By the year 2010, an estimated 45 million indigenous people lived in Latin America, accounting for 8.3% of the region's population. The United Nations has championed the promotion of their rights through the use of different resources and special regulations for this purpose.

At present, there are 826 indigenous peoples. An additional 200 are estimated to be living in voluntary isolation.

The countries with the greatest number of indigenous peoples are:

- **Brazil** 305
- **Colombia** 102
- **Peru** 85
- **Mexico** 78
- **Bolivia** 39

Many indigenous peoples are in danger of physical or cultural disappearance:

- **Brazil** 70
- **Colombia** 35
- **Bolivia** 13

ECLAC encourages the region’s countries to put public policies in practice which:

1) are based on standards of indigenous peoples’ rights
2) include their perspectives and contributions to the region's development
3) consolidate improvements in their well-being and living conditions, political participation and territorial rights
4) promote the construction of multicultural societies that benefit us all