



UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
17th Session, 8-12 July 2024

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 otherwise.

We want to bring to the attention of this assembly the case of desecrations 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 expressing 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, which survived the invasions of the Roman Empire and religious repression. Cultures that have deep ties with indigenous peoples across Europe and which still maintain ancient traditional knowledge today. We have an example of this in the communities of Brittany, Galicia, in the Occitan peoples, in the native community of the Escartons.

These cultures are not recognized as indigenous and therefore are mixed with the population of the states that host them, while maintaining their customs and rites, facing difficult moments 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 of facing the dark moments of history. Just as traditional rites and practices can unite the community even if virtually.

These people face difficult times with their relationship with Nature. Mother Earth is our true mother and never leaves us alone.

Our organization, together with the communities we represent, proposes eco-spirituality to face the difficult moments of history and for 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.

For this reason he promoted eco-spirituality, a philosophy that is also sprouting in Africa, both in Benin and in Cameroon and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Giancarlo Barbadoro believed that indigenous peoples constituted a great lesson for all humanity.

A lesson in Peace and harmony for a better world.

We will carry forward his teaching and his dream, to 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", Brittany;

Bassa People, Cameroon;

Familles Royales de Wémè, Benin;

New Earth Circle, North Italy