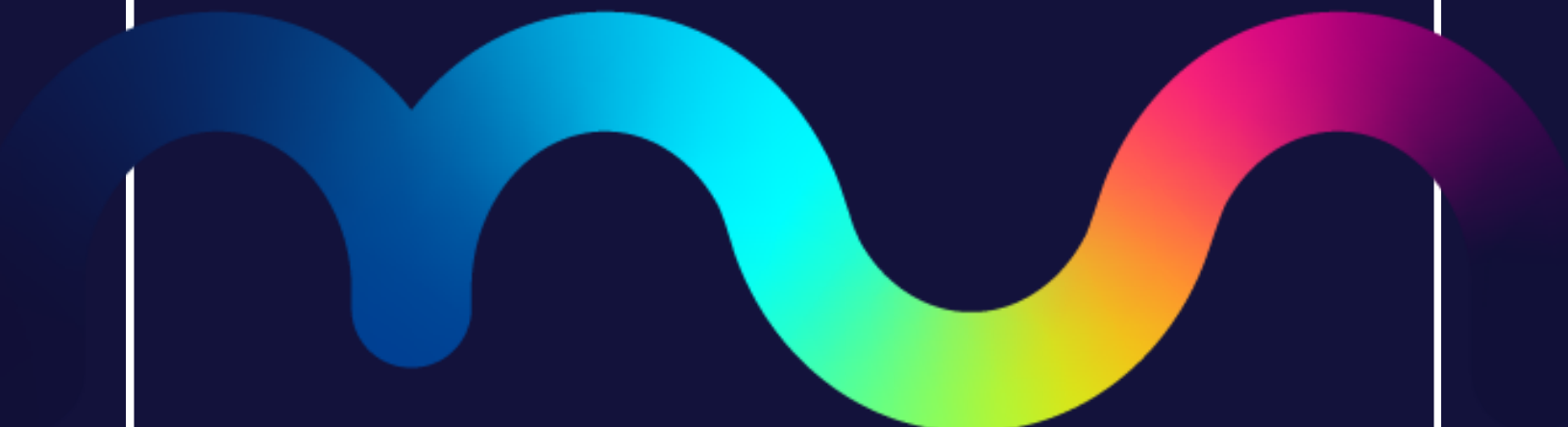




OHCHR



## Welcome

The Dais of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights committee is coordinated by the Conference Officer, Arie Zalo González Álvarez, the Moderator, Zoé Madrigal Béjar, and the President, Ana Sofía Padilla Ortiz from Campus Morelia. We extend a cordial welcome to all the distinguished delegates present in this international forum.



**Ana Sofía Padilla Ortiz**  
President



**Zoé Madrigal Béjar**  
Moderator



**Arie Zalo González Álvarez**  
Conference Officer

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was established in December 1993. This organization represents the world's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Their mission is to “give priority to addressing the most pressing human rights violations, focus attention on those who are at risk and vulnerable on multiple fronts, pay equal attention to the realization of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights and measure the impact of its work through the substantive benefit that is accrued” (OHCHR, n.d.). To fulfill human rights, the OHCHR follows the OHCHR Management Plan.

## **Topic A: The impact of the Taliban's rise to power on the human rights of Afghan women.**

The Taliban regime emerged in 1994, intending to make Afghanistan a country ruled by the Islamic Sharia law. From 1996 until 2001, this group repressed all population sectors, but it was particularly devastating for Afghan women and girls. Under the Taliban's power, females were banned from their basic rights, such as health and education. They were imprisoned in their homes, making it impossible for them to escape the constant threat of violence from their male relatives.

Now, over two decades later, in 2021, the Taliban regime took over the country again, this time making the reinforcement of the Islamic Sharia law even stricter and oppressive. Women are forced to cover their entire bodies with a burqa and are prohibited from their freedom of movement, expression, association, and earned income. Afghan women who do not follow the laws imposed by the Taliban regime are persecuted and killed, which is one of the highest levels of gender discrimination according to the UN.

### **General Statistics**

- Women and girls represented nearly half of the civilian victims; 32% were children, and 14% were women.
- Almost 30% of Afghan girls have never entered primary education.
- According to UN Women, 87% of Afghan females have experienced violence in their lifetime.
- 10% of women have no access to their basic health needs.
- Afghanistan has the world's second-worst rate of maternal mortality. 16 out of 100 women die during birth due to no health access.
- Up to 5% of the GDP in Afghanistan was lost because of the restriction on women working.
- More than 80% of girls in Afghanistan were prohibited from attending school.

The United States is the largest international donor for Afghan humanitarian assistance, focusing on women and girls. It has provided over 500 million dollars in response to this crisis, working with governmental organizations that ensure the fair distribution of the money considering women's needs. The United States also donated 4 million dollars to programs to reintegrate Afghan girls and women into schools and jobs.

Mexico has a protection strategy for women in Afghanistan. In 2021, Mexico allowed thousands of women who had left Afghanistan when their lives were at risk. In 2019, the present president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, and the current president of Bolivia, Luis Arce Catacora, made it possible for the Afghanistan people to cross the border without problems.

The United Nations resolution, passed unanimously by the 15-member body in New York, calls for the whole, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women and girls in Afghanistan and all countries and organizations with influence over the country's fundamentalist rulers. Each country to "promote an urgent reversal" of policies that have erased women from public life. The UN has requested \$4.6 billion to fund relief efforts this year fully.

### **Key Questions**

- Is the delegation contributing to promoting Afghan female rights (even if it's indirectly)?
- What measures is the delegation taking to ensure the safety of Afghan girls and women?
- How can the delegations work together and collaborate to find a solution to this world crisis?
- How does the retrogression of Afghani society affect global development?
- What precedent does this violation of women's human rights leave for other religious groups?
- Does the delegation have laws that regulate religious activities that go beyond the framework of respect of human rights?

### Support links

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## **Topic B: Employment of indigenous people in Latin America, focusing on equal pay and informal jobs.**

The rights of Indigenous people have been progressively declining; they continue to be left behind and suffer from external problems such as poverty, climate change, poor access to education, health, etc. Latin America holds one of the most significant percentages of indigenous people working in informal employment. According to data shown by ILO, 85% of indigenous men and women are employed in informal jobs, compared to the general population, with around 50 percent.

Since this population needs to work on a daily basis to survive, they become the most vulnerable workers. Due to their low-skill capacities, they are often exploited and have no stable salary. As a result, they tend to suffer from health and mental problems, being suicide the most common situation among indigenous workers. After the impact of COVID-19, Indigenous people suffered even more from racial gaps, marginalization, exclusion, and poverty.

### **General Statistics**

- Latin America has approximately 55 million Indigenous people, representing 8.5% of the population.
- 16% of Indigenous people work in unpaid employment, compared to non-Indigenous people only 4% do not receive income in exchange for their work.
- Indigenous people earn, on average, 33 percent less compared to a standard income of 100 Mexican pesos from a non-indigenous worker. The income gap is even more pronounced among indigenous women, who only make 26 Mexican pesos.
- The General Assembly adopted the resolution “Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous People’s Representatives and Institutions in Meetings of Relevant United Nations Bodies on Issues Affecting Them.”
- Of the 18 countries of Latin America, just 8 (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, and Peru) count, with surveys to analyze the social protection coverage of Indigenous people.
- 4% of indigenous people are denied employment only because of their ethnicity.

- 9 out of 10 Indigenous people work in informal jobs.

Different nations worldwide have been concerned about solving this problem, implementing actions in their territories to contribute more and more to resolving the issue. Not only in Latin America but in different countries, both Europe and Asia, strategies and laws have been implemented to ensure improvement in the working conditions of indigenous people, ensuring their dignity, balanced payment, eliminating exploitation, and adapting the work environment to the different needs of people from indigenous communities.

In Mexico, modifications were made to the Federal Labor Law in 2012, which included provisions requiring employers to use interpretation aids when communicating with workers from indigenous communities who do not speak Spanish. Likewise, the Mexican Republic carried out a program to disseminate information on the labor rights of workers from indigenous communities through local authorities and leaders capable of sharing information to raise awareness in the country.

The United Nations also launched a new initiative together with the government of Costa Rica and the Resident Coordinator's office to prioritize the rights of people belonging to indigenous communities. This initiative applies different prevention strategies that analyze all the possible risks that indigenous populations face; it was launched in 2019 to combat inequalities and strengthen all approaches in indigenous communities.

### **Key Questions**

- Are there legal provisions in the delegation to ensure equal pay for equal work regardless of ethnicity?
- What actions has the delegation taken to address discrimination towards Indigenous people in the workplace?
- Do indigenous workers have access to social safety nets, such as healthcare, unemployment benefits, and pensions, in the same way as non-indigenous workers?
- Is there sufficient educational training in the delegation for indigenous people to acquire skills for formal employment?

- Does the delegation count with businesses that promote equal employment opportunities for Indigenous people?
- Does the delegation count with adopted resolutions to strengthen Indigenous rights?

### Support links

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