

United Nations High-Level Political Forum
July 6 to 15, 2021

Paraguay

Civil Society Presentation at the presentation session of the National Voluntary Country Report

Dear Sirs. Dear Ladies,

We have listened to the Representative of Paraguay, and we have read the report presented today. We would have liked the process of preparing the report to be more inclusive. We did not feel included in the consultation process as it was organized, and the result is a report that does not fully reflect our concerns.

Our country has a small territory, but we are the seventh largest producer and fourth largest exporter of soybeans. We rank 16th in meat production and 7th in meat exports. We produce food, but poverty and extreme poverty have grown in recent years in the country. How is this possible? How are the government organizing the fight against poverty and hunger?

Today our country has a large young population, but we are not taking advantage of the demographic bonus. We have to incorporate and give more tools to the youth of Paraguay.

We are a population that suffers from inequalities. Statistics show that the Paraguayan State does not guarantee land in sufficient quantity and quality to indigenous communities and peoples as established in the National Constitution. And the communities that do have land have no guarantees of their protection by the State. Evictions of indigenous communities have increased in recent years and are violent, with women, children and adolescents bearing the worst part. The Itaipu Hydroelectric Power Plant, awarded by UNESCO and UNDESA, is currently promoting an eviction lawsuit against the Sauce community. How do they intend to build development for all if they discriminate and criminalize us?

Achieving SDG 13 on climate action requires the commitment and participation of all, but we are losing our forests to illegal logging and fires without effective measures to protect our forests. The serious situation of the Tekoha Guasu of the Mbya Guarani indigenous people, known as the San Rafael Park Reserve, demonstrates this.

We need Peace and Justice. Above all, reduction of inequalities. We are not willing to be left behind.