



EDO Group, Colombia
An associate member of



Oral Statement
49th Session of the Human Rights Council
High-Level Segment

The human rights of indigenous women

We welcome this opportunity to voice the concerns of the indigenous people of the region of La Guajira which exemplifies the situation of many indigenous communities across the world.

The Guajira region is populated with 65% indigenous and Pre-Columbian people. Still, these people are driven out of their own land, intimidated and forcibly displaced. They are denied their most basic rights, whether civil, political, socio-economic or cultural. They live in situations of dire vulnerability. In this region, rich in coal and gas, wind and sun, multinationals are given priority over the welfare and wellbeing of indigenous people, and the sustainability of their land and natural environment.

Indigenous women, mothers in particular, face additional challenges and human rights violations. In addition to poverty, exclusion, discrimination and rampant violence, they are totally excluded from local politics and decision-making that affect their lives. The pandemic only made matter worse.

We are therefore calling on the international community and governments across the world:

- To stop being complicit of these all too systematic human rights violations against indigenous people
- To hold transnational companies to account so that they fully respect the human rights of indigenous people, work with local communities, and positively and sustainably contribute to the development of these regions
- To work with and invest in local indigenous communities, in particular women, by developing basic infrastructure and services, including education, health, water and sanitation, transportation and telecommunications
- And above all, to recognize that we also have a lot to learn from indigenous communities across the world and please give them a seat at every table.

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EDO Group's mission is to address the main socio-economic needs of Afro-Colombian and indigenous Wayuu and Wiwa mothers in vulnerable situations in the region of Guajira, Colombia. Its activities include education, inclusion, social entrepreneurship and improving the food sovereignty of ethnic groups in Guajira. EDO Group is a non-profit local organisation and an associate member of Make Mothers Matter (MMM), an International NGO with General Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.