



Oral Statement at the 59th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 6: UPR Outcomes – Bolivia

Date: 30 June 2025

Delivered by: Brian Bond

Mr President,

This coalition appreciates this opportunity and values the contributions of civil society, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the international community, to Bolivia's fourth UPR cycle.

As a coalition of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and Human Rights Defenders, we note that the review addressed the serious impacts on the environment and the rights of Indigenous Peoples through 18 recommendations and that another 25 recommendations were issued regarding the reduction of civic space and the lack of protection for Human Rights Defenders, including environmental defenders and journalists. We welcome the broad acceptance of these recommendations by Bolivia.

However, we are concerned that the government has not adequately addressed the serious contamination of rivers and water sources by mercury used in gold mining. We are also concerned that neighbouring countries affected by illegal mercury trafficking from Bolivia have not addressed this problem.

Regarding the reduction of civic space and the risks to human rights defenders, we are very concerned that the Bolivian government has rejected those recommendations that call for concrete actions to reverse restrictive norms related to the defence of human rights, such as Law 351 and Supreme Decree 1597.

Indigenous peoples and Bolivian society request that the Bolivian State regularly present to the Human Rights Council concrete and effective good practice to curb mercury pollution, and its actions to respect and strengthen civic space, which is the basis for protecting human rights defenders.

Thank you.