



INTER - AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS
COMISSÃO INTERAMERICANA DE DIREITOS HUMANOS
COMMISSION INTERAMÉRICAINÉ DES DROITS DE L'HOMME



Consultation Questionnaire in relation to Thematic Report on Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact

This Questionnaire was prepared for the purpose of requesting the information described below in relation to a thematic report to be prepared by the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("Rapporteurship") at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("IACHR").

As part of its function to promote and protect human rights, the Rapporteurship is planning to prepare in the next few months a report on the human rights situation of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the Americas. The principal goal of the report will be to compile and analyze factual and legal information about indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the region, as well as make recommendations to the State about the courses of action that, according to international human rights law, should be followed in order to ensure the effective protection of the human rights of isolated peoples. The information received through this Questionnaire will be one of the primary sources for the preparation of that report.

According to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, indigenous peoples in isolation are indigenous peoples or segments of indigenous peoples who do not maintain regular contacts with the majority population, and who also tend to refuse all type of contact with persons not belonging to their group. Peoples in initial contact, in turn, are peoples who maintain recent contacts with the majority population, or who despite maintaining contact for some time, they have not reached a point of knowing in detail the relationship patterns and codes of the majority population¹. The information available to the IACHR indicates that indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact may be present in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.

Accordingly, the IACHR would be grateful if you could take the necessary steps so that the IACHR may receive the information described below before May 24, 2013.

¹ OHCHR, United Nations, *Guidelines of Protection of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact in the Amazon Region, the Gran Chaco, and the Eastern Region of Paraguay*, May 2012.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Information regarding the existence of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact in your country.
 - a. Have there been sightings of peoples in isolation in the country or other tangible evidence of their presence? Who made the sightings/found the evidence and under what circumstances? What information is available regarding the presence (or not) of peoples in isolation in your country?
 - b. Please provide approximate number of peoples and/or persons in voluntary isolation, if such information is available, as well as their approximate geographic location and related information about them, including whether other indigenous peoples (not in voluntary isolation) reside in the same areas.
 - c. Have anthropological or ethnographic studies been done of peoples and/or persons in voluntary isolation?
 - d. Are peoples in voluntary isolation counted in the national censuses? In case of an affirmative answer, how is that done?
 - e. Is any information available regarding peoples which have disappeared, or which are believed to have disappeared, completely?
 - f. Are there peoples in initial contact in your country? In case of an affirmative answer, are there differentiated measures to ensure their protection?

2. Legal framework regarding peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.
 - a. Have laws, decrees, or other measures with the force of law been adopted in connection with indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact? Are there pronouncements by judicial or administrative bodies on the subject?
 - b. Are there special provisions regarding peoples in isolation in legislation regarding other matters, such as environmental, mining, hydrocarbons, or others?
 - c. Have territorial demarcations been established to protect peoples in isolation, such as so-called intangible zones or other demarcated areas? If so, what restrictions apply to access to such areas? Do such restrictions apply to other indigenous peoples?
 - d. Are there State agencies or departments dedicated to the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation? If there are such agencies or departments, please provide information regarding their work and contact information.
 - e. Are there other measures for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation in your country?

3. Have there been bilateral or multilateral cooperation efforts to address the issue of protection of peoples in isolation? Are there peoples in isolation in the areas near the borders between your country and other States?
4. What programs, policies or initiatives are contemplated for the future for the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation?
5. Any other information that you consider relevant for the preparation of the IACHR's report regarding indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.