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Colombia: Government Creates National Indigenous Policy Council

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On March 13, the Colombian government created a National Council on Indigenous Policy to advise the president on legislation pertaining to the nation's indigenous population. Council members include the interior minister, seven congresspersons who are members of indigenous tribes (three senators and four representatives), and presidential advisers on human rights and social policy. The council's mandate encompasses defining jurisdiction and governance and security guidelines for indigenous leaders in respective territories, and federal funding for indigenous communities, among other issues. Colombia has an indigenous population of about 500,000, divided into 80 communities. (Source: Agence France-Presse, 03/13/92)

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