



Geneva, 27 September 2023
54th HRC Session
Annual half-day panel discussion
on the rights of Indigenous Peoples
Speaker: Ms Giulia GEDDA

Oral statement submitted by
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And co-signed by
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***The impact of certain development projects on the rights of Indigenous Peoples,
in particular the impact on Indigenous women***

Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples

VIDES and IIMA welcome this panel discussion on the impact of certain development projects on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and in particular Indigenous women.

We recognize that throughout history, Indigenous women have played crucial leadership roles within their communities.

However, we note with concern that Indigenous women's well-being and cultural identity face serious challenges. Development projects can significantly affect their lives, leading to the displacement of communities, disruption of cultural practices and changes in traditional roles and responsibilities.¹ Moreover, in advocating for their land and territorial rights and opposing non-consensual development projects, Indigenous women human rights defenders are subject to severe threats, violence, killings, harassment, arbitrary detentions and the criminalization of their work.²

In this regard, we report that Indigenous lands in **Brazil** suffer an intensive process of exploitation of natural and energy resources. Violence against indigenous peoples and their lands is increasing, as well as the criminal behavior of those who invade them, including miners, loggers, and others.

At the same time, social disadvantages and violence against women in **Venezuela** have increased due to the consequences of climate change as well as due to the degradation of natural resources and abusive exploitation by extractive industries, which affect indigenous peoples in general, and indigenous women and girls even more.³

We recommend that effective measures be taken to fully implement the rights of indigenous peoples and address the root causes of violence against indigenous women and girls.

Thank you.

¹ A/HRC/51/28, para. 56.

² CEDAW/C/GC/39, para. 5.

³ Llamado a la Unicef. Las comunidades indígenas y el derecho a la educación en tiempos del COVID 19. UNICEF.org