

**Update to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
(CERD) Urgent Action Procedures
on Behalf of the Traditional Authorities of the Eight Yaqui Pueblos in Sonora, Mexico,
by the International Indian Treaty Council, an Indigenous Peoples Organization in
General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and the
Water Protector Legal Collective, an Indigenous Legal Organization**

August 25, 2025.

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Attachments: Letter from the Traditional Authorities of the Yaqui Tribe – Del Pueblo de Huirivis to the Mexican Foreign Ministry dated 18 August, 2025; Letter from Traditional Midwives Concerned with Adverse Impacts of Plan Sonora, compiled and signed 24 August, 2025.

I. Introduction

The submitting Indigenous Traditional governments and organizations respectfully provide this update to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (“CERD” or “the Committee”). This update follows our March 7, 2025 urgent action procedures submission, which raised the urgent and ongoing threat of human rights violations against the Eight Traditional Yaqui Pueblos and other Indigenous Peoples of Sonora, Mexico, resulting from extractive and industrial lithium mining projects carried out under Plan Sonora.

Plan Sonora is a broad development initiative for a so-called “green” energy transition in Mexico, including large-scale mining of lithium and copper, infrastructure expansion (expansion of Guaymas port, highways, and railroads), and mega-projects such as solar and liquefied natural gas facilities. These developments are moving forward rapidly in the Rio Yaqui river basin, in the ancestral lands of the Eight Traditional Yaqui Pueblos, despite their catastrophic impacts on the precious water resources from the Rio Yaqui watershed, a region already under extreme stress from drought and water scarcity, agrochemical contamination, and mining waste.

Mexico has Treaty obligations to the Yaqui found in the Decreto Cardenas of 1937, which guarantees land and water rights to the Yaqui, reserving half (50%) of the Rio Yaqui’s surface flow. These rights have not been honored and the Yaqui have long struggled to secure their right to water through legal action, including a case before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (which resulted in a “Plan de Justicia Yaqui” under now-former President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador). In addition, the recent “Plan Hidrico Sonora 2023-2053,” guarantees water supply to Sonora, Mexico for the next 30 years and recognizes that mining strains water resources.

The Bacanora Lithium Mine, part of the Plan Sonora mining plans, has been in development since at least 2010, with exploratory activities directly affecting the Yaquis just south of the U.S./Mexico border, 20 km south of Bacadehuachi, near the feeding waters of the Rio Yaqui. No notice or consent has been sought from the Yaqui for these projects. The mine is currently halted due to international arbitration between Mexico and two British and one Chinese company, but remains a serious threat to the Yaqui's access to clean water. Lithium mining, particularly through open-pit methods, is highly water intensive and causes significant environmental damage. In Sonora, open-pit mining, which produces 37 tons of CO₂ per ton of lithium mined, will not only deplete already scarce water resources but will also contaminate the remaining water with toxic substances that will remain *for at least 300 years*.

The Yaqui have never been informed or consulted about Plan Sonora or its component projects, in violation of their rights under ICERD and the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

II. Updates since March 7, 2025

a. Arbitration Proceedings regarding Plan Sonora and Bacanora Lithium Mine: International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes ("ICSID") at the World Bank

The international arbitration (ICSID Case No. ARB/24/21) initiated by Bacanora Lithium Limited (British), Sonora Lithium Ltd. (British), Ganfeng International Trading (Shanghai), and Co. Ltd. (Chinese) companies against Mexico due to its nationalization of lithium, currently preventing lithium extraction at the Bacanora Lithium Mine, remains pending. Thus, it is of utmost importance that the CERD engage our petition for remedies under urgent action procedures.

Since our submission in March 2025, the arbitral tribunal and party representatives have been confirmed. On July 24, 2025, claimants filed observations on Mexico's preliminary ICSID jurisdictional objections. Both parties were ordered to advance arbitration costs of \$150,000 USD each (ICSID Convention Article 61(2); Administrative and Financial Regulation 15; Arbitration Rule 50); as of March 28, 2025, Mexico has failed to pay its share. The cost of these proceedings, coupled with the investment in this project (\$48 billion from U.S. investment), and likely millions more in ongoing exploratory activity since at least 2010, are concerning, considering the proceedings do not take into account Indigenous Peoples' human rights protected by both the ICERD and the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("UNDRIP"). Although ICSID rules allow for non-disputing parties to request permission to file a written submission in the proceeding, besides exorbitant costs, there are other barriers to access in this forum. In at least one instance, the arbitral tribunals have denied the filing of *amicus curiae* of four Indigenous communities in Zimbabwe (ICSID Case No. ARB/10/25). The Yaqui *have never even been notified of Plan Sonora nor the Bacanora Lithium Mine.*

While the Bacanora Lithium Mine operations are halted due to this ongoing arbitration, the other portions of Plan Sonora are moving forward and moving quickly. Moreover, as soon as these arbitrations portions are concluded the Bacanora Lithium Mine, whether by Mexico governmental operations, or other private actors from other country states, will be allowed to move forward by Mexico.

b. Plan Sonora Advancing Without Indigenous Consultation or Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of the Yaqui

Since March 2025, the Government of Mexico and the State of Sonora have publicly expanded and promoted Plan Sonora while continuing to exclude the Yaqui and other affected Indigenous Peoples:

- Official Branding & International Promotion

Prior to Mexico nationalizing its lithium reserves, Bacanora Lithium, a foreign conglomerate, advertised that it would be developing the *largest lithium mine in the world*.¹ The environmental impact statement approvals, land acquisitions, and water license permits were all received and granted in 2018.² Bacanora's website states the company and project is dedicated to environmental sustainability.³ Mexico now advertises Plan Sonora as a centerpiece of its global energy transition strategy, presenting the plan first at COP27 and COP28, and on a newly launched official government website.⁴ Plan Sonora has garnered wide global political and financial support from the European Union, the World Bank and other international organizations.⁵

Despite a stated commitment from Bacanora to the Equator Principles and an action plan aligned with the Equator Principles on its website,⁶ the basic principles of Equator Principles (including Principle 5 which includes “informed consultation and participation;”⁷ and IFC Principle 7 performance standards as it relates to Indigenous Peoples⁸), have not been met here. Additionally, Mexico's basic obligations to Indigenous Peoples under the International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (“ICERD”) and the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“U.N. Declaration”) have also not been met.

Under 5.01 Bacanora Lithium states it will “assess potential physical and economic resettlement, particularly in relation to ranchers and to Affected Communities using Ecosystem Services to contribute to livelihoods.” Deliverables include an “Assessment of Physical and Economic Resettlement and then a Land Access and Resettlement Framework and then either a Livelihoods Resettlement Framework or a Livelihoods Resettlement Plan, as appropriate” to be completed “prior to commencement of

¹ “The Sonora lithium project, located in Sonora, Mexico, is the biggest lithium deposit being developed by Sonora Lithium (SLL), a joint venture [] of Bacanora Minerals (77.5%) and Ganfeng Lithium (22.5%). The min is estimated to hold proven and probable reserves of 243.8Mt, containing 4.5Mt of lithium carbonate-equivalent (LCE).” *Top ten biggest lithium mines in the world*, Mining Technology (Aug. 30, 2019), <https://www.mining-technology.com/features/top-ten-biggest-lithium-mines/>.

² Bacanora Lithium (last visited Aug. 21, 2025), https://bacanoralithium.com/sonora_lithium_project/default.aspx.

³ *Environmental*, Bacanora Lithium (last visited Aug. 21, 2025), <https://bacanoralithium.com/sustainability/environmental.aspx>.

⁴ Sonora Sustainable Energy Plan, (last visited Aug. 21, 2025), <https://codeso.mx/en/sonora-plan/>.

⁵ Sonora Sustainable Energy Plan, (last visited Aug. 21, 2025), <https://codeso.mx/en/sonora-plan/>.

⁶ *See Equator Principles Action Plan for the Sonora Lithium Project*, Bacanora Lithium (last visited Aug. 21, 2025), <https://bacanoralithium.com/userfiles/pages/files/equatorprincipalsactionplan.pdf>.

⁷ *Principle 5: Stakeholder Engagement*, Bacanora Lithium (last visited August 21, 2025), <https://bacanoralithium.com/userfiles/pages/files/theequatorprinciplesjuly2020.pdf>.

⁸ *See IFC Performance Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples*, International Finance Corporation: World Bank Group (Jan. 1, 2012), <https://www.ifc.org/content/dam/ifc/doc/2010/2012-ifc-performance-standards-en.pdf>.

construction.” Moreover, under 1.04, Bacanora Lithium states it needed to produce an “operational Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)” to “include provisions for Informed Consultation and Participation” for “Affected Communities” and “disadvantaged or vulnerable” communities, but do not once mention Indigenous Peoples.⁹ Although this item was supposed to begin *prior* to “financial close,” the Yaqui and other Indigenous Peoples in Mexico have not even been informed let alone consulted – the lesser requisite of Free, Prior and Informed Consent as outlined in Bacanora Lithium’s own materials. The Yaqui and other adversely affected Indigenous Peoples have received no notice and are already facing relocation, dangerous living conditions, and even threats to their well-being and life for opposing the secretive Plan Sonora and Bacanora Lithium Mine.

- State-Owned Lithium Enterprise

Following its 2023 nationalization of lithium, Mexico has distanced itself from the claim that the site of the Bacanora Lithium Mine holds the largest deposit of lithium in the world.¹⁰ Despite no consent from Indigenous Peoples in the region, Mexico has also established a lithium company, LitióMX, and has announced development of an electric vehicle line called the “Olinia” – an Indigenous Nahuatl word meaning “to move.”¹¹ One of the assembly plants for these electric vehicles is planned to be located in Sonora.¹²

- Government Partnerships & Public Relations

On March 26, 2025, Governor Alfonso Durazo Montaña (Sonora) met with California Chamber of Commerce and California state legislators, calling Sonora “the gateway to a new era of sustainable development” adding that “[w]ith the Sonora Plan, we are creating the conditions to attract investment in innovative projects that not only benefit our people but also strengthen the regional economy in North America.”¹³

The same day, Governor Durazo signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (“UNAM”) to advertise Plan Sonora and create a laboratory for Geology, Renewable Energy, and Ecology to specifically study “rare earth elements.”¹⁴ Mexican authorities are

⁹ See *Equator Principles Action Plan for the Sonora Lithium Project*, Bacanora Lithium (last visited Aug. 21, 2025), <https://bacanoralithium.com/userfiles/pages/files/equatorprincipalsactionplan.pdf>.

¹⁰ *Mexico does not have the largest reserves of lithium*, Aristequi (May 21, 2021), <https://aristeginoticias.com/2105/aristegui-en-vivo/enterate/mexico-no-tiene-las-reservas-mas-grandes-de-litio-harp-enterate/>.

¹¹ Caroline Tracey, *What is Plan Sonora?*, The Border Chronicle (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://tribunodelpueblo.org/what-is-plan-sonora/>.

¹² *The goal is for Sonora to host one of the Olinia electric vehicle assembly plant: Shenbaum*, Consejo para el Desarrollo Sostenible: Sonora Investments (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://codeso.mx/en/the-goal-is-for-sonora-to-host-one-of-the-olinia-electric-vehicle-assembly-plant-sheinbaum/>.

¹³ Governor Durazo boosts clean energy investment in partnership with California, Consejo para el Desarrollo Sostenible: Sonora Investments (Mar. 26, 2025), <https://codeso.mx/en/governor-durazo-boosts-clean-energy-investment-in-partnership-with-california/>.

¹⁴ Governor Durazo signs Memorandum of Understanding with UNAM to promote the Sonora Plan, Consejo para el Desarrollo Sostenible: Sonora Investments (Mar. 26, 2025), <https://codeso.mx/en/governor-durazo-signs-memorandum-of-understanding-with-unam-to-promote-the-sonora-plan/>.

now framing Plan Sonora as directly responsible for a 15.79% decrease in poverty in Sonora, presenting the initiative as a social good while erasing Indigenous opposition.¹⁵

- Key Plan Sonora Infrastructure Under Construction

As part of Plan Sonora, other key infrastructure projects are moving forward. A solar array near Puerto Peñasco, promoted as the largest in Latin America, is nearly finished according to Mexico's Federal Energy Commission. Transmission lines will support both Mexico and California. Similarly, liquified natural gas projects including the Saguaro Energy Project at Punto Libertad and the AMIGO LNG terminal in Guaymas will supply liquid gas through pipelines from Texas' Permian Basin to serve new industrial parks in Mexico and export for Asia bypassing the Panama Canal. Finally, new transportation corridors are underway including a new highways between the state of Chihuahua and Guaymas, as well as a new cargo train line from Guaymas to Nogales.¹⁶

- The Yaqui Peoples Ongoing, Unanswered Requests for Free, Prior and Informed Consent on Plan Sonora

On June 30, 2025, Andrea Carmen, Executive Director of the International Indian Treaty Council, was a panelist during the U.N. Human Rights Council 59th Session's Annual Panel Discussion of the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change on Human Rights: Facilitating Just Transition in the Context of Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on Human Rights, and stated:

I am from the Yaqui Indigenous Nation whose traditional Sonora Desert homelands are divided by the international border between Mexico and the United States. In December 2023 at COP 28 in Dubai, Mexico and the US held a joint press conference to announce "Plan Sonora" which includes massive amounts of lithium mining and processing using scarce desert groundwater, the basis for subsistence and survival of Indigenous Peoples of the Sonora Desert. This slide shows what they call the "exploratory" Bacanora lithium mine currently operating in Sonora Mexico and the massive destruction it has already caused. Concessions for additional lithium mines are being issued in Sonora and elsewhere in Mexico. Despite our long-standing Treaty relationship and the 2022 "Yaqui Justice Plan" in which Mexico recommitted to respect Yaqui water rights, our traditional authorities have not been informed by Mexico about

¹⁵ *Highlights Alfonso Durazo low in poverty and economic growth in the State*, El Imparcial (Aug. 15, 2025), <https://www.elimparcial.com/son/sonora/2025/08/15/resalta-alfonso-durazo-baja-de-pobreza-y-crecimiento-economico-en-el-estado/>. See also, Tanya Vásquez, *Sound in fifth place with lower poverty rates in Mexico*, El Imparcial (Aug. 14, 2025), <https://www.elimparcial.com/son/sonora/2025/08/14/sonora-en-quinto-lugar-con-menores-indices-de-pobreza-en-mexico/>.

¹⁶ Caroline Tracey, *What is Plan Sonora?*, The Border Chronicle (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://tribunodelpueblo.org/what-is-plan-sonora/>.

Plan Sonora, nor have good faith consultations taken place for the purpose of obtaining their Free Prior and Informed Consent.

A lithium mine operating in Nevada USA, opposed by the impacted Indigenous Peoples, has used 4 billion gallons of ground water a year since 2022. Open-pit lithium mining produces 37 tons of CO2 per ton of lithium and contaminates ground water up to 150 miles away. Mapuche leaders from the so-called lithium triangle in Chile, Argentina and Bolivia report a similar lack of FPIC, as well as contamination and depletion of their traditionally used water sources. Is this really “Just Transition”?

On July 17, 2025, a representative credentialed by the International Indian Treaty Council from Rio Yaqui asked a Mexican government official in a side event at the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples about Mexico’s commitment to Free, Prior and Informed Consent and how it will be accorded to the Yaqui Nation regarding Plan Sonora and proposed lithium mining. This question went unanswered and this direct question from a community member was ignored. The side event was held in Geneva, hosted by the Mexican government concerning its constitutional reform.

On August 18, 2025, one of the Eight Traditional Authorities, Del Pueblo de Huirivis, sent a letter to invite the Mexican Foreign Ministry to meet with the Yaqui Traditional Authorities to discuss Plan Sonora. As of this update, no one from the Mexican government has initiated contact with the Yaqui Peoples about Plan Sonora or the imminent harm the extractive plan will impose on the Yaqui Peoples. Huirivis’ invitation specifically asks the Mexican government to share its presentations on Plan Sonora during both COPs 27 and 28 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Mexican government officials, along U.S. official John Kerry, announced Plan Sonora on the global stage and still have not engaged with the Yaqui Peoples. This invitation is attached to this update.

On August 24, 2025, Itepo ito Te Aniasakane, an organization of traditional midwives working in tandem with the Yaqui Peoples and Eight Traditional Authorities, compiled a letter with signatures showing deep concern for maternal and infant health in their communities and how new forms of pollution will be a detriment to health outcomes. This letter is attached to this update.

Since learning of Plan Sonora, Yaqui Peoples have been engaging at all levels of government and calling for international attention to the inevitable harms in their homelands as a result of Plan Sonora, and have only been met with silence by the Mexican government.

c. Adverse Impacts on Other Indigenous Peoples

Plan Sonora is ignoring Indigenous Peoples' rights at every turn. The Yaqui have yet to be informed of the Bacanora Lithium Mine and how it will devastate their water and way of life, and the Puerto Peñasco solar farm was also built on sacred salt flats to the Tohono O'odham Nation.¹⁷ The National Institute of Archaeology also called for the Guaymas-Nogales train line to be rerouted to avoid harming historical sites and Indigenous Peoples, but the directive was ignored.¹⁸ Similarly, a group of more than 30 environmental organizations: Whales or Gas?, have come together to oppose Saguaro Energy liquid natural gas pipeline, a key part of Plan Sonora.

Plan Sonora's reach extends beyond Yaqui territory impacting Opata Nation and Lipan Apache, among others, that have also not received adequate consultation. Leaders within Lipan Apache have initiated complaints in the Sonoran government to address destruction to homes and threats to life. Continuing development is advancing systematically without the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples, and the same are erased from the planning, consultation, or benefit-sharing of Plan Sonora, while bearing disproportionate harms.

III. Conclusion

Since March 2025, the Mexican government has accelerated Plan Sonora's implementation, expended its global promotion, and entered into new partnerships while still denying the Yaqui and other Indigenous Peoples their rights to information, consultation, and consent. The Yaqui Pueblos remain excluded and are being erased from consideration of Mexico's future and move towards sustainable energy at risk of irreparable harm to their lands, waters, and survival. We respectfully urge the CERD to take immediate action under its urgent action procedures to prevent further violations of ICERD and UNDRIP.

Respectfully submitted,
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¹⁷ Astrid Arellano, *The largest solar farm in Latin America, at what cost?*, Dialogue Earth (June 21, 2023), <https://dialogue.earth/en/energy/371694-largest-solar-farm-in-latin-america-at-what-cost/>.

¹⁸ Caroline Tracey, *What is Plan Sonora?*, The Border Chronicle (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://tribunodelpueblo.org/what-is-plan-sonora/>. See also, Jesús Alberto Ibarra, Twitter Post (June 28, 2024), https://x.com/Morpheus_mx1/status/1806698856857694414.

**AUTORIDADES TRADICIONALES DE LA TRIBU YAQUI
DEL PUEBLO DE HUIRIVIS.**

Pueblo de Huirivis, a 18 de agosto del 2025

Su Excelencia C. Juan Ramon De La Fuente Ramírez.

Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores

Del Gobierno de México.

Plaza Juárez No 20, piso 22, Colonia Centro

Delegación Cuauhtémoc, C.P 06010

Ciudad de México.

Los que Suscribimos Autoridades tradicionales de la tribu yaqui, del Pueblo de Huirivis, Guaymas Sonora. En uso de las facultades que nuestras leyes internas nos confieren, así como el Derecho que nos asiste como pueblos indios amparados en la Constitución Política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos en su artículo Segundo, en la Ley y Derechos y Cultura Indígena Aprobada.

Por lo anterior expuesto nos permitimos comunicarle lo siguiente:

el Gobierno Federal implementa un proyecto llamado Plan Sonora, La nación yaqui tiene en su haber el derecho que emana del decreto de 1939, emitido por el entonces presidente de la República General Lázaro Cárdenas Del Rio.

En el tema del derecho del agua, el plan de justicia implementa un proyecto de abasto de agua de calidad para todas poblaciones de la nación yaqui.

Actualmente el proyecto se encuentra en su etapa final, su infraestructura ya inaugurada para su operación, el tubo principal de descarga se encuentra conectado a la presa General Álvaro Obregón (el Oviachi), el cual garantiza el abasto del vital líquido para nuestros pueblos.

La nación yaqui a través de sus Usos, Costumbres y Tradiciones por décadas se a conducido bajo el respaldo de sus guardias tradicionales y que lo conforman su

tropa yoreme, por lo tanto todo acuerdo debe ser bajo consenso que emanan de las propias autoridades tradicionales de los ocho pueblos yaquis.

Estamos de acuerdo C. Canciller en el desarrollo económico y social para nuestros pueblos, especialmente cuando se tocan temas de relevancia como los Derechos del Agua y Territorio, lo cual fue aceptado por las autoridades el Plan de Justicia Yaqui.

El Yacimiento del Litio y otros Metales serán extraídos por las Empresas Mineras, promovidas en el Plan Sonora.

El Rio Bavispe conecta la cuenca del Rio Yaqui, los proyectos mineros históricamente son fuente contaminación, recientemente un grupo de ambientalistas prevén un desastre en términos de contaminación a través de la Cuenca del Rio Yaqui debido a la minería del litio.

Según fuentes informativas el agua contaminada puede alcanzar hasta 150 millas rio abajo y los efectos hasta 200 años, además las grandes cantidades de agua subterránea que se utilizan.

Bajo ley internacional los pueblos indígenas debemos ser informados de las actividades que puedan afectarnos, bajo el proceso del Consentimiento Previo Libre e Informado.

Considerando lo anterior C. Canciller, respetuosamente solicitamos haga una visita oficial a nuestra nación yaqui para dialogar sobre el Plan Sonora, ya que la información que tenemos es nula ya que, a través de los diferentes canales sociales, estos estaban presentes en la Conferencia de partes de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático (COP 28) en Dubái, Emiratos árabes Unidos.

Solicitamos C. secretario una Moratoria de acción urgente por parte del Comité para la Eliminación Racial de las Naciones Unidas el día 07 de marzo del 2025.

Afirmamos que esta moratoria debe entrar en vigor hasta que la nación yaqui haya sido informada como se afirma en la Declaración de la Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas y donde México se ha comprometido a respetar.

Su visita Excelencia a nuestra Nación Yaqui, no solamente nos ayudará a entender el Plan Sonora, si no a deliberar los Beneficios o Danos para nuestros pueblos, además una reunión de ese nivel nos dará la oportunidad de dialogar y fortalecer los lazos políticos, que se basan en las relaciones entre Naciones y tratados internacionalmente vinculantes como lo afirmamos en el Decreto emitido por el presidente de la Republica General Lázaro Cárdenas del Rio en 1939, entre México y la Nación Yaqui.

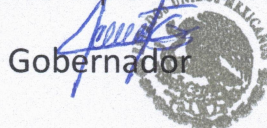
A solicitud de la peticion para los usos y efectos legales a que haya lugar, se extiende la presente en el Pueblo de Huirivis, Rio Yaqui, Municipio de Guaymas, Estado de Sonora, siendo el dia de la fecha mencionada.

ATENTAMENTE

Autoridades Tradicionales del Pueblo de Huirivis

C. Alberto Tapia Gutiérrez

Gobernador



GOBERNADOR
PUEBLO HUIRIVIS
ESTADO DE SONORA

Juan Cuén Saviva
C. Juan Cuén Saviva

Pueblo Mayor

Juan José Rivera Aguilar
C. Juan José Rivera Aguilar

Comandante

Manuel Chapa Zavala
C. Manuel Chapa Zavala

Capitán

H
C. Juan Gregorio Jaime León

secretario

C.c.p. Andrea Carmen. Directora Ejecutiva del Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios

C.c.p. Autoridades Tradicionales de los ocho Pueblos Yaquis.

Itepo ito Te Aniasakane

Traditional Midwives Meeting Concerning Plan Sonora



Proyecto de Salud Itepo ito Te Aniasakane

Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación Racial de las Naciones Unidas (CERD), Medidas de alerta temprana y procedimientos de urgencia

La organización Itepo ito Te Aniasakane incluye la participación de más de 20 parteras tradicionales y trabajadoras de salud comunitaria que sirven a 32 comunidades dentro de los Ocho Pueblos Tradicionales Yaqui en Rio Yaqui, Sonora, México. Nuestro trabajo se basa en colaborar para reforzar la salud y el bienestar en todas nuestras comunidades con un enfoque en promover y proteger a la salud materna de las madres embarazadas, nuevas madres y los bebés.

Por muchos años, las parteras tradicionales en nuestras comunidades han expresado nuestras preocupaciones sobre los impactos negativos en la salud y el desarrollo materno y pediátrico en nuestras comunidades causados por la aplicación de plaguicidas tóxicos en nuestros territorios por granjeros externos. El agua utilizada por nuestras/os familias, mujeres, niños y bebés está contaminada y hemos visto niveles crecientes de cánceres en miembros de nuestras comunidades junto con defectos de nacimiento extremos y enfermedades congénitas en los bebés, incluyendo a recién nacidos. Hemos presentado estas preocupaciones en muchas reuniones internacionales incluyendo en organismos de las Naciones Unidas como el Foro Permanente sobre las Cuestiones Indígenas de la ONU, el Comité de los Derechos del Niño y el CERD.

Ahora enfrentamos a una nueva amenaza que se suma a nuestras preocupaciones sobre la contaminación del agua que llega a nuestras comunidades, llamada “Plan Sonora,” la cual traerá la minería de litio a gran escala a los territorios tierra adentro de las tierras de la Nación Yaqui. Nosotras entendemos que esta minería usará grandes cantidades de agua subterránea que es escasa en el desierto y que la contaminación se extenderá por muchas millas, disminuyendo los recursos hídricos que fluyen al Rio Yaqui. Nosotras necesitamos recibir información del gobierno mexicano sobre estos planes y los posibles impactos en nuestro abastecimiento de agua y la salud de la Nación Yaqui, especialmente la de las nuestras mujeres y niños en desarrollo.

Por lo tanto, nosotras estamos de acuerdo con y apoyamos las alegaciones entregadas a las medidas de acción temprana y procedimientos de urgencia del CERD por nuestras Autoridades Tradicionales en marzo del presente año, las cuales confirman que nosotras no hemos sido informadas por México sobre el Plan Sonora y cómo podríamos ser afectadas. Hacemos un llamado al gobierno mexicano a que cumpla con sus obligaciones de obtener nuestro Consentimiento Libre, Previo e Informado basado en sus obligaciones internacionales y nacionales. Hasta entonces, nosotras vamos a continuar expresando nuestras preocupaciones y apoyando al llamado de una moratoria en el desarrollo del Pan Sonora, incluyendo a la minería de litio y otros recursos que pueda afectar negativamente a la salud de nuestras familias, mujeres, niños y nuevas generaciones.

Nosotras agradecemos su atención a este asunto, el cual nosotras consideramos una cuestión de la más importancia para la vida y la salud de nuestra Nación Yaqui.

Entregada respetuosamente por las integrantes del Proyecto de Salud Rio Yaqui, Itepo Ito Te Aniasakane.

Nombre	Cargo	Pueblo	FIRMA
KATHRYN CARMEN	DIRECTORA	ITEPO ITOTE ANIASAKANE	Kathryn Carmen
Zulma Margarita Leyva Quezada	Partera	vicam sinah.	PROYECTO
Lluna Estefano Amparano	Auxiliar de salud	Bataconica	Lluna Amparano
Laura Margarita Leyva Alvarez	promotora de salud	Potam	LUCA
Nuvia Mirandas Fuentes	Partera	Barrio CBTA	
Beatriz Valdez Coronado	Partera	Mcnam. Sinah.	
Frosthina Garcia Bacasegua	AUXILIAR DE SALUD	Gonsimilitas	
Francisco Beatriz Valencia	Garcia	Est. Lencho	

Abraham Marguerez Valencia	Aux de Salud	torim	
Maria Aurelia Valencia Glaz	Aux. de Salud	Pitohaty	
FEDERICA VALENCIA ORCIO	Aux. DE SALUD	VICAM PUEBLO	FEDERICA VALENCIA
polmar Jimenez Buitimea	AUX Babojos,		
Claudia Valencia Hernandez	Aux. Loma de Guameen		Claudia Valencia Hdz.
Beania galestegui V	partera		Beania galestegui V
Maria del Rosario Lizo. H.	AUXILIAR		El Castillo.
Silvia Zovale Garcia	AUXILIAR		Casa Azul
Gabriela Alvarez Buitimea	Partera		B. Mazocoba
Clementina Molina Espinoza	Partera		
Maria Severiana Jacari Molina	AUXILIAR		Cardenas
MARCELENA FLORES	partera		AUXILIAR Loma de BACUM
Lorenza Voulous	partera		Loma de BACUM
Tiapsi Elicabeth Eunice Alvarez Areado	Partera		VICAM SWICH
Thelma Dinora Cabrera Buitimea	Partera		VICAM SWICH.