



Before the 12th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Declaration of the Association for the Integral Development of the Victims of the Violence in Verapaces, Maya Achì (ADIVIMA)

Regarding the grave violations of the individual and collective rights of 33 communities affected by the construction of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Project, committed by the State of Guatemala with financing from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The Chixoy Hydroelectric Project in Guatemala, constructed within the context of acts of genocide, has become a national and international symbol of the development model of megaprojects created for the financial benefit of economic sectors, not for communities.

Between 1975 and 1983, with the financial support of international banks like the IDB, the World Bank¹, as well as private banks, the government of Guatemala built the Chixoy Dam for millions of dollars. The project currently produces seventy-five percent of Guatemala's total energy.

The construction of the Dam took place in the most bloody period in the history of the country: “the Genocide.” The financing banks had knowledge of the atrocities that were being committed against communities who resisted leaving their lands, yet they continued authorizing more loans for the completion of the project.

The community of Rio Negro was the community that most strongly resisted leaving their lands. In response, the government of Guatemala took advantage of the larger environment of repression to label this community as an internal enemy. In 1982, the Guatemalan security forces, namely the National Army, massacred 444 sisters and brothers, the majority children and women.

In 1996, the World Bank sent a delegation to evaluate the situation of the communities, at the conclusion of which they acknowledged the Bank had not complied with compensation requirements, much less provided an adequate resettlement in favor of the families, describing what had occurred as disastrous.

The construction of the Dam affected more than 11,000 people and 33 communities – losing their lands, homes, crops, and community organization, their sacred sites, and their natural resources. Today these families live in inhumane conditions, in extreme poverty, while the Guatemalan authorities, the

¹ The contributions of each entity are the following: IDB: \$175,000,000; World Bank (IBRD, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development): \$101,000,000; BCIE (Central American Bank for Economic Integration): \$13,260,000; FIV (Venezuelan Investment Fund): \$74,800,000; UBS Switzerland: \$35,000,000, in addition to other financiers and the support of the State of Guatemala.

World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank turn a blind eye, despite the insistence of the communities that they fulfill their responsibilities to redress the harms they have inflicted.

In September of 2004, following a massive peaceful demonstration, a dialogue was opened between the Government of Guatemala and the affected communities through a Political Accord, which contained the basis for the formation of a Negotiating Table for the negotiation of a Reparations Plan. The negotiations took place with the participation of a team of observers consisting of Guatemala's Human Rights Attorney General, the Guatemala Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Bank, and the IDB, with mediation by the Organization of American States (OAS).

As a product of the negotiation, a *Study of Identification and Verification of Harms and Injuries* suffered by the communities was completed in November 2009, and in 2010 a Reparations Plan was approved.

The shameful reality is that three years have passed since the conclusion of negotiations, yet the government of Guatemala has refused to implement the Reparations Plan. The same attitude has been shown by the World Bank and the IDB, which have evaded their responsibilities even though in the *Study of Identification and Verification of Harms and Injuries* they recognized the violations that they committed against the communities.

It is URGENT that the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, for their complicity with the government of Guatemala, finance the entire cost of the Reparations Plan negotiated and agreed to through the Negotiation Table, for the benefit of the communities affected by the construction of the Chixoy Dam.

We also urgently call upon the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to with its diligent work, verify these happenings and speak out publicly regarding this case, bringing it to the attention of the appropriate entities so that the State of Guatemala, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank are sanctioned, and so that these atrocities are not repeated in other communities. Now is the time to put an end to these abuses so that no more acts of genocide are committed in Guatemala.

No more genocide in Guatemala.

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The Reparations Plan and the *Study of Identification and Verification of Harms and Injuries* can be found at: www.adivima.org.gt