OPEN LETTER FROM THE CONFEDERATION OF INDIGENOUS NATIONALITIES OF THE ECUADORIAN AMAZON TO THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMPANIES INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE RONDA SURORIENTE

The Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE) and its associates, The Achuar Nationality of Ecuador (NAE), the Shiwiar Nationality of Ecuador (NASHIE), The Sapara Nation of Ecuador (NASE), the Shuar Nation of Ecuador (NASHE), the Ancestral People of Huito, The Aboriginal Kichwa People of Sarayaku-TAY JASARUTA, the Waorani Women’s Association of Ecuador (AMWAE), the Interprovincial Federation of Shuar Centers (FICSH), and the Federation of the Shuar Nation of Pastaza (FENASHP), express our sound rejection of the international promotional process of the XI Oil Round, or “Ronda Suroriente”, that will affect our ancestral territories in the Pastaza and Morona Santiago Provinces.

In various previous declarations, our constituents have demanded that the XI Round not be carried out due to its violation of our collective rights enshrined in the Ecuadorian Constitution and International Human Rights Treaties. We demand that public and private oil companies across the world NOT participate in the bidding process that systematically violates the rights of seven indigenous nationalities by imposing oil projects in their ancestral territories.

The “socialization” of communities that was carried out by the government, and which they try to pass off as Previous Consultation of the indigenous peoples and nationalities, does not comply with international standards upholding the right to free, prior, and informed consent as decreed by the Interamerican Court of Human Rights in the sentencing of the “Sarayaku Case”; which up to this point the government has failed to adhere to. Once again, this demonstrates that oil projects do not respect, nor will they respect, the rights of indigenous communities. History repeats itself!

International Human Rights Organisms, including the Committee on Economic and Social Rights of the United Nations, have recognized that our rights have been trampled upon and insist that the State “conduct consultations that include free expression of consent or non-consent prior to a project, as well as the space and time necessary for reflection and decision-making, as these are the measures for safeguarding cultural integrity and reparation.” In addition, the Committee recommends “...the suspension of Decree 1247 of 2012, and in its place, the designing of legislative measures, with the
We call upon the national and international community to join us, to be vigilant, and to show solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon that demand respect for their cosmovision, whose foundation is the conservation of tropical forests that constitute our space for life and that are at extreme risk from the oil projects of the 11th Oil Round.

Sincerely,

Franco Viteri, President the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE)

Jaime Vargas, President of the Achuar Nationality of Ecuador (NAE)

Fernando Santi, President of the Shiwiar Nationality of Ecuador (NASHIE)

Manari Ushigua, President of the Binational Sapara Federation of Ecuador – Peru (FEBZEP).

Manuel Maiche, President of the Shuar Nation of Ecuador (NASHE)

Darío Jaramillo, President of the Ancestral People of Huito

José Gualinga, President del Aboriginal Kichwa People of Sarayaku

Manuela Ima, President Waorani Women’s Association of Ecuador (AMWAE)

Francisco Shiki, President of the Interprovincial Federation of Shuar Centers (FICSH)

Cristóbal Jimpikit, Federation of the Shuar Nation of Pastaza (FENASHP)

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5 Final Observations by the Committee about the third report from Ecuador, approved by the Committee of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in its forty-ninth sessional period (November 14th to 30th, 2012).

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