Mr. President,

Right Livelihood, CEJIL and the Red de Defensoras Indígenas thank the special rapporteur for his report. We regret that some States, including Nicaragua, continue to disregard the rights of indigenous peoples, including in the context of environmental projects.

In the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, the rights of indigenous people are consistently violated and the area is experiencing the highest deforestation rates in the country. As business enterprises storm the region with the complicity of the Nicaraguan government, environmental projects are implemented with the invasive and forced consent of indigenous peoples.

This is the case of the Green Climate Fund’s BioClima project, in which consultations are taking place in the context of the closure of civic space, persecution, criminalisation and forced exile of indigenous leaders and defenders. We are deeply concerned that while the project would potentially cause irreversible damage to indigenous peoples’ land and resources, it would also fuel further violence and the forced displacement of local communities.

Mr President,

The BioClima project would de facto legalise human rights violations against indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples and deteriorate the current humanitarian crisis in the territory.

We, therefore, call upon the Council to urge the authorities to (1) Fully respect the rights of indigenous peoples, including their right to free, prior and informed consent; (2) Immediately remove illegal settlers from demarcated lands and ensure independent and impartial investigations into all crimes committed; (3) Take proactive measures to terminate the BioClima project.

Thank you.