

Friday, 4 June 2021

Dear members of the Executive Board and Staff of the United Nations Development Program:

On April 21, on the eve of the "Leaders Summit on Climate Change," the United Nations Development Program in Colombia (UNDP-Colombia) announced a strategic alliance with GeoPark, an oil company with a history of abusing the human rights of indigenous peoples in Amazonia, and more recently, of harboring alliances with paramilitary assassins that operate in the heavily-militarized areas around the Platanillo oil block in the Colombian Amazon.

The most directly affected Siona indigenous and "Perla Amazónica" campesino communities, who remain under threat credible enough for the Inter American Commission on Human Rights to have granted precautionary measures in 2018, immediately rejected this agreement, despite being beneficiaries of UNDP-Colombia programming. Thus the UNDP destroyed the trust of the local communities. ***Will you investigate this abject decision-making failure?***

In its responses to the "Questionnaire for the UN System" for the 20th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples (UNPFII20) the UNDP stated that "The project-level standard on Indigenous Peoples [Standard 6] establishes that all projects that may impact the rights, lands, resources and territories of Indigenous Peoples require prior review and/or assessment of potential impacts and benefits. Projects with potentially significant adverse impacts require a full social and environmental assessment conducted by an independent and capable entity. Reviews and assessments will be conducted transparently and with the full, effective and meaningful participation of the indigenous peoples concerned."

After being apprised of the UNDP-Colombia/GeoPark alliance and community opposition, the UNPFII20 concluded in its final draft report that "This [alliance] contradicts UNDP's own Social and Environmental Standard 6, and the Forum urges UNDP to suspend all related partnership activities until a proper [Free, Prior, and Informed Consent] process can be carried out." ***Do you agree that Standard 6 applies to the UNDP as well as other entities and projects?***

In his remarks before the 2021 Petersberg Climate Dialogue, a preparatory event for the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that "we are still heading for a disastrous temperature rise of 2.4 degrees by the end of the century. We stand indeed at the edge of the abyss" He declared that "We can no longer afford big fossil fuel infrastructure anywhere. Such investments simply deepen our predicament." Indeed the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that "Emissions of CO2 from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributed about 78% of the total GHG emissions [Greenhouse Gases] increase from 1970 to 2010..." ***Do you agree that UNDP's operations should not legitimize big fossil fuel infrastructure anywhere?***

UNDP alliances with an industry that is actively "deepening our predicament" if not actively destroying indigenous and local communities highlights the corporate capture of the UN system, especially the UNDP. ***It is imperative that the UNDP rescind all alliances with all oil companies, and that you update your private sector due diligence policy, moving the oil industry from the "High Risk" to the "Exclusionary" category.*** Despite the Secretary General's warning, oil companies want to expand the infrastructure we cannot afford, and it would appear that they are doing so with the complicity of the United Nations.

We look forward to your responses to our various questions.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
350.org América Latina	Brazil
Alliance of Baptists	USA
ALTSEAN-Burma	Thailand
Amazon Frontlines	Ecuador, Colombia & Peru
Amazon Watch	USA
APT Norte	Ecuador
Asamblea Cantonal de Cotacachi	Ecuador
Asha Parivar	India
Asociacion Artesanal Femenina de Produccion Agricola el Rosal	Ecuador
Asociación Latinoamericana para el Desarrollo Alternativo - ALDEA	Ecuador
Bank Information Center	USA
CEDHU	Ecuador
Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)	Regional (Americas)
Centro de Políticas Públicas y Derechos Humanos -Peru Equidad	Peru
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America	USA
CNS	India
Colectiva de Antropólogas del Ecuador	Ecuador
Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine (CDHAL)	Canada
Congregations of St. Joseph	USA
COOPERACIÓN	Peru
Corporación de Producción Agrícola Intag Sostenible "CORPAIS"	Ecuador
Corporación Toisán	Ecuador
DECOIN	Ecuador
Dominican Leadership Conference	USA
Due Process of Law Foundation	Regional
Earthworks	USA
Extinction Rebellion Ecuador	Ecuador
FASCA	Ecuador
Friends of the Earth United States	USA
Fundación Imaymana	Ecuador
Grupo Kanaka	Colombia
HEALING BRIDGES	USA

Iniciativa Cuencas Sagradas	Perú/Ecuador
Land is Life	USA
Lluviacomunicación	Ecuador
Movimiento Ecologista Popular (MEP)	Ecuador
Pachamama Alliance Perú	Peru
Pollywog Productions	USA
Pueblo Shuar Arutam	Ecuador
Socialist Party (India)	India
The YEARS Project	USA
TierrActiva Perú	Peru