Delegation From Represented By:

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**Topic 1: Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness**

Venezuela has made attempts and has succeeded in establishing a low or no cost healthcare system for all citizens. In fact, Venezuela had one of the more advanced health care infrastructures in Latin America. However in 2015 when there was a collapse in economy, their healthcare system collapsed. This healthcare system however had mainly impacted the people who lived in the city’s and had trouble reaching people living in small villages in the jungle. Venezuela’s constitutionally-protected healthcare system is not reaching their Indigenous population. The constitution says, “Indigenous peoples have the right to comprehensive healthcare that takes into account their practices and cultures.” The indigenous people are not being respected when it comes to healthcare. They have the right to healthcare that respects their culture and beliefs. Venezuela has established Mission Guaicaipuro in charge of implementing the rights for indigenous peoples and the indigenous communities in addition to defending these rights against resource and financial speculation. I suggest that the government of Venezuela establishes a mobile healthcare team that can travel across the many different indigenous sites and aid the people there in a way that reflects their religious views and at the same time helps them.

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**Topic 2: Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources**

In the 1999, indigenous people were awarded land that was considered ancestral territories. However land rights are now being threatened by the economic and political problems that plague the Chavez administration. Indigenous people have filed many well documented land claims along with detailed land use maps. The actual recognition of these areas has been blocked by the President’s office. Only a small amount of the lands claimed (12.4%) have been formally recognized. However this still leaves 87.6% still vulnerable to expropriation. The land titling has broken up the integrity of a number of ethnic groups including the Warao, Hoti and more. Venezuela is falling behind its neighbors for example the Yanomami in Brazil have had 9.9 hectares set aside. However on the Venezuelan side of the very same border the Yanomami’s land claim is still yet to be processed along with many other land claim documents of other main ethnic groups. I suggest that the government make a push for land rights across the nation and having clear ruling on what is government land and what is land for the indigenous people.

"VENEZUELA: Indigenous People's Struggle to Protect Land Titles." Cultural Survival. N.p., 09 July 2008. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

"Venezuela: Indigenous Peoples Speak out against Yet More Obstacles to the Recognition of Their Land Rights." Forest Peoples Programme. N.p., 14 Apr. 2011. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

"Venezuelan Indigenous Peoples Lament Slow Progress in Recognition of Their Rights." Forest Peoples Programme. N.p., 2 Dec. 2014. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

**Topic 3: Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development**

Indigenous people’s area are among the poorest around the world, especially in Venezuela where many Venezuelans live in poverty despite the large oil deposits the country produces. Many of the Indigenous people who don’t have any money and simply hunt, fish and farm. Their land is their currency despite the fact that it is very hard for Indigenous people to obtain land, making it more valuable. There are not many people who are doing anything for the indigenous people. However in 2005 Maria Teresa Quispe founded a nonprofit Wataniba, one of the few organizations promoting economic and cultural justice for indigenous peoples in the areas of the Venezuelan jungle. This nonprofit helps indigenous communities to take control of the resources available to them on their own terms. It works as a form of communication between the Venezuelan government and the indigenous groups who are hoping for more territorial sovereignty. I suggest that the government of Venezuela and many other individuals continue to support the growth of organizations like Wataniba who promote economic and cultural justice for indigenous peoples in the Venezuelan Jungle.

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