



**INTERVENCION DEL COMISIONADO PRESIDENCIAL PARA ISLA DE PASCUA**

**SR. CARLOS LLANCAQUEO M.**

**12° Foro Permanente de Asuntos Indígenas**

**Tema 8**

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**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSIONER FOR EASTER ISLAND**

**MR. CARLOS LLANCAQUEO M.**

**12th UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

**Agenda item 8**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Since taking office as President of the Republic, Sebastián Piñera has sought to expand the **dialogue** with the indigenous peoples of Chile through Round Tables for Dialogue and Work.

The Rapa Nui people are an important part of this dialogue; in August 2010, the Minister of the Interior and Vice-President of the Republic of Chile made a “**commitment to work together with the Rapa Nui people**” to discuss, study and propose alternative solutions to issues concerning: land claims, through the **Land Round Table**, which has so far settled over half of the cases submitted to it; establishment of a new administrative system for the Special Territory of Easter Island, with the creation of the **Special Status Round Table**; regulation of residence, stay and movement in the territory, through the **Migration Round Table**; and a development plan for the Island, respecting the environment and sustainability and protecting the Rapa Nui cultural and archeological heritage, with the creation of the **Development Round Table**, representing an additional investment over and above the annual investment by the State of US\$60 million.

From the outset, each of these round tables for dialogue and work has had a mixed membership and been chaired by authorities at the highest level.

Today, just over two years since their creation, the round tables have made significant progress.

For example, the **SPECIAL STATUS ROUND TABLE** is seeking to implement the constitutional reform which transformed the Province and Commune of Easter Island into the “**Special Territory of Easter Island**” by creating a special administrative system conducive to greater decentralization and administrative autonomy. This would involve, inter alia, establishment of an Island Government, with legal status and its own budget, and of a democratically elected Island Development Council.

However, the most welcome transformation for the Rapa Nui people occurred in the context of the **MIGRATION ROUND TABLE**. In January 2012, the Political Constitution of the Republic was amended by the addition of a second paragraph in article 126.

As a result of this reform, no Chileans or foreigners may reside or live in the Special Territory of Easter Island unless they meet the requirements established by law. This will prevent over-crowding of the Island, giving preference regarding residence there to persons from the Rapa Nui community. In addition, tourists visiting the Island will have to make payments on a sliding scale, with a maximum length of stay of 30 days, and the proceeds will be used for development works in the Island.

A special law will have to be enacted to implement this reform. Accordingly a proposal based on the draft legislation was formulated in 2012 and the Rapa Nui people were consulted, in accordance with ILO Convention No. 169, between December 2012 and February 2013. The general conclusion was that it is essential to regulate residence in and visits to Easter Island in order to protect its environment, sustainability and the Rapa Nui cultural and archeological heritage.

The draft legislation is now in its final stages and should be submitted to the National Congress during the next months.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Forum,

These efforts would not have been able to achieve the progress that can be shown today without the policy of dialogue established by the Government of Chile with its indigenous peoples. In addition, a basic feature of this dialogue is that it was held with civil society and especially with the **legitimate representatives of the Rapa Nui people**, elected democratically and exclusively by Rapa Nui people. They include, for example, the Rapa Nui members of the Easter Island Development Commission (COEDIPA), representing an electorate of 1,800 Rapa Nui on the electoral rolls out of the 3000 Rapa Nui people living in Eastern Island. The last election for CODEIPA took place in June 2011 with a 30% higher turnout than in the previous one held in 2007.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that this gives a clear picture of the participatory process taking place in Eastern Island with the Rapa Nui people, in a framework of respect for their human rights, individual and collective rights, within which Chile is fulfilling their main aspirations of the Rapa Nui people in matters affecting them.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

