

*Gustavo Petro's cabinet to  
include three Indigenous leaders*

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**Leonor Zalabata (L), Maria Patricia Tobon (C), and Giovanni Yule (R). | Photo: Twitter/ @Citytv**

Bogota, July 20 (RHC)-- Colombia's President-elect Gustavo Petro has announced that his cabinet will include three well-known Indigenous leaders and human rights defenders.

Leonor Zalabata Torres will be the Colombian ambassador to the United Nations. This politician, writer, and social activists belongs to the Arhuaco people, which inhabits the Sierra Nevada in the department of Magdalena.

She was a delegate in the Indigenous Rights Working Group of the 1991 Constituent Assembly. Zabaleta Torres led a march that culminated in the seizure of the headquarters of the Episcopal Conference in Bogota in 1996, which allowed the installation of a permanent consultation table for the defense of Indigenous peoples.

Sociologist Giovanni Yule, who belongs to the Nasa people, will lead the "Land Restitution Unit." He was a counselor of the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca (CRIC) and is member of the Alternative Indigenous and Social Movement (MAIS). He was also governor of the Huellas reservation and took part in the national strike against President Ivan Duque in 2021.

Finally, the "Victims Unit" will be directed by Maria Patricia Tobon, a woman from the Emberra people who is a lawyer specializing in constitutional law and territorial ethnic rights.

She took part in the "Truth Commission," an institution created from the 2016 Peace Agreement reached between the Colombian state and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Maria Patricia Tobon has also been an advisor to Indigenous communities, human rights organizations, and UN agencies.

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