emphasized coverage through food programs that proved to be palliative.
40. During the Petro administration, a rights-based approach has been adopted, promoting food sovereignty, driving territorial transformations, and increasing the budget allocated to agrarian reform. Examples of this are the Departmental Food Security Plans, with investment geared toward rural development, including specific actions aimed at the ethnic population of the Pacific region, such as promoting the consumption of local products. However, these initiatives have not yet

¹²In this regard, the Colombian Pacific Regional Coordination (2020) produced a special report on the impact on ESCR during the COVID-19 pandemic. See more at: <https://cococauca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Territorio-de-Etnias-No-15.pdf>

¹³ This prioritizes, among other things: i) the use or delivery of genetically modified seeds (single harvest); ii) self-sufficiency and self-consumption by communities under the argument of mitigating food insecurity, ignoring the reality of the low quality of the land and the restrictions on access and use thereof; iii) a short-term approach to agri-food sustainability, promoting the planting, production, and processing of products that are not native to the region and are unlikely to be sustainable in the long term.

translated into a full guarantee of the food autonomy and sovereignty demanded by ethnic peoples. Obstacles persist, such as weak inter-institutional coordination, continuing multidimensional poverty and armed conflict in the region, the absence of effective monitoring systems, and the lack of a comprehensive state policy that incorporates the worldviews, needs, and territorial realities of the ethnic communities of the Pacific.

The violation of the right to food can be demonstrated in two emblematic cases 1) the events that occurred in the subregions of Baudó and San Juan (Chocó) due to armed “strikes” (a war strategy used by illegal actors to measure their strength against the State, demonstrate power, and assert control over the territories); between 2018 and 2025, there were 19 armed “strikes” in these ethnic territories, some lasting a few hours, others a week, 15 days, and others up to three months, affecting over 200,000 people. The number is higher if we consider that these “strikes” subsequently impact other subregions. 2) The mass displacement of communities on the Napi River, municipality of Guapi (Cauca Pacific coast), where in 2021 around 2,000 people from a single community were displaced en masse due to clashes between illegal armed groups. and a large part of the population has been unable to return to their territory with dignified conditions. There is fear that their communities will remain unoccupied and disappear, as has happened with others in the area. In these cases, there are ongoing limitations regarding the availability and physical and economic access to sufficient, adequate, and culturally appropriate food due to constant forced displacement, confinement, armed “strikes”, restrictions on movement, and the planting of anti-personnel mines in ethnic territories by illegal armed actors, highlighting the passivity and inaction of the State in responding decisively to the crisis.

41. It is requested that the Committee make the following recommendations to the Colombian State:

- a. Advance the planning and implementation of food security plans related to the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (PSAN), guaranteeing the progressive, equitable, and dignified realization of the right for Indigenous, Black, and peasant peoples living in the Pacific region. (*EC12COLCO6, paras. 16 and 17*).
- b. Protect, guarantee, and promote the recovery, multiplication, planting, distribution, and commercialization of native seeds, preserving the traditional knowledge surrounding them. In this regard, comply with ruling T-247 of 2023. (*EC12COLCO6, para. 40*).

Right to water (Articles 11 and 12 of the ICESCR)

42. For the ethnic peoples of the Pacific, the right to water is a common good that is inherent to their territory, cultural identity, productive practices, recreation, and spirituality; as such, it is connected to the right to the environment and food. Although international law recognizes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation (HRWS) in terms of accessibility, availability, quality, and adaptability, recent efforts have been made to move toward a more comprehensive conception that includes the perspective of ethnic peoples and communities on this right.
43. The Pacific region continues to face structural problems regarding the lack of access to drinking water and basic sanitation, as well as infrastructure and management gaps, despite being one of the rainiest regions in the world. The region's population consumes water from untreated sources, having to resort to collecting rainwater, and water from rivers and streams, without treatment options to make it safe. Additionally, infrastructure is lacking to adequately protect water from external contamination, such as fecal matter, heavy metals, or agrochemicals (UNICEF, 2024), resulting in a high prevalence of diseases (diarrhea, malnutrition, respiratory infections).
44. During the Duque administration, the Pacific region faced serious gaps in access to drinking water and basic sanitation, especially in rural areas. Urban drinking water coverage was 77.75%, while rural coverage barely reached 40.43%, a 20-point gap. In terms of sanitation, urban coverage reached 82%, while in rural areas it was only 14.4% (Superservicios, 2019). Although the Petro administration has promoted drinking water and sanitation policies and programs for the Pacific region (such as the Water is Life Program), with significant progress in investment and infrastructure, the numbers and statistical data remain unchanged, as this administration inherited the breadth of historical gaps and structural inequalities in terms of coverage, quality, continuity, and maintenance for drinking water and basic sanitation.

45. Those most affected are the Indigenous peoples and Black and Afro-descendant communities of the Pacific region, which have the lowest investment rates on infrastructure to access drinking water and sanitation. Faced with this situation, communities have resorted to community water management through the construction of water supply systems and alternative solutions for liquid waste disposal (such as septic tanks and latrines) based on their own vision of water management and relationships with water, which in most cases do not receive State support or are subject to the imposition of regulations and administrative and technical requirements.
46. The HRWS violations were particularly grave during the COVID-19 pandemic, a health emergency in which the main prevention measure was washing hands every three hours. Thus, a population that already faced problems resulted to be even more vulnerable. The measures adopted to address the problem (such as freezing tariffs and payment plans) did not help the majority of the region's inhabitants, who are heavily dependent on rainwater. As a result, the Pacific was among the regions most affected by the pandemic.
47. In addition, are the conditions of violence and destruction of their ethnic territories due to (i) illicit economies, as extractive practices continue to be imposed in ethnic territories, seriously affecting bodies of water that have been turned into sewers for all kinds of waste that is hazardous to life, and (ii) the war between different legal and illegal armed groups, which has contaminated the rivers by turning them into moving cemeteries.
48. In short, the situation of HRWS in the ethnic territories of the Colombian Pacific reflects a deep structural and systematic crisis that persistently violates the dignity of its inhabitants.

The Buenaventura District (Valle del Cauca) is a case that exemplifies this critical situation: despite being one of the rainiest territories in Colombia and having access to high quality and flow water sources, the urban area lacks an aqueduct with adequate infrastructure to guarantee a continuous supply of quality drinking water.¹⁴ Water services have historically been intermittent—in some cases reduced to only a few hours a day—with serious quality problems, frequent rationing, and infrastructure that is vulnerable to climate change (Activa Buenaventura, 2024). This precarious situation was one of the main triggers of the 2017 Civic Strike.¹⁵ Although the 2019–2023 district administration of Buenaventura made efforts for a remunicipalization and to achieve public control of the aqueduct service from a rights-based approach, this process faced multiple challenges, such as lack of cooperation from private operators, lack of technical information, and the absence of a budget allocation, resulting in the district going into debt. In addition, although commitments were obtained from the national government to finance the necessary works, these have suffered multiple delays. Currently, water is supplied for only a few hours a day. In most neighborhoods, access to water is 12 hours every other day; in other sectors, it is four hours once a week. In the port and hotel area, water is supplied every day with longer availability schedules.¹⁶ The situation in rural areas, although not disaggregated, may be more complex than in urban areas, as community water management has historically not received State support.

In parallel, the basic sanitation situation is alarming: 99.9% of wastewater is discharged, untreated, into rivers and the bay (Activa Buenaventura, 2024). The indiscriminate dumping of waste has turned these bodies of water into constant recipients of organic pollutants, affecting ecosystems, public health, and living conditions. Although the civil society's active role in advancing agreements between the Colombian government and the Civic Strike Committee¹⁷ is noteworthy, two elements of extreme concern should be highlighted: i) the

¹⁴The privatized water management model (2000-2022) has been widely criticized for its inability to provide coverage, continuity, and quality, and for its inadequate management using differential approaches, despite receiving a substantial State budget. In 2022, in some sectors of the city (mainly commercial, hotel, and port sectors), the average continuity was 6 hours per day, while in the city's residential sectors it fell to 2-3 hours every three days. Setback in HRWS within the private model are evident, considering that in the period prior to privatization (before 2000), the District had achieved a water supply continuity of approximately 12 hours per day.

¹⁵Between May 16 and June 6, 2017, Buenaventura experienced a civic strike that paralyzed the city and the operation of the country's main port for 20 days. This social protest channeled public outrage over multiple problems afflicting the population of Buenaventura, including: restricted and intermittent water and sewer service; widespread corruption in local government; stagnation in sectors such as education and infrastructure; high unemployment; and armed violence. As a result of pressure on the national government, negotiations led to the enactment of Law 1872 (2017) and its regulatory decrees (1402 and 1812), which aim to implement measures to promote comprehensive development for the district.

¹⁶The *Committee for the Defense of Water and Life in Buenaventura* has reported that, to date, the aspirational goal of achieving 24 hours of continuous water supply has not been met. Thus, a progressive goal of 6, 12, and 24 hours per day has been agreed upon with the national government.

¹⁷The agreements reached at the Water, Sanitation, and Public Services Roundtable during the Buenaventura civic strike were: Concerted formulation and implementation of the district water policy; concerted formulation and implementation of the

agreements established have not made significant progress; and ii) the government has not managed to develop measures to guarantee HRWS due to the lack of institutional redesign and a budget allocation to make it viable. In June 2024, at a meeting of the Committee for Monitoring the Agreements of the Civic Strike, it was noted with great concern that the level of compliance with the agreements did not exceed 7% (equivalent to 11 of the 176 agreements). Given this situation, the Executive Committee of the Civic Strike and the Committee for the Defense of Water and Life in Buenaventura have demanded that the prioritized works comply with the approach of water as a common good under a public scheme.

49. It is requested that the Committee make the following recommendations to the Colombian State:

- a. Consolidate the public water management model with sufficient economic and technical resources to fully guarantee the right to water and sanitation, including rights-based and differential approaches. Likewise, strengthen the capacities of ethnic groups for public-community water management, ensuring the improvement and adaptation of community-managed aqueducts in rural communities.
- b. Timely and effective compliance with the agreements of the 2017 Buenaventura Civic Strike, ensuring the works prioritized by the communities to improve the continuity, quality, and coverage of the aqueduct, as well as the allocation of resources for basic sanitation.

Right to a healthy environment (Articles 11 and 12 and 2 (b) of the ICESCR)

50. The environment rights of ethnic peoples of the Colombian Pacific are deeply entwined with their worldview, in which the territory is a living entity, essential for spiritual, cultural, and material life. Thus, environmental damage—such as deforestation, loss of biodiversity, pollution of water sources, and soil degradation—not only has an ecological impact but is also a violation of collective, territorial, and cultural rights. The defense of the environment is therefore inseparable from the defense of the communities’ ways of life and fundamental rights.
51. During the period analyzed, the right to a healthy environment in the Pacific was systematically violated by a development model imposed by the State. This model is focused on the exploitation of natural resources subject to few controls and without the consultation or effective participation of ethnic communities. During the Duque administration in particular, this vision was entrenched through an extractivist agenda that prioritized the interests of large-scale capital, reflected increased opportunities for concessions on oil extraction and mining areas. In the Colombian Pacific, this focus translated into an intensification of mining titles inside ethnic and highly biodiverse territories, especially in the departments of Chocó, Cauca, and Nariño.¹⁸ At the same time, it hindered the advancement of key regulations for environmental protections, such as access to information, participation, and environmental justice. Another example of blocked legislation was a bill that sought to ban the exploitation of unconventional deposits through *fracking*.
52. The Petro administration has promoted a discourse focused on energy transition, including the suspension of projects authorized by the previous administration,¹⁹ support for legislative initiatives such as those promoted by the *Colombia Free of Fracking Alliance*, and the announcement that it will not sign new coal, oil, and gas exploration contracts. However, in practice, significant obstacles for implementation remain. These include incorporating a differential approach into environmental policies and the limited structural protection of collective territories, which restricts the guarantee of the right to a healthy environment in regions such as the Pacific.

district plan for the restoration and special and comprehensive management of river basins, with priority given to the Dagua River; formulation and implementation of the recovery, restoration, and special and comprehensive management of micro-basins and wetlands in the urban area of Buenaventura, with priority given to Chanflana and Chanflanita; definition and implementation of measures to manage bilge water.

¹⁸Sixty-six percent of this activity was illegal, and 52% took place in areas excluded from mining or environmentally protected. In ethnic territories, 39,678 ha (40%) were detected, mainly in Black Community Lands (85% of the total), with a major concentration in Chocó, followed by Nariño and Cauca. As for legal activity, only 27% had technical and environmental permits. These figures reflect an intensification of both legal and illegal mining in ecologically and culturally sensitive areas (UNODC, 2020).

¹⁹Suspension of the AngloGold Ashanti project due to environmental risks and the Kalé and Platero pilot projects.

53. Another limitation lies in the AFP's lack of comprehensive implementation, particularly Point 1, with a focus on advancing sustainable and environmentally friendly development models in ethnic territories; Point 4, which would contribute to reducing deforestation and socio-environmental conflicts; and the Ethnic Chapter, which recognizes the rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples over their territories and their relationship with nature. The lack of progress on these commitments has facilitated environmental deterioration in the Pacific, evidenced in concrete impacts such as: the increase in illegal mining in the Atrato, Quito, Baudó, and San Juan rivers (Chocó); Mira, Sanquianga, Telembí, Patía, and Mejicano (Nariño coast); Dagua and Anchicayá (Buenaventura), and Micay (Cauca coast); mercury contamination of water sources; and the expansion of illicit economies that burden ecosystems and undermine the autonomy of ethnic peoples.

These limitations are particularly evident in the emblematic case of the Atrato River (Chocó). This river basin has been severely impacted by the use of mercury and cyanide in legal and illegal mining, deforestation, and armed actors' actions, obstructing environmental control and monitoring processes implemented by authorities and communities and imposing territorial control dynamics that prevent effective environmental participation, territorial protection, and the exercise of environmental justice. Even though a 2016 Constitutional Court ruling recognized the Atrato as a subject of rights (Ruling T-622), the measures ordering its protection have been only partially and symbolically implemented. Despite some progress, such as the creation of the River Guardians, illegal extractive activities, green militarization without prior consultation, and the lack of comprehensive and culturally relevant institutional actions persist, continuing to endanger both the ecosystems and the survival of the ethnic peoples who inhabit the basin.

54. It is requested that the Committee make the following recommendations to the Colombian State:

- a. Guarantee the effective implementation of plans to clean up, ecologically restore, and protect water sources, with adequate budgets, clear timelines, and participatory monitoring mechanisms, incorporating a differential ethnic approach, respecting ancestral knowledge systems, and strengthening the leadership role of communities as guardians of the territory and biodiversity. Similarly, complying with existing environmental regulations for ethnic territories, especially ruling T-622 of 2016.
- b. Implement *Decree 1275 of 2024*, which grants Indigenous authorities enhanced environmental powers and recognizes their role as guardians of the territory and the environment, and advance in the recognition of Black communities as environmental authorities in their territories.

D. General conclusions

Based on the ESCER violations experienced by Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in the Colombian Pacific, we can draw the following conclusions:

55. ESCER violations in the Colombian Pacific are closely tied to the violation of the right to autonomy, damage to the territory, obstruction of self-government, cultural identity, and the dignified life of ethnic groups. From 2018 to date, due to the factors outlined above, ethnic communities and peoples have experienced an alarming weakening of their self-government institutions and mechanisms, with repercussions on the holistic exercise of control, use, and enjoyment of their territories.
56. Despite the improvement in MPI indicators over the last two years, as well as some regulatory advancements aimed at overcoming social inequality gaps and implementing the ethnic-territorial rights provided for in the Political Constitution (1991), ethnic communities continue to highlight the lack of committed State action to promote, protect, and guarantee ESCER in the Pacific, especially the recommendations made by the Committee on ESCR to Colombia in its 2017 general observations. For this reason, it is urgent that social rule of law be established in this region.
57. Historically, the Pacific region has been seen by the Colombian State as a source of natural resources and biodiversity to be exploited to meet the demands of global markets, without regard for the needs or proposals related to the relationship with and use and management of the territory inhabited by Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. Progress must be made towards a model of regional governance for the biogeographical region of Chocó that strengthens the conservation, production,

and sustainable use of biodiversity carried out by the ethnic communities historically present in the territory.

58. At the same time, it is necessary to move towards a sustainable development model that enables the strengthening of alternative economies. This includes implementing the measures provided for by the AFP in relation to PDETs and PNIS (National Crop Substitution Program)—ensuring community participation in the design, implementation, and monitoring; complying with agreements reached with communities during the various civic strikes; improving social infrastructure in the region (construction and financing of rural schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, health centers, and recreational centers such as sports centers, among others); strengthening the environmental regulation of mining and energy projects; implementing measures to curb illegal mining and logging activities (prosecuting environmental crimes); and making broader efforts to revitalize the rural economy through long-term rural reforms.
59. The Colombian armed conflict is rooted in ESCER violations. These rights are not "add-ons" to peace, but the structural foundation. Without fulfillment of these rights, there is a risk that the territories will fall back under the control of armed actors, reproducing violence over natural resources and the absence of economic alternatives, causing communities to distrust the State and peace processes. Therefore, ESCER must be an essential pillar for lasting peace to take root in the territories, especially in historically marginalized contexts such as the Colombian Pacific. Both concepts (ESCER and peace) stem from the need to guarantee decent living conditions and justice for communities. For peace to be possible in this region, it must be based on the effective fulfillment of ESCER, with a differential and territorial approach. This signifies: i) A holistic State presence, not just military. ii) Community participation in decision making about development. iii) Recognition of the Pacific region's ethnic, cultural, and ecological diversity.
60. Redistributive justice is urgently needed as the foundation for transformative peace. By demanding a redistribution of wealth and equitable access to land and common goods, ESCER open the way to a peace that is not simply the silencing of weapons, but a transformation of structural conditions that gave rise to the conflict.

This report was prepared by CRPC partners and allies: Five Indigenous organizations (Asociación Regional Indígena del Chocó -ASOREWA; Federación de Asociaciones de Cabildos Indígenas Del Departamento Del Chocó -FEDEOREWA; Consejo de Autoridades del Pueblo Wounaan-WOUNDEKO; Asociación de Cabildo Indígena Wounaan de Urabá del Darién Chocoano – ASOWOUDACH; Cabildo Mayor de Autoridades Indígenas de la Zona del Bajo Atrato – CAMIZBA). **Ten Afro-descendant organizations** (Asociación de Consejos Comunitarios Organizaciones étnicoterritoriales Atrato – ASCOBA; Asociación Campesina del Municipio de Riosucio -ACAMURI; Consejo Comunitario Mayor de la Asociación Campesina Integral del Atrato -COCOMACIA; Consejo Comunitario Mayor de la Organización Popular y Campesina del Alto Atrato -COCOMOPOCA; Consejo Comunitario General del San Juan- ACADESAN; Consejo Comunitario Mayor de Istmina y parte del Medio San Juan- COCOMIMSA; Consejo Comunitario General del Río Baudó y sus Afluentes- ACABA; Coordinación de Consejos Comunitarios y Organizaciones de Base de la Costa del Pacífico en Cauca- COCOCAUCA; Corporación Red de Consejos Comunitarios del Pacífico Sur- RECOMPAZ; Asociación de Consejos Comunitarios y Organizaciones Étnico Territoriales de Nariño-ASOCOETNAR). **One social organization** (Corporación Memoria y Paz – CORMEPAZ). **Seven ecclesiastical jurisdictions** (Diocesis of Apartadó -Riosucio Parrish-, Diocesis of Quibdó, Diocesis of Istmina-Tadó, Diocesis of Buenaventura, Archdiocesis of Cali -Ethnic ministries and the Observatorio de Realidades Sociales-, Apostolic Vicariate of Guapi and Diocesis of Tumaco). **In addition to our partners, seven strategic allies also contributed:** (Corporación PODION; Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular- CINEP, Database; Fundación Universitaria Claretiana (UNICLARETIANA); Procura Claretiana para el Desarrollo (PROCLADE- COLVEN); Missionaries from the María Inmaculada and Santa Catalina de Siena (Lauras Sisters); Mesa Permanente de Diálogo y Concertación de los Pueblos Indígenas del Chocó, and Foro Interétnico Solidaridad Chocó (FISCH).

Other participants in this report include the Asociación de Desplazados del Chocó (ADACHO); Comité Inter-organizacional por la Defensa del Agua y la Vida de Buenaventura; Organización de Resguardos Indígenas del Pueblo Awa del Pacífico (ORIPAP); Asociación de Eperara Siapidara de Nariño (ACIESNA); Unidad Indígena del Pueblo Awa (UNIPA); and the Asociación Sostenibilidad, Equidad y Derechos Ambientales (ENDA).

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