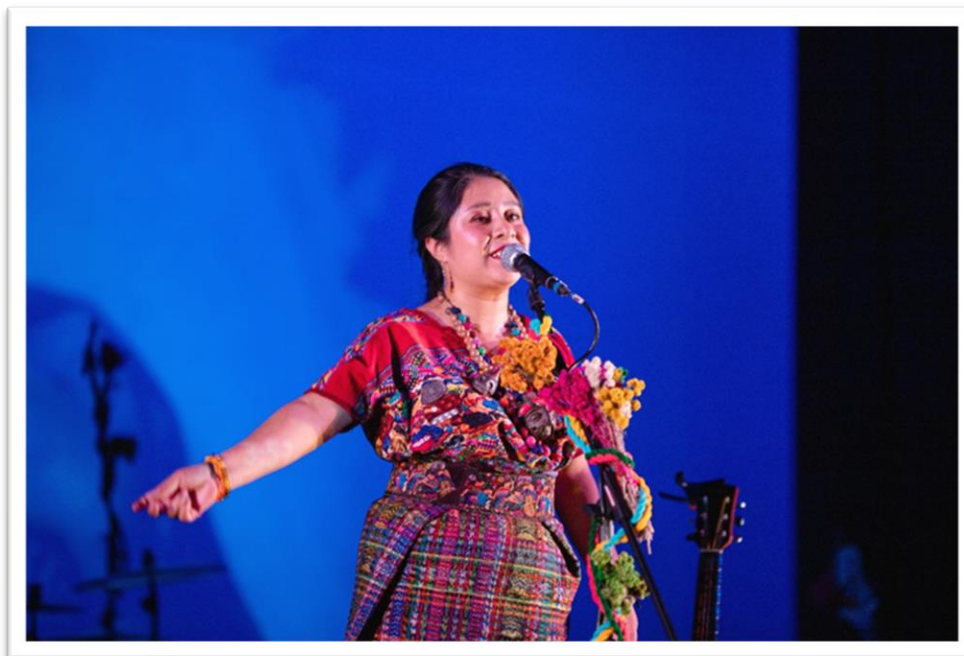


## Commemorating International Day of the Girl



*Chu'milkaj, a singer-songwriter from San Juan Comalapa, in a moment of artistic expression.*

On October 6th, the Vice Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala, in partnership with social organizations and with the support of international bodies, organized an event to celebrate International Day of the Girl. This significant day, established by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 66/170 on December 19, 2011, designates October 11th as the International Day of the Girl. Its purpose is to acknowledge the unique challenges faced by girls worldwide and to promote their empowerment and the realization of their human rights.

### Empowerment of Girls: New Perspectives for Crafting a Dignified Future

The event featured an insightful panel discussion led by Ligia Constanza, a distinguished Xinka leader and member of the School of Opportunities program. The panel was comprised of three dynamic speakers: (1) Marlen Monroy from the Weavers Council of San Pedro Sacatepéquez and the National Weaving Movement, (2) Franceli Solis, a proactive second-grade student and member of the girls' empowerment group at the Observatory on Sexual and Reproductive Health (OSAR), and (3) Ligia Castro, a Business Administrator, member of the School of Opportunities program, and a dedicated human rights advocate.

The discussion delved into a range of critical issues affecting indigenous girls in Guatemala. Panelists highlighted the urgent need for awareness of girls' rights and discussed government interventions essential for safeguarding these rights. The conversation also centered on strategic actions the upcoming government could implement to bridge the inequality gap faced by indigenous girls and ensure the preservation of their human rights. The panelists unanimously stressed the importance of access to healthcare, education, and tailored educational programs. They emphasized the need for policies and programs to address the unique challenges faced by

indigenous girls, adolescents, and young women, advocating for the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of respect for their cultural identities.



*The panel discussion focused on addressing the critical issues, rights awareness, and government role in reducing inequality and safeguarding human rights for indigenous girls in Guatemala.*

## Investing in the Future of Indigenous Girls in Guatemala

Ángel del Valle, the Country Representative of the Population Council, provided a crucial perspective on the importance of investing in the future of Guatemalan girls, particularly those from indigenous communities who face unique and compounded challenges. Del Valle emphasized that targeted support and interventions are vital to ensure these girls have equitable opportunities to succeed and thrive. His insights complemented the panel's discussions on the critical issues affecting indigenous girls in Guatemala, including the need for awareness of their rights, access to healthcare, education, and the implementation of policies that address discrimination. Del Valle's expertise and advocacy underscored the event's central theme: creating a brighter, more equitable future for all girls in Guatemala.

## Harmonizing Cultural Richness and Political Awareness Through Melody

The event was further enriched by the soulful musical performance of Chu'milkaji, a renowned singer-songwriter from San Juan Comalapa. Her artistic interpretations beautifully captured the essence of the current political moment, articulating the demands and underscoring the invaluable contributions of indigenous peoples to the development of Guatemala.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwic2lKiACI>

