



UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
13th Session, 30 November to 3 December 2020

Thank you Mr. President.

Our organization, Ecospirituality Foundation, has as its main objectives the protection of traditional knowledge and sacred places of indigenous peoples as well as the defense and respect of Mother Earth and all its inhabitants, human and other species.

We want to bring to the attention of this assembly the case of the profanations against the indigenous peoples of Europe. Even on the European continent there are indigenous peoples whose moral and cultural identity is at risk and are prevented from freely manifesting their spirituality.

Many indigenous cultures in Europe are at risk of extinction. In Piedmont, Northern Italy, there are communities with ancient traditional references, dating back to pre-Christian times, surviving the invasions of the Roman Empire and religious repressions. Cultures that have deep ties with indigenous peoples from all over Europe and that still maintain ancient traditional knowledge.

In this moment of pandemic these cultures are not recognized as indigenous and therefore are mixed with the population of the host States, while maintaining their customs and their rituals.

Precisely because of their good practices, these indigenous communities face this difficult time with harmony and through the bond with Mother Earth.

The New Earth Circle Community, in Northern Italy, organizes periodic planetary meditations to be performed online because it believes that the energy that can arise from collective meditation can be a way to deal with this dark moment. Just as traditional rituals and practices can unite the community even if virtually.

Today we live in a difficult time that cannot be overcome only with measures aimed at isolating people, but also with the relationship with Nature. Mother Earth is our true mother and never leaves us alone.

Our organization, together with the communities we represent, proposes ecospirituality to face this difficult moment for all humanity and for the indigenous peoples in particular, who are the least protected.

Our President, Giancarlo Barbadoro, who passed away in 2019, had a dream: that of a world based on brotherhood and harmony between all living species, in reference to Mother Earth.

This is why he promoted ecospirituality, a philosophy that is also germinating in Africa, both in Benin and in Cameroon and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Giancarlo Barbadoro believed that the indigenous peoples were a great lesson for all humanity. A lesson in Peace and harmony for a better world.

We will carry on his teaching and his dream, to overcome this dark moment in history and build a better world.

Thank you Mr. President.

Rosalba Nattero

President Ecospirituality Foundation

Representative:

Apache Survival Coalition, Arizona;

Wiran Aboriginal Corporation, Australia;

Traditional community "Menhirs Libres", Bretagne;

Bassa People, Camerun;

Familles Royales de Wémè, Benin;

New Earth Circle, North Italy