



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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Excellency,

I write to inform you that the Committee considered additional information received under its early warning and urgent action procedure, related to the impact of infrastructure projects on Xavante indigenous peoples in the State of Mato Grosso, in Brazil.

The Committee would like to thank the State party for its replies dated 15 March and 5 April 2022 in response to the Committee's letter of 25 August 2021. It takes note of the information provided by your Government with regard to the allegations set out in the Committee's previous letter, in particular that:

- The National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) has requested the National Department of Transport Infrastructure (DNIT) to reassess the Indigenous Component Study (ECI) regarding highway BR-080 project, and to complement its findings with a survey of primary data with the Xavante Peoples of the Pimentel Barbosa Indigenous Land;
- The geographical limits established Interministerial Ordinance N° 60/2015 for consultation processes are flexible and, may be altered depending on the specificities of the activity and the local peculiarities of each concrete case;
- Consultations regarding the Central-West Integration Railway (FICO) project with the peoples that make up the Indigenous Lands of the Xavante and Northwest complexes of Mato Grosso are suspended; and that FUNAI will soon resume negotiations for the review of the Indigenous Component of the Environmental Impact Studies (CI-EIA) and the elaboration of the Indigenous Component of the Basic Environmental Plan (CI-PBA) for the Xavante people.

At the same time, the Committee has received additional information on the impact of infrastructure and development projects on Xavante indigenous peoples in the State of Mato Grosso. In particular, the information received alleges that:

- (a) FUNAI continues to consult only with Sangradouro and Volta Grande communities and not with all Xavante indigenous communities that could be affected by the hydropower plants along the "Rio das Mortes" river referred to in CERD previous letters of 25 August and 30 April 2021;
- (b) The rice monoculture project "Indigenous Independence" or "Agro Xavante", reportedly supported by FUNAI, would create a commercial farming cooperative inside the Sangradouro reserve; that there has not been consultations with all Xavante indigenous peoples that could be affected by this project; and that it would increase deforestation on Indigenous lands and have a detrimental impact on the traditional way of life of the Xavante peoples;

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- (a) The increase of soybean plantations around Indigenous lands has significantly reduced the availability of natural resources, the areas of indigenous lands and the ability of Xavante peoples to perform traditional practices, such as hunting or preparation of medicines; and that the agrochemicals used in fertilizers and pesticides in these soybean plantations have contaminated the water and food sources of the Xavante peoples;
- (b) "Oficio Circular n° 18/2021/CGMT/DPT/Funai" of 29 December 2021, excludes non-homologated indigenous lands from FUNAI's territorial protection plans, leaving unprotected more than 282 non-homologated indigenous lands with approximately 536 indigenous communities living on them unprotected, as they are at different stages of the demarcation process.

In light of the additional allegations received, the Committee would like to request the State party to provide updated and detailed information on the impact of infrastructure and development projects on Xavante indigenous peoples, and on the above-mentioned allegations, during the presentation of its eighteenth to twentieth periodic reports, which will take place at the 108<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee (14 November to 2 December 2022).

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Brazil, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Verene Shepherd  
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination