Dear President Vizcarra,

In the context of global emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the undersigned organizations express our solidarity with the demands of the Indigenous Peoples of the Peruvian Amazon and urge the Government of Peru to provide them with the comprehensive care necessary to safeguard their rights. To this effect, we request both that they be provided with medicines, medical care and food, and that the reactivation of economic activities that put the health of indigenous communities at risk be immediately suspended.

Based on the above, we reiterate the demands put forward by the Indigenous Peoples of the Peruvian Amazon presented in the AIDESEP public statement of July 10, 2020. As the indigenous leaders have stated, urgent and immediate actions need to be implemented.

Among them are:

1. Schedule a direct working meeting between indigenous leaders, the President of the Republic, Mr. Martín Vizcarra, and his cabinet of ministers.
2. Urgent medical care available to towns and communities, including medicines, oxygen, medical personnel, and biosafety equipment for the medical staff, for the team in charge of transportation, for the patients, and for their families. In order to make the shipment of medicines viable and facilitate the transfer mechanisms for people infected with COVID-19 in communities, actions must be coordinated between all levels of the State, including when necessary, the Air Force and the Navy.
3. Strengthen the work being carried out by community health agents, with “telemedicine” services and equipment that allow the provision of advice and supervision by doctors and nurses by telephone or radio for the areas that have coverage.
4. Postpone the reactivation of economic and extractive activities close to the communities as they would increase the risk of contagion among the indigenous population, risking a potential ethnocide. Nor should such activities be reactivated in nearby areas or overlapping with reserves of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) or in the requested areas in favor of PIACI.
5. Suspend in person consultation processes until the risk of contagion for the communities has subsided, and definitively discard the proposal for virtual prior consultations.
6. Coordinate directly with the indigenous organizations the design and implementation of culturally safe and physically viable mechanisms to resume school education for
indigenous children and teenagers who do not have appropriate access to the internet, radio signal, or other remote means of communication.

Mr. President Martín Vizcarra, we understand that the situation is extremely complex at a global level and that it has exceeded the capacities of the State. But, more than five months after declaring the emergency, it is unacceptable that the attention provided to the grave situation of Indigenous Peoples has been so limited. We appeal to your humanity and responsibility towards all Peruvians. We trust that you will take immediate action to begin to resolve a crisis that exacerbates the situation of discrimination and exclusion that Indigenous Peoples have been suffering for generations, and that has also aggravated the precarious security situation in which they live, making them victims of new threats, attacks and murders, all of which must be investigated and punished as soon as possible.

As documented and explained in the recent United Nations report, "Preventing the Next Pandemic – Zoonotic Diseases and How to Break the Chain of Transmission," COVID-19 is just one example of the growing trend of virus-borne illness that has leapt from animal hosts to the human population. The report concludes that this upward trend in zoonotic diseases is largely driven by the degradation of the environment and soil; by the change in land use from forest to grassland or crops; by the exploitation of wildlife; and by intensive extraction of forest resources and by climate change.

As science has shown that deforestation and forest degradation are a major cause behind the emergence and spread of dangerous infectious diseases, the post-pandemic economic reactivation proposal cannot be based on increased threats to forests and their inhabitants, which not only violates basic human rights and exacerbates climate change, but increases the risk of new pandemics.

For all these reasons, President Vizcarra, we strongly urge you to reconsider the country's economic reactivation mechanisms, since they must not be promoted at the cost of the lives of Indigenous Peoples.

Sincerely,

Adela

Prensa Popular
Alternativa Centro de Investigacion Social y Educacion Popular
Amazon Frontlines
Amazon Watch
Amazónicos por la Amazonía - AMPA
APAHADI
APORVIDHA
Asamblea Unitaria de Lima Norte
Asociación Araríwa
Asociación círculo de trabajo colectivo de jóvenes indígenas de la Amazonía - ACITCJIA
Asociación Civil Centro de Cultura Popular Labor
Asociación Civil El Puente de la Amistad
Asociación Civil Escuela de Artes y Culturas Amazónicas
Asociación de Personas con Discapacidad de Locomoción La Libertad
Asociación intercultural e investigación RONIN
Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana- AIDESEP
Frente de defensa de los interes del pueblo Sanchez Carrion - Huamachuco
Frente Patriótico de Huánuco
Friends of the Earth
Fundación Ecuménica para el Desarrollo y la Paz
FZS Perú (Sociedad Zoologica de Frankfurt Peru)
Global Witness
Grupo de Iniciativa Nacional por los Derechos del Niño - GIN
Hermanas de Santa Cruz
Hijesnt
Illa, Centro de Educación y Comunicación
INDIAM Comunicación Intercultural
Instituto Chaikuni
Instituto de Defensa Legal
Instituto de Salud MSC Cristoforis Deneke = ISDEN
Instituto de Salud y Derechos Humanos
Instituto del Bien Común - IBC
Instituto para el Desarrollo y la Paz Amazonica IDPA
Instituto Perucano
Asociacion Nacional de Centros ANC
Asociación Paz y Esperanza
Asociación pro Derechos Humanos -APRODEH
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de España
Asociación ProPurús
Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales
Association Qollana
Barri wesna
BNP Profesionales
Buckner Peru
CEDAL - Centro de Derechos y Desarrollo
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Centro Amazónico de Antropología y Aplicación Práctica
Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristan
Centro de Políticas Publicas y Derechos Humanos - Peru EQUIDAD
Centro de Promoción de la Mujer Micaela Bastidas
Centro de Promocion y Desarrollo Poblacional
Centro Loyola Ayacucho
Centro para el Desarrollo del Indígena Amazónico, CEDIA
COFADER-PERU
Colectivo Por La Igualdad de Género
Comisión de Justicia Social de la Diócesis de Chimbote, Perú
Comité de Defensa del Agua
Comité de Derechos Humanos-III
CooperAcción
Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales DAR
Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente (DHUMA)
Digital Democracy
Ejecutor de Contrato de Administración de la Reserva Comunal
Amarakaeri (ECA-RCA)
Emcoagor
Environmental Investigation Agency / Agencia de Investigación Ambiental (EIA)
Equipo de educación y autogestión social
Federación Nacional de Mujeres, Micaela Bastidas-Tupac Amarú
Fern
Forest Peoples Programme
Foro Ecológico del Perú
FORO SALUD - Foro de la Sociedad Civil en Salud
Foro Salud Huánuco
Foro salud Loreto
FOVIDA
Frente Amplio Por Justicia Vida y Libertad - Grupo Impulsor Loreto
Instituto Sur Andino de Derechos Humanos- ISADH PUNO
International Rivers
Jóvenes Parlamentarios de la Región Ucayali
Jóvenes promotores de Derechos Humanos (JOPRODEH)
Kené, Instituto de Estudios Forestales y Ambientales
La RED de Luchas Sociales y Políticas
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Marcahuasi Casa Del Protector
Marie Anne Galvez Escudero
Movimiento Ciudadano Ambientalista Foro Ecológico
Movimiento Manuela Ramos
Observatorio Amazónico de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos
Observatorio de inequidades en salud bucal, UPCH
Organizacion Regional de Defensa y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de Alto Amazonas - ORDEPIA
Organización Regional de Mujeres Indígenas de la Provincia de Atalaya- ORMIPA
Oxfam en Perú
Proética - Capitulo Peruano de Transparencia Internacional
Pronaturaleza - Fundación peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza
Rainforest Action Network
Rainforest Foundation US
Red de Estudiantes y Egresados de Maestrías y Diplomados en Infancia y Adolescencia en el Perú.
Red Descolonialidad y Autogobierno
Red infanto juvenil por el Buen Vivir - REDINJUV
Red interquorum Ucayali
Salva la selva
SEDYS Trujillo - Servicio Educativo para el Desarrollo y la Solidaridad
Servicios Educativos Promoción y Apoyo Rural - SEPAR
Servicios en Comunicación Intercultural Servindí
Sociedad Peruana de Ecodesarrollo
Stand.earth
Subcomisión de justicia y paz - derechos humanos del Vicariato Apostólico de Iquitos
Terre des Hommes Suisse
The Rainforest Foundation UK
The Washington Office on Latin America
TIERRACTIVA PERÚ
Upper Amazon Conservancy / Conservación Alto Amazonas
Willakuy
WWF