

Oral Statement by Nord-Sud XXI
on the UPR Report of Ecuador
(19 September 2012)

Nord-Sud XXI welcomes the UPR Report on Ecuador.

We especially draw attention to the far sighted vision of sustainable development that the government of Ecuador has expressed both in its laws and its policies. Its recognition of the human right to water and of the right of nature are examples of good practice that we hope will be followed by other countries. It is the recognition of these communal rights that is necessary for protecting our planet for future generation. These are not merely good intentioned aspirations, but must and can, as Ecuador has shown us, be translated in to concrete laws and policies.

Nord-Sud XXI urges Ecuador to play a leading role in encouraging respect for the rights of nature. As a compliment to this important effort, and of more immediate concern, we also take this opportunity to urge Ecuador to play a leading role the effort to create a Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change.

We have noted concerns expressed by some States about the extent of freedom of expression. We note that press freedom comes with responsibilities, but we emphasize the importance of an inclusive dialogue in which a free press can play an important role for the development of a nation. In this regards, we welcome an enhancement of efforts to secure press freedoms and we note Ecuador's expression of willingness to cooperate to achieve this goal.