



**CONTIOCAP**  
Coordinadora Nacional de Defensa de Territorios  
Indígenas Originarios Campesinos y Áreas Protegidas



## **Oral statement at the 59th session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Topic: UPR Outcomes - Plurinational State of Bolivia**

**Date: Jun 30 2025**

**Presented by: Ruth Alipaz Cuqui (Alliance for Human Rights and the Environment – ADHMA Bolivia)  
and (Edmund Rice International - ERI)**

**Mr. President,**

We appreciate this opportunity and value the contributions of civil society, the Bolivian State, and the international community to the Fourth Cycle of the UPR in the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

As a coalition of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and Human Rights Defenders, we emphasize that the review addressed the serious impacts on the environment and the rights of Indigenous Peoples through 18 recommendations and issued an additional 25 recommendations concerning the shrinking civic space and the lack of protection for human rights defenders, including environmental defenders and journalists.

However, we are concerned that our government has insufficiently addressed the severe contamination of our rivers and water sources caused by mercury used in gold mining. We are also concerned that neighboring countries, affected by the illegal trafficking of mercury from Bolivia, have not taken adequate measures to address this problem.

Regarding the reduction of civic space and the risks faced by human rights defenders, we are deeply concerned that the Bolivian government has rejected recommendations calling for concrete actions to reverse restrictive laws that undermine human rights defense, such as Law 351 and Supreme Decree 1597.

Indigenous Peoples and Bolivian society suggest that the Plurinational State of Bolivia present to the Human Rights Council, on an annual basis, concrete and effective best practices to curb mercury contamination, as well as actions to respect and strengthen civic space, which is essential for the protection of human rights defenders.

<sup>1</sup>These recommendations are: 122.174; 122.175; 122.260; 122.261; 122.262; 122.265; 122.263; 122.264; 122.181; 122.188; 122.153; 122.176; 122.177; 122.178; 122.179; 122.182; 122.189; 122.180.

<sup>2</sup>These recommendations are: 122.44; 122.45; 122.46; 122.47; 122.48; 122.49; 122.50; 122.55; 122.59; 122.60; 122.63; 122.64; 122.65; 122.42; 122.43; 122.180; 122.51; 122.52; 122.53; 122.54; 122.56; 122.58; 122.59; 122.61; 122.62.

<sup>3</sup>In this regard, five countries highlighted this issue through recommendations 122.263, 122.264, 122.181, 122.188, and 122.153. However, our government's response has consisted of timid actions aimed at developing delayed plans to reduce mercury use—plans that are being formulated without the participation of Indigenous Peoples and the affected population. In this regard, you can consult this interview with an expert: <https://anabolivia.org/a-dos-anos-del-lanzamiento-del-plan-nacional-del-mercurio-experto-observa-escaso-avance/>

<sup>4</sup>These neighboring countries are: Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia.

<sup>5</sup>The recommendations rejected by the Bolivian State are: 122.2; 122.42; 122.43; 122.44; 122.45; 122.50; 122.51; 122.53; 122.54; 122.59; 122.60.