



Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the
United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in
Geneva

Note No: 223/2024

The Permanent Mission of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to the communication from [REDACTED] Officer-in-charge, Special Procedures Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights conveying a communication sent by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights..

The Permanent Mission wishes to forward the attached letter from the Honourable Gail Teixeira M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance requesting an extension of the deadline for response to the Joint Communication to **March 31, 2025**. The Permanent Mission would be grateful for an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission.

The Permanent Mission of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva
December 3, 2024



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Office of the
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

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December 2, 2024

██████████
Officer-in-charge
Special Procedures Branch
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland.

Dear ██████████

Re: Request for Extension of Time to Respond to Joint Communication (A/HRC/54/31)

The Government of Guyana acknowledges receipt of the Joint Communication (A/HRC/54/31) dated November 8th, 2024 concerning carbon credit certification, Indigenous Peoples' rights, and associated matters. In the State party's recognition of the importance of addressing human rights concerns, the timeframe provided for submitting a response is insufficient, given the expansive nature of the communication, the multiple parties involved and the extensive obligations the State party is currently undertaking.

Guyana is in the process of finalising multiple critical reports, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) national report, which, as you should be aware, is due in January 2025, as well as other substantive treaty reports that are necessary to ensure the State's compliance with its international obligations. Furthermore, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance is actively hosting the annual Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Expo, a major public event that examines the intersection of human rights and anti-corruption efforts. Additionally, January 2025 will bring considerable activity within the National Assembly as the 2025 fiscal year budget will be presented and debated, followed by the rigorous scrutiny process conducted by the Committee of Supply.

Given these pressing priorities and the need to ensure a thorough and accurate response to the concerns raised, the State respectfully requests an extension of the deadline for submission of a substantive response to March 31, 2025. This will allow the Government of Guyana to fully engage with various stakeholders, national, regional and international, on the issues outlined in the Joint Communication and provide a comprehensive response informed by data, statistics and empirical research.

Despite the redundancy and repetition of these baseless allegations which are being raised and simultaneously discredited at various regional and international fora by one specific civil society organisation with political motives and interests, it is important to note that Guyana has emerged as a global leader in climate action, even most recently at the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The State Party's pioneering initiatives in sustainable development and forest conservation as laid out in the State's national development strategy - the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 - have been widely recognized, including in the recent receipt of the Transparency Award at the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) event, presented by the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Mr. Simon Stiell.

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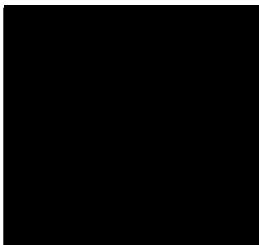
These accomplishments underscore Guyana's commitment to effective climate action which includes the safeguarding of the most fundamental human rights of Indigenous peoples. It is therefore disheartening to see such baseless and misinformed allegations made regarding the State party's efforts, which are directly benefitting the over 240 Indigenous Amerindian villages that play crucial roles in the design and implementation of Guyana's carbon markets.

The State takes this opportunity to further encourage the Special Procedures mandate holders to conduct their own due diligence in the interim, as the claims made in the Joint Communication seem to stem from intentional misrepresentations leading to flagrant misunderstandings of Guyana's laws, policies and practices regarding Indigenous rights and carbon credit mechanisms.

Furthermore, we have observed that your correspondence was dated November 8, 2024 with the 60 day deadline commencing from that date but the correspondence was only received officially by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on November 23, 2024? thereby reducing the period given for the State party to respond.

In conclusion, the State party requests the reasonable extension to March 31, 2025, for the submission of a substantive response. This will ensure that the State party of Guyana can adequately address the issues raised with the attention and thoroughness they deserve.

Kind regards,



M.P.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Governance
Republic of Guyana