

Quito, September 18th, 2017



Bolivia

Mr.

Zhu Qingqiao

General Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Department

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

Beijing



Brasil



Colombia

Subject: Demand for dialogue on Chinese investments, respect for indigenous territories and rights, and avoid impacts on the Amazon basin.

Of our consideration:



Ecuador

I am pleased to address you in connection with the subject matter, on behalf of the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), an international organization representing nine national confederations, four hundred local organizations, five thousand native communities and three hundred and ninety peoples; all with a vital relationship and profound interdependence and cultural survival with the Amazonian biome.



Guyana

As owners of 250 million hectares and in the process of 100 million pending, we request a process of dialogue with representatives of your Government in order to raise our concerns about the pressure that large extractive and infrastructure projects in which are involved in various Chinese companies, represent very serious threats to our territories, life, health and survival as peoples.



Guyana
Francesa



Perú

In a context where our States are not fulfilling their shared responsibility to protect the great Amazon Basin and guarantee our rights, in accordance with international instruments such as Convention 169-ILO and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples ratified by most of them; our organizations are actively struggling in each of their countries to reverse this unfortunate situation; and in its support as a supranational body of territorial representation for the entire Amazon, we reiterate that all those who have an interest in intervening in our territories must strictly respect the principles of international law, indigenous, as well as environmental and social



Surinam



Venezuela

In the same direction, in 35 years of COICA's work, we have developed processes with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Andean Development Corporation, UN agencies (UNFCCC, CBD, WIPO, FAO, UNDP) and the National Bank of Economic and Social Development of Brazil (BNDES), among others.

Similarly, and for the above, we propose to organize working groups, at the national and regional Amazon level in relation to the following points:

1. The objectives and interests of the CLAY Fund, EXIM Bank and other sources of Chinese capital financing in the IIRSA-COSIPLAN project portfolio, which have been greatly questioned for their aggression against our peoples, forests and rivers; and its



Bolivia



Brasil



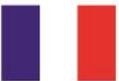
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Francesa



Perú



Surinam



Venezuela

weak methodologies need to be corrected to assess the environmental and cultural impacts of such projects.

2. Guarantees of Chinese investments associated with Amazonian states to respect the rights of possession and ownership of indigenous territories, free, prior, informed and "good faith" consultation and consent, especially those in a dangerous process national "open" them indiscriminately to investment.
3. Review of serious cases involving the rights of our peoples regarding Chinese investments, with the participation of the Amazonian indigenous states and confederations and our allies.
4. Implement our recommendations on how to improve the safeguards policies and social and environmental standards of Chinese banks and companies and corrective measures that are required.

On the 22nd of September in our international indigenous day of alternatives to achieve "Living Amazon, Secure Humanity", we will approach the Chinese embassies in the capitals of the Amazonian countries, to discuss what has been said, in the presence of congressmen.

Faced with the weakening of regulatory frameworks to favor investments and businesses, respect for our peoples, is to listen to us, talk and agree on the problems facing the Amazon and the challenges that we must solve so that any investment is not a threat to our life and culture, and guarantee our self-determination and full life, in application of Article 7 of Convention 169 of the right of indigenous peoples to decide, control and implement the type of development required in our territories and for the benefit of the life of mankind

Sincerely;




Edwin Vasquez
Coordinator General

- Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon, COIAB
- Interethnic Association of Development of the Peruvian Jungle, AIDSESP
- Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon, OPIAC
- Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia, CIDOB
- Confederation of the Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon, CONFENIAE
- Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of Amazonas of Venezuela, ORPIA
- Federation of Amerindian Organizations of French Guyana, FOAG
- Association of Amerindian Peoples of Guyana, APA
- Suriname Indigenous Organization, OIS