

March 11th 2011¹

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you to inform you that in the course of the 78th meeting, the Committee examined the situation of the Terraba Indigenous people of Costa Rica, in light of the information presented by the State party in response to the questions of the Committee about the information presented by non-governmental organisations under the early warning and urgent action procedure in August 2010.

The Committee thanks the State party and the Permanent Mission for the report and the documentation provided by verbal note dated January 28th, 2011. According to the information contained in the report, the construction of the Diquis hydroelectric dam is still under analysis. Various initiatives apparently have been carried out with the objective to facilitate the information and in consultation with the indigenous peoples that would be affected by the planned construction.

Therefore, the Committee, requests that the State party provides information about the progress of the Diquis project and the decisions taken in that regard. In this context, it is required that the State party pays special attention and informs about the measures taken to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples, including their consultation, prior and informed consensus and participation in all the stages of the project, and the respect to their territories and culture.

According to the article 9 (1) of the Convention and the article 65 of its internal rules, the Committee requests the State party to respond before July 31st 2011.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Costa Rica, with a view to provide it with assistance in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Anwar Kemal
Chairperson of the Committee on the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination

¹ Unofficial translation. The original can be found in Spanish at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' website: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/docs/CostaRica_sp_11March2011.pdf