




ROUNDTABLE – EXPERT MEETING ON RIGHTS OF NATURE

WITH MR JILATA DAVID CHOQUEHUANCA CESPEDES, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA AND INDIGENOUS LEADER 

Mother Earth, Pacha Mama, Rights of Nature, Harmony with Nature. Mr. Choquehuanca will deliver a speech about the connection between people and Mother Earth, Pacha Mama, and the Rights of Nature. He will highlight how 'Harmony with Nature' and the concept of 'vivir bien' can be institutionalized in our democracies. Bolivia has a long tradition therein, whereas in the Netherlands, we are anxiously searching for such a balance.

After the introductory speech, the participants can deliberate with Mr. Choquehuanca on the Rights of Nature that have been recognized in Bolivia. We will further discuss how Rights of Nature initiatives are and can be implemented in the world and NL specifically (e.g. Wadden Sea, river Maas and IJssel, river forest Amelisweerd). What can we learn from the Harmony with Nature practices in Bolivia? How can we cooperate in this field?



WHEN?

Tuesday 20 september
2022
14:00 - 16:00

WHERE?

Nyenrode Business University
Keizersgracht 285
1016 ED Amsterdam

REGISTRATION

Email to Myrthe Egmond –
coordinator@worldconnectors.nl
before 19 September 2022
Free ticket

ORGANIZATION

Organisation by: Prof. dr. Tineke Lambooy LL.M. (Nyenrode Business University and Stand Up For Your Rights – Rights of Nature Consultant), Dr. Dorine van Norren (Associate researcher van Vollenhoven instituut Leiden University), Mr. Roberto Calzadilla Sarmiento (Ambassador of Bolivia in the Netherlands); Tessa van Soest (B Corps and Stand Up For Your Rights – Rights of Nature Consultant); Myrthe Egmond (Worldconnectors)



RIGHTS OF NATURE NL

UNESCO World Heritage Site: the Wadden Sea (Northern part of the Netherlands), IJssel, Amelisweerd

Excerpts speech mr. Choquehuanca

"That everyone, each at their own pace, will transcend anthropocentrism, egocentrism, consumerism and greed, thus healing Humanity, the Planet and Life itself.

We are currently experiencing the culminating moment of a universal civilizational crisis and in this context our government is promoting Legal Reforms in that it should be with the plural participation of all actors to transform the System of Law and Justice and contribute to a Jurisprudence that recognizes Everyone and Everything as Creative Subjects and Breeders of Life in Complementarity and Balance. To also discover the Universe of Rights that holds Life itself.

The old Justice System has destroyed itself because it has separated itself from Natural Laws and has silenced the wisdom of our Cosmivision that warns that the Rights of Every Living Being are prior to Every Rule of Law. That the Rights of Human Life do not come from doctrinal adjudications that the States can make. That the Great Matrix of Life and Human Life are prior to All Law and are the Foundation of Law itself.

While living according to the principle of complementarity, balance and harmony, the Natural Law of Life is not being violated, consequently - the Rights and their guarantor the State would have no reason to exist.

Our Freedom is above all the responsibility of moving in the Consciousness of the Great Matrix of Life that unifies everyone and everything, "taqacha", everything that exists."

Excerpts from the speech of Vice President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia Jilata David Choquehuanca Cespedes in Tribute to the 197 years in Commemoration of the Independence of Bolivia from August 6, 1825.

About Mr. Choquehuanca

David Choquehuanca Céspedes was born on 7 May 1961 in Cota Cota Baja, a small village bordering Lake Titicaca near Huarina in the La Paz Department of Bolivia. Choquehuanca learned Aymara as his first language and later learned Spanish. In 1971, Choquehuanca moved to nearby Huarina to continue his secondary studies. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1980 from José Miguel Lanza General College. In 1990, he completed a postgraduate degree in history and anthropology at the Higher University of San Andrés in La Paz. Between 2001 and 2002, he completed a higher diploma in the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at Cordillera University. Choquehuanca, who is of Aymara descent, is an activist in the Aymara indigenous and campesino movement. Starting in the 1980s, he worked in support of the Unified Syndical Confederation of Rural Workers of Bolivia, through various political actions, trainings, and congresses. He first met future president Evo Morales at a trade union congress in 1984. From 1998 to 2005, he worked as National Coordinator of the Programa Nina (meaning fire in Aymara), an NGO consortium that provides training to rural movement leaders. He has worked with international agencies and has been an advisor to President Evo Morales, a fellow Aymara, since before Morales's election to the Presidency.

He served as the Foreign minister of Bolivia from 23 January 2006 to 23 January 2017. He was designated the Secretary General of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) in March 2017, a position which he held until November 2019. On 19 January 2020, he was designated as the vice presidential candidate of the Movement for Socialism (MAS) in the 2020 Bolivian general election and was elected on 18 October. Since 8 November 2020 he is serving as the 39th vice president of Bolivia together with President Luis Arce.

