

Ref: IAIDIR/2025/7

30 April 2025

## NOTIFICATION

### **Subject: Results of the Call for Applications to Join the New Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC)**

Dear Madam / Sir,

At its 32nd meeting held virtually in May 2024, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision XXXII/19, which instructs the Directorate to:

“...continue working toward the creation of two advisory committees, one composed of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and the other composed of representatives of local communities, based on the facilitation of consultations with representatives and leaders of these communities...”

In response, the Directorate issued Notification [IAIDIR/2025/1](#), requesting Parties, Associates, SAC and SPAC members, and social organizations with Indigenous representation to submit nominations for the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (IPAC). The call for applications opened on 5 February 2025 and remained open until 19 March 2025. Fourteen applications were received from Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panamá, Peru and Uruguay, including Indigenous representatives, academics, and candidates with hybrid profiles, all of whom had backgrounds relevant to the committee. The selection process is described in the [EDI Committee's Report to CoP-33](#).

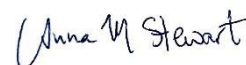
Following an initial review of the submissions by the Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee, an Ad-hoc Selection Committee was established. It convened on April 11, 2025, to complete the candidate evaluation process. During the meeting, the Committee highlighted the outstanding qualifications of the applicants and their strong commitment to their communities and territories. According to a detailed analysis, the Committee found that five profiles clearly met the established criteria, integrated Indigenous and Western knowledge systems and directly addressed key issues for the Institution's mandate, in the context of global environmental change:

- **Myrle Ballard (Canada)** — Anishinaabe from Lake St. Martin First Nation, Manitoba
- **Oliva Patricia Suárez Torres (Colombia)** — Murui-Muina People
- **Francisco Ramiro Batzín Chojj (Guatemala)** — Maya Kaqchikel
- **Cristina Elizabeth Fueses Guitarra (Ecuador)** — Kichwa nationality, Panzaleo people, San Ignacio community
- **Guipsy Katherine Alata Ramos (Peru)** — Quechua, Qanchi Nation

The Directorate extends its deep appreciation to all those who participated in the call and reiterates its commitment to further expanding spaces for participation and inclusion.

A summary of the selected candidates' profiles is presented as an Annex to this document.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Anna Stewart Ibarra  
Executive Director

## ANNEX

### Profiles of the candidates selected for the IPAC

#### *Myrle Ballard (Canada) – An Anishinaabe from the Lake St. Martin First Nation, Manitoba*

She has an outstanding academic background in issues related to global environmental change (GEC) and its impact on Indigenous Peoples. She has been a key figure in promoting indigenous science in government science spaces in Canada. Her work has contributed significantly to the development and application of the “Three-Eyed Seeing” approach. She is actively involved in international governance and negotiation spaces.

#### *Oliva Patricia Suárez Torres (Colombia) – Murui-Muina People*

She has focused her career on defending the territorial, environmental, and cultural rights of Indigenous Peoples in Colombia and the Amazon region. She advises the National Organization of the Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC) on strategic issues for Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon, bridging indigenous and Western knowledge. Her work is based on constant dialogue with the knowledgeable people of her community. She has participated in the Colombian peace process and international negotiation fora. She currently promotes OPIAC’s participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). She has postgraduate training in key areas for the IAI, including transdisciplinarity.

#### *Francisco Ramiro Batzín Chojj (Guatemala) – Maya Kaqchikel*

He has over 20 years of experience coordinating a Kaqchikel indigenous organization and addresses issues related to natural resources, climate change, good living, and traditional knowledge. He has represented Indigenous Peoples in international forums addressing dialogue, governance, and negotiation. His experience provides a vision based on indigenous cosmology and knowledge systems on key issues for the IAI. He has postgraduate training and diplomas in areas relevant to the IAI’s agenda. He has strong skills in developing participatory methodologies and transdisciplinary projects with Indigenous Peoples.

#### *Cristina Elizabeth Fueres Guitarra (Ecuador) – Kichwa nationality, Panzaleo people, San Ignacio community*

A young Ecuadorian woman with field experience in Costa Rica who has broadened her perspective to include the Caribbean. She is an active defender of the native forests of the Andean Chocó and is part of youth networks defending forests at the national and regional levels. She has international support for her research, which highlights her emerging leadership. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree in tropical forests and biodiversity, and her thesis focuses on the participation of indigenous women in forest governance in Guatemala. She has participated in and organized meetings on Indigenous Peoples, women, and environmental conservation, all key issues for the IAI.

#### *Guipsy Katherine Alata Ramos (Peru) – Quechua, Qanchi Nation*

Bilingual lawyer specializing in indigenous rights and interculturality. Her work has focused on indigenous linguistics and the promotion of actions for protecting and revitalizing native languages. She is part of the technical team promoting a national policy for Indigenous Peoples. She has worked on mainstreaming indigenous culture in various positions in the civil service. She holds a master’s degree in social sciences with a specialization in interculturalism, which is relevant to the objectives of the IAI.