



35 *Años por nuestros
pueblos y culturas*

**STATEMENT
ADDRESSED TO THE PERUVIAN STATE AND SOCIETY, AND THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

**WE SAY NO TO RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

CHIRAPAQ Center for Indigenous Cultures of Peru, an association with ECOSOC Consultative Status, in its constant work of analyzing the situation and evolution of racism and racial discrimination in our country, expresses its deep concern and condemns the racial hate speeches directed against the members of the Andean and Amazonian indigenous peoples, in the context of the 2021 general elections in our country.

Given this situation, we point out:

1. The International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, which our State is obliged to abide by and implement, establishes:

Article 1

1. In this Convention, the term "racial discrimination" shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.

2. Hate messages have been increasing and encouraged by the current political situation. Hate manifests on the specific targeting of indigenous populations as "terrorists" since they show, for the most part, a political decision different from the one that is expected and widespread in the urban sphere.

3. Likewise, the questioning of the legality of the electoral records of several indigenous areas of the Andean and Amazonian regions is part of the same racist reasoning, since it focuses on areas with structural problems that the State has not solved.

4. As a result of racism and racial discrimination, a large part of our country lives in situations of exclusion and insecurity. This means limited or no access to goods and services. These areas also have a different cultural configuration from that of the urban centers, making our country a culturally diverse society. **This diversity is constantly questioned and pointed out as a problem from this racist point of view, which pretends to find criminal acts and patterns in circumstances derived from structural issues.**

5. Indigenous organizations have clearly explained how our systems of community decision-making work based on the notion of the common good, which explains the substantial difference in votes between urban and rural areas. This difference is illogical and suspicious for various sectors of our country and far from being assumed as an opportunity to build consensus, they are used to feed, disseminate and strengthen racist, destabilizing and confrontational stereotypes.



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6. It is reprehensible and deplorable that several citizens who are dissatisfied with the electoral process are hiding behind their Andean family origins to proclaim their racist discourse by appropriating indigenous signs and symbols. **We must point out that both the Andes and the Amazon rainforest are geographical spaces, while the indigenous peoples are citizens with rights and a voice of our own.**

7. All these actions against indigenous peoples are recurrent, constant and dynamic patterns, which are being strengthened and amplified by hate speech on social networks at the current juncture, in the face of which our State should apply the provisions of the CERD Convention:

Article 5

...States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights:

c. Political rights, in particular the right to participate in elections-to vote and to stand for election-on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service.

8. Current hate speech and narratives reinforce the structural fear of those who do not conform to other groups' culture and political positions. This situation fuels the political instability that our country has experienced in recent years and presents a dangerous scenario for any attempt to strengthen democracy.

THEREFORE, WE INVOKE:

9. Peruvian society and the international community to publicly REJECT these racist and discriminatory discourses, IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE to the promotion of a culture of respect and harmonious coexistence in societies with cultural and social diversity.

10. the Peruvian State to comply with its commitments to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which we have already detailed, through the corresponding channels.

Lima, June 13, 2021.