

The New Regional Executive Committee (REC) of WACC Latin America 2026–2030

In Quito, Ecuador, on Friday, March 20, 2026, a new team was elected to lead WACC Latin America. The positions of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and board members are held respectively by Dr. Vilma Peña, Mr. Hemerson Díaz, Mr. Héctor Tecúm, Dr. Magali Cunha, M.A. Néstor Manchini, and Dr. Tania Villalva.

Héctor Javier Tecúm Jorge is a Guatemalan social communicator, journalist, and social worker with more than fifteen years of experience in development projects, institutional communication, community and investigative journalism. He holds a degree in Social Work with an emphasis in Development Management and has training in community reporting and local development. He has worked as a correspondent, communicator, and university lecturer, and has collaborated with public institutions, international cooperation agencies, and social organizations on issues related to children, Indigenous peoples, migration, and civil society strengthening. (javiertecum@gmail.com)



Hemerson Díaz is a Colombian cultural manager and public accountant. He leads the Intercultural Network of Communication Media of Indigenous Peoples, RIMCOPI, at the Cooperative University of Colombia. He has professional experience supporting the strengthening of Indigenous community processes in the departments of Nariño and Putumayo, as well as consolidating their own communication processes and the development of Indigenous

Communication Public Policy in those territories. He also promotes audiovisual and radio production in support of content that strengthens sociocultural practices and ancestral knowledge. (emerdi1@gmail.com)

Magali N. Cunha is a professor, researcher, and journalist whose work focuses on communication, religions, and politics at the Institute for the Study of Religion (ISER) in Rio de Janeiro. She holds a doctorate in Communication Sciences and a master's degree in social Memory and Document, and she also serves as general editor of the Bereia collective, dedicated to information and fact-checking in digital religious environments. She is a columnist for Carta Capital magazine, an activist in the ecumenical movement, and the author of books, scientific articles, and outreach texts on fundamentalism, democracy, human rights, and evangelical participation in Brazilian politics. (magali.ncunha@gmail.com)





Néstor David Manchini is a communicator, lecturer, and researcher at the National Universities of Quilmes and Avellaneda, as well as at teacher training institutes. He holds a degree in Social Communication, with advanced master's-level training in cultural industries, politics, and management, and is a specialist in human rights education. He has extensive experience in university outreach, research, and publications on communication, education, and human rights, and is involved in various human rights and communication spaces and networks in Argentina and Latin America. (nestormanchini@gmail.com)

Tania Villalva is an Ecuadorian communicator, lecturer, and researcher with a doctorate in Social Communication, a master's degree in communication, and specializations in corporate communication, human rights, and public policy. She works at the Universidad Estatal Amazónica, where she coordinates academic publications and develops projects related to intercultural communication, human rights, popular communication, community media, and native digital media. She has published several articles, produced radio content and podcasts, and actively participant in civil society organizations and networks such as the World Association for Christian Communication. (tvillalva85@gmail.com)



Vilma Peña-Vargas is a Costa Rican educommunicator with a doctorate in Education, specializing in Pedagogical Mediation, and a master's degree in Group Psychology. She works as a lecturer, researcher, outreach officer, and strategic communication liaison in the Directorate of Internationalization and Cooperation at the State Distance University (UNED), where she promotes university social responsibility, distance education, and sustainability projects. She has extensive experience in university community work, the training of new leaders, communication for social change, and the use of alternative media with a gender, environment, and rights perspective. (ixbalamv@gmail.com)

Taken together, the profiles of Néstor David Manchini, Magali N. Cunha, Tania Villalva, Héctor Javier Tecúm Jorge, Hemerson Díaz, and Vilma Peña-Vargas form a team with solid experience in communication, teaching, research, and community engagement, with converging emphases on human rights, interculturality, religion and politics, social development, university internationalization, and the production, analysis, or verification of content across different formats and platforms. It is important to highlight that each of these positions is undertaken on a voluntary basis and with a service-oriented purpose in support of communication and ecumenism in the region and around the world.