

## JOINT PUBLIC COMPLAINT

The Buenavista Reservation of the Siona People and the Campesino Reserve Zone (ZRC) The Amazon Pearl (*La Perla Amazónica*) reject the strategic alliance between the UNDP and the GEOPARK oil company.

Ms.

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UNDP Representative

SINU resident coordinator in Colombia

Since 2019 in the municipality of Puerto Asís, Putumayo, relationships and grant agreements have been implemented within the framework of the Sustainable Amazon Program for Peace, (*Programa de Amazonía Sostenible para la Paz*) with the communities of the Siona Reservation of Buenavista and the Association for Holistic Sustainable Development Amazon Pearl, ADISPA (*Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Sostenible Perla Amazónica*), organization that legally represents the Campesino Reserve Zone ZRC Perla Amazónica, with the purpose of protecting strategic ecological corridors for the preservation and conservation of Amazonian life and biodiversity, in order to support the fostering of territorial stewardship and ensuring the survival of the communities in a sustainable way within the Amazonian environment.

With concern, we note the launching on April 21, 2021, of the strategic alliance “United for Territorial Recovery” (*“Unidos por la Reactivación Territorial”*) between the UNDP Colombia with the Geopark oil company, which was announced on social media. This disregards the [local] processes of defense and resistance against extractivism in the region, particularly against the Put-12, Put-8, and Platanillo Blocks [oil concessions], owned by the company Amerisur Colombia (today GEOPARK). These operations have resulted in environmental, territorial, social, cultural, and spiritual affectations, and these have been widely denounced by the indigenous and campesino communities.

We consider this Alliance to be an act that undermines the legitimacy and trust in UNDP, since it is INCOHERENT with the effective possibility of environmental and territorial protection since it is being agreed with the Company that most threatens the fragility of the Amazon.

Since 2009, Amerisur (today GeoPark) has been developing activities in our territories that have systematically ignored the decisions of the traditional authorities and the campesino and popular movement. This imposition by force of this [extractive] development scheme is contrary to our own life plans, our own development plans, and the right to consultation and prior, free and informed consent, and self-determination. This is a situation that has been brought to the attention of the Colombian State within the legal framework of enforceability of rights such as the restitution of territorial rights, which Amerisur opposes; criminal complaints; and administrative requisitions (*requerimientos administrativos*) to the Supervisory Agencies (*entes de control*) and the Public Ministry. This has also been raised before the Inter American Commission of Human Rights, which resulted in the granting of precautionary measures to the

Buenavista Reservation of the Siona People (MC-395-18) but has not resulted in any form of institutional response [by the Colombian State].

At the same time, members of illegal armed groups have publicly stated that they have negotiated directly with the company to safeguard the company's operations and avoid social and community opposition to seismic activities. This armed group exercises control, imposes restrictions and other impositions on the civilian population in the municipality of Puerto Asís.

We reject the Strategic Alliance between UNDP and GEOPARK. We demand the UNDP's immediate retraction of the agreement as an expression of coherence and allowing for the possibility of continuing with the understanding and implementation of community activities with the Buenavista Reservation and the ZRC La Perla Amazónica.

We are an integral part of Amazonia and as campesino and indigenous communities we share, care for, and respect this territory of life and hope for Colombia and the entire world.

WE ARE LIFE, WE ARE AMAZON

**BUENAVISTA RESERVATION OF THE SIONA PEOPLE**

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**CAMPESINO RESERVE ZONE THE AMAZON PEARL**

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