

Geneva, 14 September 2022
51st HRC Session
Item 3 – ID with the Special Rapporteur
on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
Speaker: Maria D’Onofrio

Oral statement submitted by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice
And co-signed by
VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development

IIMA and VIDES welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur, which highlights the relegation of indigenous peoples to marginal territories and the adverse impact of large-scale mining on safe drinking water.

In Brazil, indigenous lands are the target of an intensive process of expropriation and appropriation, the purpose of which is the economic exploitation of natural resources. Violence against indigenous peoples is on the rise, as well as the weakening of the punishment of those who invade indigenous lands. From 2019, all processes of demarcation of indigenous territories are paralyzed. Of the 1,298 indigenous lands in Brazil, 63% have some pending issue for the conclusion of the demarcation process. Of these, a total of 536 lands (64%) have not had any decision adopted by the State.

Since September 2018, the Missionary Indigenous Council (CIMI)¹ has been warning for the increase of invasions of indigenous territories.

Mining has a catastrophic impact, causing social and environmental damage: the destruction of nature and indigenous cultures and the contamination of rivers, fish and water with mercury. Although the official bodies responsible for overseeing illegal mining are aware of it, nothing is being done to combat this practice.

We also highlight the poor educational infrastructure in indigenous areas, where about half of schools have neither drinking water nor basic sanitation.

We fully support the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the topic.

Thank you.

¹ Consejo Indigenista Misionero (CIMI).