COONAPIP/32-13

March 1, 2013, Panama

Mrs.

Kim Bolduc, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Panama.

Mrs.

Margarita Astralaga, Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean,

United Nations Environment Program.

Mr.

Mario Boccucci, Secretary of the UN-REDD Programme.

Mr.

Deep Ford, Sub-regional Coordinator for Central America and the Dominican Republic and Representative in Panama,

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Mr.

Silvano Vergara, Administrator of the National Environmental Authority ANAM Panama.

Dear Sirs:

In response to your letter UNDP-PA-2013-01294, we state the following:

1 - That on behalf of the Traditional Authorities of the COONAPIP in the Regular Session of the General Assembly, by Resolution No. 2-2013, on February 25, 2013, they categorically decided to withdraw from the joint United Nations Programme for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in Panama (UN-REDD/ANAM-Panamá). **We categorically reiterate this.**

2 – We observe that the vagueness and confusion is precisely yours as UNREDD and all your officials, who in a crude, misleading and irresponsible manner, took advantage of our good faith, with the sole purpose of receiving our support so that your program would be approved; it being you who have since then not taken up the serious commitment of cooperation, which has been a constant sustained by your officials.

3. It causes a lot of sadness that your apparent apology, tardy and delinquent, wants to now place full blame on one official that in the exercise of her functions, knowingly, manifested the commitment of UN-REDD towards all the indigenous peoples of Panama, without objections by the rest of the United Nations officials (including: Alexis Baules, Gisele Didier, Venessa Renatta and others) and the ANAM officials (including Eric Rodriguez, Carlos Gómez and Carlos Melgarejo) present at the event. Even more now you want to justify the lack of seriousness and responsibility that corresponds to UN-REDD since the previous stage of formulation and not, as you justified, in your confusion, since the event to which you make reference in your aforementioned note. It is our belief that said officer was not at all confused, and maybe in that moment she was clearer about all the responsibility that the UN-REDD Programme must assume for the indigenous peoples. Your belated apology does not absolve you from your commitments and responsibilities.

4. In your aforementioned note, you once more manifest and clearly demonstrate what we, the indigenous peoples of Panama, have repeatedly pointed out, the lack of will, the imposition and submission carried out by the United Nations agencies responsible for UNREDD and ANAM, which differs a lot from your action, and does not take into account what is established in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the international norms and conventions, the national norms and legislation that favour the implementation of the rights of the indigenous peoples of Panama.

5. In your aforementioned note, you demonstrate your insatiable pretentions to divide at all costs the unity of the indigenous peoples of Panama, by wanting to impose and specifying your desire to work with those that are willing to comply with the objectives, standards and deadlines set by you. What a low blow, how can we believe in your false intentions.

6. We categorically state that the National Coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples of Panama has declared that the dialogue with the UNREDD Programme has been exhausted from the perspective of content, form and participation. Ergo, by the right of the indigenous peoples, the High Level Commission, and much less the Technical Committee, that you convene and to which you make reference, do not exist for COONAPIP at this time.

7. Finally, the only mandate that the COONAPIP will obey is the provisions of Article III of Resolution No. 2-2013, which direct the Board and the legal technical body of the COONAPIP to initiate actions towards international denunciations against UNREDD to the proper authorities.

With no further matters to discuss,

Betanio Chiquidama

General Chief Embera Wounaan

Embera Wounaan Region

President of COONAPIP

Elibardo Membache

General Chief of the Collective Lands of Embera Wounaan

Secretary of COONAPIP

cc:

COONAPIP Authorities

National and International Community