



## THE CONSULTATION MUST BE RESPECTED IN THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Bogotá D.C., October 30, 2018

Thinking as a country based on pluriethnic and multicultural principles has without a doubt been a complex challenge for the Colombian State and the governments that, since the 1991 constitution, have exercised their mandates framed in the principles contained therein.

It is precisely in recognition of the human and territorial realities of what in the West is called State Nation and in our worldview is understood from the ancestral and territorial as subject itself; that it is important to guarantee in the construction of the public policy of planning and delimitation of the country's priorities concentrated in the National Development Plan, fundamental rights such as Prior Consultation and Prior, Free and Informed Consent, framed in a real exercise, and effective and substantive inclusion of the Indigenous Peoples in it.

Beyond understanding it as a mere formality, the Fundamental Rights to the Prior Consultation, despite its demonization, is undoubtedly one of the most important safeguards for the protection of the human rights of the more than 102 Indigenous Peoples of Colombia ; Their respect implies the generation of broad standards that allow a framework of participation in which our proposals are recognized and respected, understanding that they tend for our physical and cultural survival and that of all humanity.

The Colombian Amazon, recognized in the national and international fields as the "lungs of the world", housing 64 indigenous peoples with equal number of mother tongues in 6 departments of the country, with 48 million hectares, 6.4% of the total biome and 178 indigenous reserves, is decisive not only for our Peoples but for the future of the species; in the Amazon and in our ancestral knowledge, we find the nucleus of the survival of humanity.

However, the latent threat to the fundamental right to Prior Consultation, exemplified by the bill through which it is intended to regulate it, implies in practice its regressivity and ignorance; to claim its standardization is to deny that Indigenous Peoples have as many practices as there are worldviews, which is why Indigenous Peoples and Communities are not willing to renounce our rights nor allow them to be rolled back at the expense of our lives, of water, of oxygen, from Mother Earth and its natural and spiritual balance.



It is impossible not to question the historical backwardness and the systematic failure to comply with the agreements framed in the materialization of the previous consultations of the previous National Development Plans; situation that, in the words of the Constitutional Court generates a "protection deficit", accelerating our physical and cultural extinction.

Starting from this assumption, the discussion about the economic and development policies of the country should be based on the approaches coming from that ancestral Colombia, from the varied reality of a country that, despite ranking third in the ranking World on inequality, is absolutely rich in human and territorial diversity.

This is what we are requesting to National Government headed by President Iván Duque:

1. Generate the necessary mechanisms to guarantee prior consultation, promoting the effective participation of communities, authorities and leaders; for the construction of contributions and inputs taken into account for the consolidation of the final document of the National Development Plan
2. To strive for a capacity for technical and political dialogue that recognizes cultural diversity, difference of thought and local and territorial realities.
3. Promote a high-level dialogue, from government to government, between the indigenous authorities and the Director of the National Planning Department and the Minister of the Interior, with the participation of the Ombudsman's Office, the Attorney General's Office and the Office of the High United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia.
4. Request the withdrawal of the bill through which it is intended to regulate the Prior Consultation and give continuity to the roadmap that has been drawn on the subject since 2017.

We are always open to respectful dialogue based on good faith, willing to continue building paths that are transformed into dialogue and strengthening our relationship and mutual recognition, taking into account as a minimum the obligatory nature of the constitutional and legal rights and sure that the commitments are an obligation of the State, at the head of the government in office.

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