

## Ethnic Populations in the Special Jurisdiction for Peace

The contributions of ethnic populations to peacebuilding and social and economic development in Colombia was acknowledged in point 6.2, known as the Ethnic Chapter of the 2016 Peace Agreement signed between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP. This acknowledgment signalled the historic conditions of exclusion, slavery, physical and cultural extermination, and land dispossession that ethnic populations have suffered. Understanding the affectations to these populations in the armed conflict requires a contextualisation of their traditional organisational systems, worldviews, contexts, necessities and aspirations, and redressing the harms they have suffered requires a transversal and differential approach to implementation of the agreement, and to peacebuilding in general.

Adopting that differential focus, the Peace Agreement introduced several principles to guide implementation of the Ethnic Chapter and the interpretation of its provisions. In particular, the implementation of the entire Peace Agreement must be guided by the fundamental right of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, a universal right of indigenous and tribal populations as stipulated in the International Labour Organisation's [Convention 169](#).

## The Ethnic Approach in the Justice Component of the Comprehensive System

Regarding the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition (Comprehensive System), the Ethnic Chapter of the Peace Agreement includes three provisions: Firstly, to respect the jurisdiction of traditional ethnic authorities in their territories ("jurisdictional integration"); secondly, to guarantee the fundamental right of ethnic populations to participate in the design and operation of judicial and extra-judicial mechanisms; and thirdly, to coordinate those mechanisms with the Indigenous Special Jurisdiction.



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Additionally, there has been progress to guarantee the participation of ethnic populations who are victims in the framework of the territorial macro-cases of Nariño (Case 002), Urabá (Case 004), and Cauca (Case 005). The Ethnic Commission has published multimedia pieces that include a series of radio advertisements in eight indigenous languages (Emberá Chamí, Kamentsá, Nasa Yuwe, Wayuunaiki, Iku, Namtrik, Siapedee, and Awapit), to invite these populations to write and present reports related to those cases.

Recently, for Case 004, the JEP accredited 20,000 afro-Colombian victims, grouped in four Community Councils: Curvaradó, Los Manatías, Puerto Girón, and La Larga and Tumaradó. This accreditation will allow them to take part actively in all stages of the legal process: to present evidence, appeal rulings, and present observations on the testimonies of those brought before the JEP.

***Rodeemos el Diálogo salutes the important progress the JEP has made in understanding the transversal nature of the ethnic approach, and recognises the importance of the historical role that ethnic populations have played in peacebuilding, through the use of dialogue, concertation, and life in harmony.***



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