**Report on Existing Procedures on the Participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations**

Prepared by:

William Chimborazo

Comunidad Originaria PUNACHIZAK alongside iINDIGENOUS

**Summary:**

This paper provides insights into the current procedures and practices regarding the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations. Drawing upon the experiences of various indigenous organizations and leaders, the paper aims to identify existing gaps and promote good practices to enhance indigenous representation and engagement within the UN system. *Key recommendations are highlighted to foster inclusivity, respect indigenous sovereignty, and address systemic challenges hindering meaningful participation.*

**Background:**

*Comunidad Originaria PUNACHIZAK and iINDIGENOUS, along with other indigenous governing bodies and leaders, are committed to upholding the rights and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples. With a rich history of engagement in the Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples and collaboration with global indigenous networks, these organizations bring invaluable perspectives to the discourse on indigenous rights at the United Nations and other global platforms.*

**Existing Good Practices:**

Despite historic achievements such as the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007, *exclusion remains a significant issue within UN platforms*. However, indigenous voices have gained prominence, signaling progress in indigenous representation on international stages.

**Gaps and Recommendations:**

1. *Enhancing Participation:* The UN must ensure full and inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples at all levels of decision-making. Collaboration with other global forums is essential to strengthen indigenous rights globally.

2. *Respecting Diversity:* Recognizing the diverse organizational structures and mechanisms of indigenous peoples is crucial. Flexibility in engagement strategies is needed to accommodate diverse perspectives.

3. *Addressing Exclusion:* Systemic barriers, including cumbersome registration systems and exclusive *ECOSOC statuses, marginalize indigenous participation*. A new inclusive registration system that recognizes and acknowledges indigenous governments is highly recommended.

4. *Global Outreach:* Efforts to enhance participation should be open and inclusive, reaching out to indigenous communities worldwide through various means, including regional workshops and public announcements.

5. *Self-Determination: Indigenous peoples must retain the right to self-determination, free from colonial definitions*. Respect for indigenous diversity and regional distinctions is paramount in promoting inclusivity. This respect must be exemplified by the United Nations by acknowledging its various forms of structure, governance and self-determination.

6. Acknowledging Indigenous Governments: *Indigenous governments and states should be recognized as bilateral mechanisms* alongside indigenous peoples, ensuring their full inclusion in decision-making processes.

7. *International Dialogue:* Engagement in international dialogues, such as discussions with the President of the General Assembly and expert workshops, is crucial for advancing indigenous rights within the UN framework, and must be inclusive on a larger scale, to *add other indigenous expert mechanisms*, extracting from the vast pool of knowledge of indigenous peoples and bring various knowledge to the table will create a more enriched synthesis.

***Conclusion:***

In conclusion, this thematic paper underscores the importance of addressing existing gaps in indigenous participation at the United Nations. By implementing the recommended strategies, the UN can foster a more inclusive and respectful environment for Indigenous Peoples, in alignment with the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Transparency of work and collaboration between indigenous organizations, states, and UN bodies is essential to advance indigenous rights on a global scale.

William Chimborazo

punachizak@gmail.com