

## **SAPARA NATIONALITY OF ECUADOR**

Puyo, Pastaza - Ecuador

May 1, 2017

### **Ambassador Liu Jieyi**

Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

### **Ambassador Wu Haitao**

Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

350 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016

His Excellency,

Those of us who form the Sapara Nationality of Ecuador, come before you to express our deep concern about the negative impacts that the oil exploitation by Chinese companies in our ancestral territory would bring, and to also express that we will not allow any damage to our forest, rivers, mountains and biodiversity, which helps regulate the global climate and is a source of life for our culture and spirituality.

The territory of the Sapara Nationality of Ecuador, located in the Amazonian province of Pastaza, is bathed by the rivers Conambo, Pindoyacu, Jandiyacu, Corrientes, and Tigre, and houses 560 of us, distributed in 25 communities. In our mountains live the spirits of our ancestors, who care for animals, trees, lagoon, and waterfalls, and who, in turn, are interlocutors of our dreams. In addition, we share our territory with our indigenous brothers who live in voluntary isolation.

Unfortunately, in 2011, our sacred territory was squared and fragmented into oil blocks by the government of Ecuador. These blocks were concessioned during the Suroriental Round, and in February 2014, the exploration offer of Blocks 79 and 83, presented by Andes Petroleum (consortium of Chinese companies National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec)), was accepted. Two exploration and exploitation contracts were signed on January 25, 2016, condemning our home to imminent disappearance.

For all of this, we were not consulted nor was our free, prior, and informed consent obtained as guaranteed by the Constitution of Ecuador, international human rights treaties, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, despite the fact that this project can seriously affect our integrity and existence as a nationality, including the permanence of our language, declared by UNESCO as an intangible heritage of humanity in 2001.

We have been direct witnesses of the environmental, social, and cultural devastation that the oil companies have generated in the Amazon region of our country. Therefore, as indigenous nationalities, we oppose the extraction of natural resources in our territories, exercising our constitutional right to resist, which we

have made public by collective resolutions, national advocacy, and several letters addressed to the Chinese Embassy in Ecuador, which to date, have had no response.

In view of the abovementioned, we request that the Chinese delegation to the United Nations protect ancient cultures such as ours, urging Chinese state-owned company Andes Petroleum to refrain from entering our territories, since our country has not respected or protected human rights. We also demand that the Chinese government assume its commitment to comply with the international framework of indigenous peoples' rights and that its overseas investments adhere to the Chinese Guidelines for Due Diligence within the Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals; On Social Responsibility in Mining Investments Abroad; And Environmental Protection in Investment and External Cooperation.

Sincerely,

Manari Ushigua President of the Sapara Nationality of Ecuador

Gloria Ushigua President of the Association of Sapara Women of Ecuador  
(ASHIÑWAKA)