ASOCIACIÓN INTERÉTNICA DE DESARROLLO DE LA SELVA PERUANA



"Year of the Universalization of Health"

Lima June 15, 2020

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Manuel Merino De Lama

With copy: Congressmen of the Republic of Peru

President of the Congress of the Republic

Subject: Opinion on Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI)

Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms. SURNAME

The Inter-Ethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDESEP) and its Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon (ORPIO), request your vote in favor of the modification of Law 28736 which was approved by the Congress Commission of Andean, Amazonian and Afro-Peruvian Peoples, Environment and Ecology (CPAAAAE) on May 26 th. This Law aims at the Protection of Indigenous Peoples in a situation of Isolation and initial contact (PIACI), the modification guarantees it. This is a historic opportunity to defend the lives of these peoples in Peru.

In the Peruvian Amazon there are nearly 20 indigenous groups in a condition of voluntary, total or partial isolation. These peoples are in situations of extreme cultural vulnerability but also health, since they have not developed antibodies for a series of diseases that are daily in Western society. In Peru and other Amazon countries, there are various unfortunate experiences of forced or accidental contact that have led to the massive death of this population due to stomach or respiratory viruses.

Peru is among the top ten countries severely hit by COVID and this reality exacerbates the risk for the uncontacted groups to disappear. In this context, the approval of this Protective Legislation is urgent as the spread of the virus, particularly in the Peruvian Amazon, is moving with worrying speed.

Fifteen years ago, the text of the law that was approved, impeded an adequate implementation of this legal framework. The results demonstrate negligence by the Peruvian State. Of the ten applications for PIACI Reservations submitted more than 12 years ago, only 5 of them have been approved, leaving the rest of the groups completely defenseless. The purpose of the amendment to the law is to guarantee the right to self-determination, to non-contact and, above all, to the real intangibility of their territories.

In the light of this reality, we respectfully ask your vote in favor of this modification in the Plenary Session of the National Congress. For further information, both organizations can be reached at the following emails:

Sincerely,

PRESIDENTE

Lizardo Cauper President **AIDESEP**

Jorge Pérez Rubio President **ORPIO**

COMARU (Asociado Directo)