The EU follows very closely the situation in Ecuador, in particular the protests and national strike organised by the indigenous organisations. The EU deplores the loss of life, rejects violence, and recognizes the right to peaceful protest. Social protest within the law is legitimate, but it should remain peaceful and the response by law enforcement bodies must be proportionate. The EU welcomes and encourages the dialogue established between the government and representatives from indigenous groups supported by mediation from the Ecuadorian Episcopal Conference. The EU stands ready to support the dialogue, which should be inclusive and result in concrete actions.

The EU Delegation, together with EU Member States present in Ecuador holds a regular dialogue with the government and civil society on human rights issues. The EU will continue promoting the respect of human rights in its engagement with the authorities, notably through the implementation of the EU Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy for Ecuador. The EU also contributes to the strengthening of democracy through several thematic and regional cooperation programmes. The project with the Regional Foundation of Advice on Human Rights, with the objective to protect human rights defenders (including indigenous rights defenders) criminalized in the context of the 2019 October protests and to promote dialogue with the Government, is a concrete example of EU engagement.