

MADRE



Land, Territory and Natural Resources

By: Otilia Lux de Coti (MADRE's Advisor)

Ms. President

Ladies and gentlemen representatives of Organizations of Indigenous Peoples

Ladies and gentlemen representatives of governments and States

Indigenous Peoples demand that National States respect the rights of Mother Earth, because it provides humanity with food, medicines, environmental balance, fresh and salt water, air, flora, fauna and minerals to maintain reproduction of the Earth, as life of the planet. One of the key contributions of Indigenous Peoples and women and rural women, peasants, are those that produce more than half of the food that the world consumes daily. Therefore, they have the right to demand, with historical authority, that the life of humanity and the planet be guaranteed. The earth is not merchandise is the Mother.

The Indigenous Peoples reaffirm, the vision of the territory as identity, territory-nation and as nation-indigenous; a perspective of territory as a basis for food security and sovereignty, as well as rationality and sustainability. The importance of the territory is the exercise of self-determination exercised by Indigenous Peoples as subjects of collective and individual rights. It is the space where community, solidarity, regulations, spirituality and strategic political, economic and cultural processes are exercised to maintain and protect the wisdom and intergenerational ancestral knowledge that guarantees the transmission of knowledge between generations.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES

1. That the States guarantee and implement the national and international instruments that ensure the right of access, possession to different modalities of possession and use of the lands, territories and natural assets of the Indigenous Peoples, in peace and governance, without harassment of companies national and transnational, state institutions, private actors, organized crime and others.
2. That they recognize and implement policies of recovery and self-demarcation of their lands and territories with legal certainty. And that these policies guarantee the indigenous people a dignified and sustainable life.
3. That the results of the free, prior and informed consultation be implemented and respected as a defense mechanism for indigenous lands and territories vis-à-vis extractive companies, megaprojects and any other intervention to be carried out in our territories, in order to build their own developments that guarantee the life of their cultures within their spiritual, normative and linguistic frameworks, that produce their own food, their educational forms according to

their needs, and promote a collective, individual or mixed production and the right to manage their own territorial resources.

4. Guarantee the production and consumption of the indigenous peoples' own products so that they are not replaced by transgenic products, which are being imported in a massive way and that are bankrupting Indigenous peoples and women producers and breaking the local markets and with the import of grains and food products to Europe and the United States.

Thank you very much, Ms. President.