

Bogota, April 25, 2020

Sir

**Ivan Duque Marquez**

President of Colombia

Madam

**Alicia Victoria Arango Olmos**

Minister of the Interior and Government

Sir

**Alberto Carrasquilla**

Minister of the Treasury

Sir

**Luis Alberto Rodríguez**

Director of the National Planning Department

**Ref.: For the NAPR Peoples in the National Development Plan 2018 - 2023.**

Cordial greetings,

In the National Development Plan for 2018-2022 and in accordance with Colombian law, an agreement was reached between the Colombian government and the Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquera Communities. This agreement includes 239 budget-related commitments amounting to 19 trillion Colombian pesos to be implemented during the Plan's four-year period. In line with the National Development Plan 2018-2022 and the Law 1955 of 2019 that approves it, these resources were allocated to the national government entities that signed the said agreement. They were appropriated in the corresponding annual budgets. This procedure did not allow for adequate monitoring of how these resources were implemented. Therefore, it prevents us from measuring the scope, results and impact such funds are having on the well-being of our communities. Nearly half of this government's term has passed and it is not yet clear whether these resources were appropriated and their corresponding level of implementation.

Colombia does not have the adequate health, social, or economic infrastructure to address the crisis generated by the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, it will negatively impact and cause incalculable damages to the rural and urban territories and settlements in which our communities live. The worst levels of poverty are found in our communities. According to NBI indicators, these areas are deficient in the number of beds, medical staff, urgent care units, as well as having very precarious hospital infrastructures.

Most of the Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquera population, especially those in urban areas, are not in a position to maintain prolonged social isolation because they survive in the informal sector. These communities do not have access to an infrastructure that allows them to be tested and receive health care during this emergency. Rural women have for years suffered the impacts of the internal armed conflict through internal displacements, confinement, murders of their leaders, among other abuses that disproportionately place them at risk.

To address this crisis in the territories of the Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquera population (in both urban and rural areas) a Special Plan Containing a Differential Ethnic Approach is required. Such a plan must have mechanisms, the assignment of specific responsibilities and sufficient resources for its implementation. It should include the proper infrastructure so it can guarantee effective health care, food security and respects our autonomy so that it can guarantee the well-being of our populations. As mentioned above, the resources for this have already been agreed to, approved, and included in the National Development Plan 2018 – 2020 under Law 1955 of 2019. These resources are allotted in a manner that does not allow them to be transferred to global and/or general allocations.

In compliance with the special provisions of Law 70 of 1993 of the Black Communities that is regulated by Colombia's Political Constitution, these resources are should go to the territories and municipalities of the Black, Afro-Colombian, Palenquera and Raizal communities, through entities and organizations who have mission-based responsibilities to do so.

Given the unprecedented health emergency generated by COVID-19, the National Government should carry out the implementation and/or expedited transfer of the resources referred to in the aforementioned agreements, under a framework of participatory budgeting, traceability, transparency, and accountability.

Our concrete demand is that the National Government, within the context of its emergency economic and social powers derived from the COVID 19 pandemic, allocate at least 9.5 of the total 19 BILLION to deal with the pandemic to the territories and settlements of black communities. For this, we propose the creation of an AFROCOLOMBIAN EMERGENCY FUND where the Ministry of the Treasury can allocate these resources and guarantee their execution.

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(1) The total amount of resources allocated in the 2020 General Budget, to meet the 239 commitments agreed at the CPLI, is only 64,000,000,000 (Seventy-four billion pesos)

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