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CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REVISED DRAFT WORLD CHARTER FOR NATURE

Letter dated 9 November 1982 from the representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The undersigned, representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, were highly surprised by the contents of document A/37/585, not only by the contents per se, but also by the unusual and undiplomatic language and tone, which fail - to say the least - to correspond to the best traditions of the Organization to which we are accredited.

The undersigned reiterate that the statement made on 28 October 1982 by the representative of Brazil at the 48th plenary meeting of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly (A/37/PV.48, p. 93) was a joint statement made on behalf of the Governments of eight States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela). That statement stands in its entirety as the common, collective view held by the eight Amazonian countries, which the undersigned have the honour to represent, towards the World Charter for Nature. The opinions of our Governments will always be expressed in the terms they deem fit and without asking the indulgence of any other Government (or distinguished representative).

The fact, unfortunately, remains that the draft World Charter for Nature was not properly negotiated at the intergovernmental level and perhaps this is the reason it ended up by being voted on, not at the request of the Amazonian countries. Approaches were informally made, as specific suggestions for change were offered in order to facilitate a consensus. All were ignored and a proposal to postpone for a few days the consideration of the draft World Charter during the current session of the General Assembly was also not accepted.

The fact remains as well that the eight Amazonian countries, which have individual and collective responsibilities towards the world's largest single natural ecosystem, have translated these responsibilities into an international

juridical instrument, the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation (A/35/580, annex). Therefore the domestic legislation of the eight signatories, of which the Treaty is now part, not only recognizes the principles of the full and permanent sovereignty of each country over its natural resources, but also defines their commitment to the protection of the Amazonian ecosystem.

Thus, there is no further need to address specific issues. Our Governments' views on each of the individual articles of the World Charter for Nature mentioned in document A/37/585 are those of our own joint statement of 28 October 1982 (see A/37/PV.48), suffice it to suggest that what is contained in the World Charter for Nature and in document A/37/585 be read in conjunction with our joint statement, since the General Assembly took its vote on the draft text, and not on its author's intentions.

The undersigned, representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, regret to have been compelled, Mr. President, given the terms of document A/37/585 - which aims at initiating a new form of "right of reply" - to request you to have this joint letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, as well as to be constantly borne in mind in connection with the World Charter for Nature in the same way as their joint statement of 28 October 1982.

(Signed) Alvaro GALVEZ MUCIENTES
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.,
Mission of Bolivia

(Signed) Sergio CORREA DA COSTA
Permanent Representative of Brazil

(Signed) Carlos SANZ DE SANTAMARIA
Permanent Representative of Colombia

(Signed) Miguel A. ALBORNOZ
Permanent Representative of Ecuador

(Signed) Noel G. SINCLAIR
Permanent Representative of Guyana

(Signed) Celso PASTOR DE LA TORRE
Permanent Representative of Peru

(Signed) Inderdew SEWRAJSING
Permanent Representative of Suriname

(Signed) Roy CHADERTON-MATOS
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