

WMPA candidacy for the Commission Presidency
Indigenous peoples rights, autonomy, territories, States

Commission: **Indigenous peoples rights, autonomy, territories, States**

Candidate: **Gelver Zapata Izquierdo** (Colombia)

1. Home organisation:

TAYRONA INDIGENOUS CONFEDERATION-RESGUARDO ARHUACO DE LA SIERRA

The proposed work is a synthesis of the most important discussions taking place in the Colombian villages, as well as a way to show what these peoples can make to offer a model of 'living well' to the society. We look forward to transposing this model to the world, to every region, to every country.

Indigenous Peoples Rights. In Colombia, indigenous peoples' rights have followed an interesting process where the indigenous populations have struggled and won legal recognition and where they have been able to lay the foundations for a rigorous legal framework concerning the rights. But, their practical implementation has been difficult and indigenous governments have been deprived of the adequate tools in order to defend their territories and their peoples, their identity and culture, as well as in other countries. The damages caused to lands and indigenous cultures have been repeated since the time of colonization and, even today, there are situations of discrimination, racism, violence against women, contempt and devaluation of local cultures in Latin America.

In recent years, a legislative and judiciary process has started to repair the damages and to formulate public policies in order to make governments respond effectively to the needs of the people. To this end, the strengthening of their original government has to be achieved, what will lead to the establishment of their own health systems, education, judiciary and land management systems.

In this sense, indigenous peoples' will, as well as that of states and governments, must rely on other instances to implement most effective choices to move towards a new direction: beyond requiring and recognizing the obligation of the State to repair the violations of collective rights, we all can drive new dynamics of dialogue. This is one of the main challenges that this thematic committee propose to deal at the local level, taking as reference the case of the indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia.

It should also be pointed out that these processes have been long, that have generated conflicts and that have claimed the lives of many leaders and people who wanted to highlight the indigenous issue, not as a right but as the lifestyle of a society that recognizes and respects the cultural differences and that claim these cultures as being the choice preserved for millennia in our mountains.

2. Personal experience in this field:

The candidate for President of the 'Indigenous Peoples' Rights Committee' is an indigenous leader of the Arhuaca community, a corporate director who has over 16 years of experience in developing and supporting the indigenous peoples of Arhuaco, Kogui, Wiwa and

Kankuamo and the territorial processes in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Northern Colombia.

Political organisations representing them are: TAYRONA INDIGENOUS CONFEDERATION-CIT (Arhuaco people), GONAWINDWA TAYRONA ORGANISACIÓN-OGT (Kogui people), KANKWAMA INDIGENOUS ORGANISATION-OIK (Kankuamo people) and WIWA YUGUMAYUN BUNKWANARWA TAYRONA ORGANISATION-OWYB (Wiwa People).

Together with these organisations, the candidate has developed a management system and an institutional cooperation that has enabled progress on the agreements on the way in which use and land management, criteria for town and country planning and strengthening of indigenous governments should be oriented.

On the basis on the indigenous vision, the conservation of nature and Mother Earth can be encouraged by establishing the order of peoples' rights laid down by the original law, the law of the nature. In this process, the candidate has been coordinator of the territory of the Arhuaco People from 2000 to 2010, with tangible results for people and their organizations.

The candidate has a capacity for teamwork and leadership and he was the founder of the INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION IN THE SIERRA NEVADA (ATIPPA), which is an interdisciplinary group for the evaluation and development of activities in accordance with the indigenous' concepts.

He coordinated no less than 10 projects of regional planning, conservation of the environment, reinforcement of the indigenous presence in the institutions, productive projects, social organization and training of young leaders, women and indigenous governments. In all these projects he has been able to permanently assume the role of institutional manager in different parts of the country.

He was community leader of the indigenous peoples in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, in defending the territory and proposing legal means to ensure protection of sacred sites of the ancestral lands of these indigenous peoples. He recommended the establishment of actions for dialogue with the outside world and he made indigenous policy visible in different scenarios of local public institutions.

Among his responsibilities, some can be highlighted: 1) representation in the discussions for the signature of the FTA (Treaty of Free Trade Area) between the U.S. and Peru in 2008-2009, 2) delegate to the Ministry of Environment, Habitat and Territorial Development to develop a proposal for collective protection of the traditional knowledge of the Colombian peoples (2009-2010) and 3) participation in many events on indigenous peoples' collective rights.

But his strong commitment, motivation and responsibility is the most important factor to ensure that he could assume the presidency of the 'Indigenous Peoples' Rights' Commission of the WMPA.

3. Action programme proposed for this thematic group

The present proposal for an action programme for the 'Indigenous Peoples' Rights Commission' is based on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous

Peoples, because it embraces, claims and lays down the foundation for all the indigenous peoples' collective and individual rights. However it is necessary that each of these rights is adapted to the problem areas, needs and perspectives of each indigenous people.

Thus, the program to develop is structured around the axes of territory, environment, autonomy and governance, identity and culture and the intercultural and interinstitutional coordination. It should start from the local and regional level to then carry it to the national and global level. We want it to have an impact on the different States, governments and international organisations in order to achieve a real enjoyment of the rights.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSAL:

We propose as a development model that of the indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Arhuaco, Kogui, Wiwa there Kankuamo), North Colombia, in order to deal with issues rooted in the local and regional context, as well as in other places and countries.

Below are general guidelines that can be replicated, improved and expanded under agreement with each local reality.

Case: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta- Colombia

1. Definition of profiles, features, teams, methodologies, spaces and ways to work with the thematic commission:

- To install a workspace in a representative organization at local level and a team responsible for directing the work of the thematic group from Colombia. Since there, the coordination of the thematic group will be centralised.
- To establish contacts via the Internet with all segments of the WMPA and to define mechanisms for communication and socialization on the progress of the proposals
- To create a methodological framework to compile the issues of territory, identity, autonomy, interinstitutional relations and collective rights of indigenous peoples
- To gather information, to carry out documentation, to seek partners, activities, friends and people involved in the process.

2. Meetings with communities, traditional authorities and indigenous peoples' political and spiritual leaders from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta:

***Purpose of the meeting:* to develop a process of awareness and appropriation of the indigenous identity, assuming that these are fundamental cultural, social, political, economic and spiritual rights. To establish the basis of their compliance and to define proposals for the promotion, protection and recovery of those rights. With this, we hope to develop the contents of each thematic area:**

- To analyze several mechanisms and to define the way to make the peoples and territories of the Sierra Nevada visible, as well as to have the impact in the different environments and actors who have the power to intervene for them
- To generate ideas and analysis that enable us to understand the scope of indigenous policy as well as the opportunities to strengthen the indigenous peoples' collective rights
- To establish strategies and actions related to the territory, the governance, the identity and the culture for both prevention and promotion of rights

- To promote internal dynamics within communities to strengthen the traditional thinking
- To generate appropriation processes for the preservation of the culture and the indigenous society, which holds its basis in the spirituality of the peoples
- To share periodically, within the thematic commission, the results of the processes of awareness and appropriation of cultural identity.

Scheduled in 9 months (April to December 2011)

3. Unification and development of peoples of the Sierra Nevada's proposals with other Colombian indigenous peoples' proposals (eg. Chimila, Yukpa, Wayyu, Guambiano, Kuna) on the issue of the Indigenous Peoples Rights

6-day Meeting (September 2011)

- To agree on the basis for the claiming and visibility of the collective rights
- To implement a schedule of actions to address the processes and factors affecting and/or make collective rights vulnerable, especially at local level

To be implemented after the joint actions (2012)

- To promote practical measures to achieve recognition, respect and dignity of the culture and spirituality
- To consolidate a document identifying the goals to be achieved in defense and protection of indigenous rights at national level. This document must compile the criteria and actions for the framework of the word programme (scheduled for September 2011)
- To organize meetings with state institutions to propose and develop an agenda for the most relevant issues affecting territories and indigenous culture, such as environment, water, biodiversity, ancestral knowledge, tourism and economic development of megaprojects.

Scheduled from July 2011 to June 2012

4. Commitments to develop by the working group of the Sierra Nevada at local level. Colombia

- To identify all possible areas of formal participation at local and regional level, as well as to find the ways to establish interinstitutional relations to discuss and agree on issues related to indigenous peoples
- To generate spaces at the institutional and social level in order to, for example, make life easier for the indigenous peoples and to be able to share it with the society as a whole
- To organize meetings with institutions at local and regional level to identify the most relevant points in the indigenous vision and policies on peoples' rights and to define a scheme of monitoring the efforts for dialogue
- To review planning tools of public institutions which interfere in the Sierra Nevada to identify all possible damages to the land and the indigenous peoples
- To present proposals on protection and conservation of the culture, land and environment, for example, for recovery of the sacred sites and for land reclamation in order to appear before the Colombian National Commission on the Territory

- To implement socialization and feedback processes with the spiritual leaders of the Sierra Nevada in order to have messages, arguments and proposals to encourage the work of the thematic committee
- To find and build alliances with organizations representing indigenous peoples in Latin America to analyze the situation concerning the rights and to define a common approach to the need to protect these rights. For example, highlighting the position of defending territories against the megaprojects of economic development such as mining, anytime these projects affect the environment and the indigenous culture. This should open the possibility of being more visible and having an impact on local issues at national level
- To promote an international meeting of world's indigenous peoples in the Sierra Nevada to socialize and restate the different actions taken in the world for the survival of indigenous peoples and to create alliances and practical linkages for mutual support (Scheduled for April 2012)

Schedule: it will be a permanent job during the entire period of the presidency

WHAT WE NEED: Financing 1) for technicians and people who will ensure the management within the local communities, 2) for meetings with traditional authorities, spiritual leaders and mayors of the indigenous villages, 3) for creating spaces for discussion and meetings with institutions and governments if necessary

5. *How do you envisage encouraging the group?*

- By generating from the beginning a philosophy of alternative development
- By focusing from the beginning on the major objectives of the WMPA and of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- By creating a team highly committed to the aims and proposals of the group and of the WMPA
- By maintaining constant communication on the status, progress, and goals achieved in the different regions of the world
- By generating an extensive process of engagement to discuss issues related to Indigenous Peoples Rights
- By promoting the meeting with human rights, indigenous peoples rights and environmental institutions to seek its support and to articulate the programme of the group with institutional agendas
- By conducting forums with experts on this subject who express a keen interest in the question
- By compiling and positioning the various opinions, linking them to the actions of the group
- By implementing concrete actions at the same time in different parts of the world, like marches, statements, forums or seminars
- By communicating to the public the goals achieved
- By working with the necessary and sufficient resources to ensure the sustainability of the group

6. *What kind of support do you expect from the technical committee?*

- Technical, political and financial support, as well as solidarity throughout the process
- Dissemination of the results of the different events taking place in the Sierra Nevada (Colombia), as a model to other parts of the world

- Technical support for gathering information on the prospects and impact of indigenous policy and law in Latin American countries
- Fundraising for economic contribution to organize events
- Financial support for logistics, organisation and implementation of the indigenous peoples' activities
- Information on the progress of international policy on indigenous issues
- Guidelines, recommendations and suggestions for improving the functioning of the team and achieving its goals
- Assistance in the process of institutional management in Colombia
- Assistance and advice in organizational processes for the development of joint proposals
- Developing strategies for promoting the debate in international circles

7. How do you intend to internationalise the work of the technical committee?

We consider that this process must be made visible through the same organizations, local media, audiovisual productions and the internet. But, insofar as the group consolidates and advance concrete results at the local level, it will also have a better ability to explain these themes in different events on climate change, water, forests, biodiversity, etc, all over the world. To this end, the group will seek alliances and spaces to ascertain indigenous peoples' position and ideas.

In addition, there will be the development of massive means implemented by the WMPA and the forums, meetings and debates in which we will participate.

8. *Do you have resource people or specialist in the field to work with?*

In Colombia, we have a highly qualified team with extensive experience in developing the themes outlined; they are Indian and nor Indian people engaged in the process:

Leaders and specialist

Miguel Vazques Luna-Indigenous rights lawyer

Yamile Salinas –Specialist on territorial rights

Rubiel Zalabata Torres-Indigenous lawyer

Andrea Becerra –ILSA lawyer

Leonor Zalabata Torres – lawyer (Arhuaco)

Yanelia Mestre – Arhuaco Indian, Engineer in Environment and teacher

Authorities

Rogelio Mejia izquierdo- Arhuaco Governor, CIT (Tayrona Indigenous Confederation)

Jaime Arias Arias- kankwamo Indigenous Governor (Kankwama Indigenous Organisation)

Santos Sauna- Koggi Indigenous Governor (Gonavindwa Tayrona Organisation)

Rafael Malo Villazon –Wiwa Indigenous Governor.

Apolinar Torres torres –Spiritual leader

Cesar Torres – Spiritual leader

Kunchanawingumu Izquierdo- Spiritual leader

Sebastián Ramos- Arhuaco leader

Presidents of organisations

Indigenous Organisations of Colombia (ONIC)

Indigenous Organisations of Cauca

Amazon Indigenous Organisation

Lorenzo Muelas

Association of Traditional Authorities of the Wayuu people

Comments on the proposal

This proposal is the product of the analysis of the spiritual leaders of the Sierra Nevada (Colombia), who have made a proposal. It is a matter of getting us in touch with the outside world to provide a development philosophy which benefits society in general. In this sense, our goal is that what we do serve other indigenous peoples to help them find the right direction to generate a rational alternative for the future in their own processes.

Annex Overall Budget Proposal

Possible local management is expected, because it is considered necessary.

The candidacy was well received by local mayors and other authorities

Gelver Zapata Izquierdo

EXPENDITURES	UNITS	REQUIRED UNITS	TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS	UNIT COST	TOTAL VALUE
1. Human resources					1.075.200.000,00
Manager	Contract/monthly	1	24	\$ 3.000.000,00	\$ 72.000.000,00
Accountant	Contract/monthly	1	24	\$ 2.600.000,00	\$ 62.400.000,00
Accounting assistant	Contract/monthly	1	24	\$ 1.500.000,00	\$ 36.000.000,00
Administrative assistant	Contract/monthly	1	24	\$ 1.500.000,00	\$ 36.000.000,00
Secretary	Contract/monthly	1	24	\$ 1.200.000,00	\$ 28.800.000,00
Internal support	Contract/monthly	3	24	\$ 4.100.000,00	\$ 295.200.000,00
External support	Contract/monthly	3	24	\$ 4.500.000,00	\$ 324.000.000,00
Indigenous support	Contract/monthly	4	24	\$ 2.000.000,00	\$ 192.000.000,00
Documentalist	Contract/monthly	1	24	\$ 1.200.000,00	\$ 28.800.000,00
2. Transport					447.600.000,00
Local inland transport	Voyages	70	24	\$ 80.000,00	\$ 134.400.000,00
National inland transport	Voyages	30	18	\$ 120.000,00	\$ 64.800.000,00
National air transport	Tiquets	10	18	\$ 400.000,00	\$ 72.000.000,00
International air transport	Tiquets	3	12	\$ 4.000.000,00	\$ 144.000.000,00
Other transport (mules)	Paiments	30	18	\$ 60.000,00	\$ 32.400.000,00
3. Furniture and office equipment					98.000.000,00
Furniture and others	Global	1	1	\$ 25.000.000,00	\$ 25.000.000,00
Computer equipment	Global	1	1	\$ 7.000.000,00	\$ 7.000.000,00
Office equipment	Dépense/mois	1	24	\$ 1.500.000,00	\$ 36.000.000,00
Designer for printed bulletins	Contrat	1	1	\$ 30.000.000,00	\$ 30.000.000,00
4. Events-logistics					1.162.200.000,00
Meetings with the spiritual authorities. 4 in the villages of the Sierra : accommodation, daily allowance, communication, transport	Meetings	8	200	\$ 60.000,00	\$ 96.000.000,00
Meetings with the institutions in the capitals of Magdalena, Cesar et Guajira: accommodation, daily allowance, communication, transport	Meetings	6	80	\$ 65.000,00	\$ 31.200.000,00
Meetings with indigenous representative organisations: Cauca, Sierra Nevada, Guajura, Nariño : accommodation, daily allowance, communication, transport	Meetings	8	100	\$ 95.000,00	\$ 76.000.000,00
Meetings with national public institutions - Bogotá: accommodation, daily allowance, communication, transport	Meetings	4	50	\$ 370.000,00	\$ 74.000.000,00
Réunions des indigènes latino-américains Colombie, Perou, Equateur, Bolivie, Mexique: logement, alimentation, communication, transports	Meetings	4	500	\$ 442.500,00	\$ 885.000.000,00
5. Other expenditure, services					196.800.000,00
Public services	Invoice/monthly	1	24	\$ 2.500.000,00	\$ 60.000.000,00
Office rent	Monthly	1	24	\$ 3.500.000,00	\$ 84.000.000,00
Other administrative expenditure	Global	1	24	\$ 2.200.000,00	\$ 52.800.000,00
TOTAL					2.979.800.000,00

