

ECUADOR

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE DECREE
Official registry N° 1527

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Acting constitutional President of the Republic, Ecuador

Whereas:

The Political Constitution of Ecuador enshrines the respect, defense and promotion of human rights as the highest duty of the State:

[...]

It has been universally declared that the promotion and protection of human rights is a primary obligation of the States and that the International Community has a legitimate interest and responsibility thereon.

[...]

The Ecuadorian state has recognized the need to develop concrete plans and programs to disseminate, promote and guarantee the full enforcement and respect of human rights, especially as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of 1948.

Decrees:

Article 1. The establishment of a National Human Rights Plan in Ecuador to prevent, eradicate and punish the violation of human rights in the country, with the purpose of institutionalizing priority policies through State bodies and the civil society to:

[...]

b) Promote and disseminate human rights principles in their universality, integrality and interdependence through all available means.

[...]

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Article 6. - To establish the following general objectives:

[...]

3. Include courses of study in the national formal and informal educational system at all levels, on human rights, their principles and foundations, on the need to protect, disseminate and develop mechanisms of civil society to demand their indiscriminate, global, and universal enforcement.

Article 7. - In order to fulfill the general objectives provided for in the preceding article, the Government is committed to:

[...]

8. Stimulate the establishment and utilization of channels for the population to have direct access to information and the means for the protection of human rights. To promote equal access to human rights educational means and systems, insisting on the need to have complete and free information thereon and citizen guarantees for the protection of the dignity and integrity of all persons.

[...]

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

Article 14.- To establish as general objectives:

[...]

3. To establish links between State and civil society communication media with similar media in the Americas and around the world, with the purpose of benefiting from advances and developments in areas related to the dissemination of human rights principles and instruments.

Article 15.- In order to comply with the general objectives provided for in the preceding article, the Government is committed to:

1. Establish programs, by mutual agreement with social mass media, which reinforce activities undertaken by the civil society for the purpose of creating a culture of human rights based on the principles of tolerance and solidarity.

Furthermore, the State is committed to fostering a partnership between the State, international bodies and civil society organizations specialized in social communication, to launch campaigns related to specific chapters of the National Human Rights Plan, with a view to obtaining the broadest dissemination at the national and international levels.

2. Organize national campaigns, in coordination with civil society, to raise the awareness of Ecuadorian society concerning the value and inviolability of human life, to promote human rights education, to keep the community informed of current issues such as the fight against AIDS, to foster the development of cultural, educational and research programs on human rights, to strengthen educational mechanisms, especially the so-called "distance education", and to foster knowledge about various national cultures and traditions.

HUMAN RIGHTS BY POPULATION GROUP

Rights of the family, children and teenagers

[...]

Article 17.- To sponsor the production and publication of documents that contribute to the dissemination about the rights of family, women, children and teenagers.

Article 18.- To promote concrete actions aimed at mobilizing public opinion in order to set the basis for a cultural model favorable to the rights of children and teenagers in Ecuador.

[...]

Citizen and individual safety

[...]

Article 33.- To encourage attendance by members of the Armed Forces and the National Police of courses on human rights, pursuant to study programs contained in the relevant agreements signed by Law Enforcement Steering Bodies and specialized entities.

[...]

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Article 35.- To establish as basic objectives:

1. Encouraging and supporting international, regional and subregional efforts aimed at achieving the broadest dissemination, promotion and protection of human rights.

[...]

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 36.- The State is committed to develop, together with civil society, an Operating Plan under the guidelines contained in the National Plan annexed hereto and which is an integral part of this Executive Decree, within sixty days of its publication in the Official Registry.

Article 37.- A decentralized permanent commission for the evaluation, follow-up and adjustment of human rights operating plans will be established and composed in equal parts by representatives of the State and of civil society.

Article 38.- The State will seek financing for human rights plans and will provide support for all programs and projects submitted by civil society.

Article 39.- The Ministers of State will be charged with the execution of this Decree, which will enter into effect on the date of its publication in the Official Registry.

Done at the National Palace, in Quito, on June 18, 1998

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

Quito - March 1998

[...]

3. STRATEGIC AXES

[...]

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN - Strategic guidelines

[...]

- To promote human resources training and education processes in the area of children's rights.

RIGHTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE - General objectives

[...]

- To promote actions aimed at the global development of young people, guaranteeing adequate conditions for their incorporation into education, health, well-being, leisure and labor systems.

[...]

- To include the teaching of values into the educational system.

RIGHTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE - Strategic guidelines

[...]

- To allocate institutional, human, technical and economic resources for the promotion of young people's rights and to strengthen youth organizations as accountability mechanisms.

[...]

- To establish awareness-raising programs concerning young peoples and their rights and responsibilities, taking into account the symbols used by various youth cultures.
- To mobilize public opinion, with the purpose of building a new cultural model that recognizes the rights of teenagers and young people as a way of addressing problems such as violence, mistreatment, prostitution, labor exploitation and drug abuse.

[...]

RIGHTS OF SEXUAL MINORITIES - Strategic guidelines

[...]

- To establish and strengthen several forms of cooperation at inter-institutional level for the development of awareness campaigns on the rights of sexual minorities among the community and among law enforcement agencies.

[...]

RIGHTS OF ALIENS - Strategic guidelines

[...]

· To promote technical and economic assistance for the training of functionaries working in immigration agencies, as well as for the training of State security forces and functionaries of the judiciary.

[...]

4. INSTITUTIONS

[...]

The Ecuadorian State commits itself to directing human, technical and economic resources to the on-going training of the Judiciary. To that effect, the State will maintain a permanent dialog with professional organizations, universities, grassroots organizations and non-governmental organizations linked to the defense of and education in human rights.

[...]

In order to ensure effective work by law enforcement officers, the State is committed to provide them with the required material and technical resources, as well as to provide training on the respect for human rights.

[...]

8. OPERATING PLAN

The Operating Plan, which is an integral part of the National Human Rights Plan, will be developed by several governmental agencies with the necessary assistance of the civil society and non-governmental organizations linked to the defense of and education on human rights.

Generally speaking, this Operating Plan should include:

- Diagnosis
- Outline of actions
- Expected results of each action
- Specific beneficiaries
- Actors responsible for the execution of the plan
- Delimitation of competence among State bodies, the civil society and non-governmental organizations linked to the protection of and education on human rights
- Places where actions will be implemented
- Resources (human, economic, technical)
- Terms according to expected results
- Schedule of activities
- Preparatory cooperation agreements with other national and foreign governmental and non-governmental agencies to facilitate enforcement of the plan
- Determination of results indicators

To reach its goals, the Plan must also design and implement a follow-up and assessment system that allows the persons in charge of executing it to permanently monitor its progress. A Standing Follow-up and Assessment Committee will be established for this purpose. This Committee will also be composed of several government administrations, civil society, and non-governmental organizations linked to the defense of and education on human rights. Its main tasks will be to ensure compliance of the Plan by its executing bodies and, if needed, to adjust its general guidelines so as to reach the proposed objectives.

Quito, March 29, 1998