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Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

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Subject: GeoPark's Response to *An Open Letter in Support of Environmental and Human Rights Defender Jani Silva and Denouncing the Threats Against Her, Corporate Liability and Sustainable Peace (CLASP) Lab, April 30, 2021*

GeoPark is grateful to the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre for the opportunity to respond to the accusations made by CLASP Lab — a collaboration between the Comision Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz and other organizations — against GeoPark, that seek to connect the Company with serious threats to social leader Jani Silva.

Since GeoPark acquired the operations of Amerisur Resources in January 2020, it has expressed its commitment to respecting the human rights of the individuals and communities neighboring its operations. On several occasions and as stated on the la nueva Amerisur website (<https://www.lanuevaamerisur.com/sala-de-prensa/>), the Company has vigorously repudiated any threat to the life, dignity and integrity of human rights defenders and social leaders, and has demanded, in writing and in frequent interactions with national and local authorities, the adoption of effective measures to protect those who perform this work.

GeoPark therefore categorically rejects any insinuation or direct accusation linking the Company and its la nueva Amerisur subsidiary with threats that illegal organizations make against social leaders.

GeoPark's respect for human rights is expressed in its [Corporate Commitment](#) and is demonstrated by broad and clear processes of citizen participation and permanent dialogue that are implemented to integrate the concerns and expectations of communities and authorities within the area of influence of the Company operations. GeoPark acknowledges that this is a fundamental pillar for sustainable regional development, as well as for being accepted and securing the social license to operate.

In accordance with its actions, GeoPark's human rights policy is guided by standards including the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the fundamental conventions of the International Labor Organization.



Although protecting human rights is an obligation of the State, GeoPark has implemented an Early Management System to guarantee due diligence in its operations that constantly identifies risks to prevent and mitigate negative impacts on stakeholders resulting from its operations.

GeoPark takes responsibility for its social and environmental impacts and incorporates the vision of social leaders and their recommendations and disagreements to implement the highest management standards. The results of this Early Management System are periodically evaluated to determine their effectiveness and ensure continuous improvement of business practices and policies.

To continue improving its human rights standards, GeoPark and la nueva Amerisur are working with the Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP), an independent think tank whose mission is to produce knowledge, propose initiatives, develop practices and support processes to contribute in the construction of a stable and lasting peace in Colombia.

In reference to other indications in the CLASP Lab open letter, la nueva Amerisur categorically denies its connection with instances of water and land contamination, and of displacement and violations of the prior consultation process. GeoPark's direct operations and those of its subsidiaries obey the company's commitments to the Colombian State and are carried out with full respect and adherence to the law.

The Company's activities in Putumayo consist of the operation of the Platanillo block and the development of exploratory activities in the PUT-8 block, which are currently in the environmental licensing phase. Both blocks are in the rural area of Puerto Asis municipality. All activities are carried out in full compliance with the environmental permits granted and the environmental management measures approved by the National Environmental Licensing Authority (ANLA) and by the Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Southern Amazon (Corpoamazonia). To date, based on permanent monitoring — most recently by ANLA in April 2021 — no authority has ever sanctioned GeoPark or la nueva Amerisur.

Knowing that it operates in an environmentally sensitive territory, GeoPark voluntarily and permanently monitors its operations and defines action plans to prevent any environmental damage resulting from its operation. Similarly, through the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI), the company takes technical, logistical and financial measures that promote the protection, conservation, restoration, ecosystem connectivity and sustainable development of biodiversity in Putumayo.

La nueva Amerisur also rejects allegations made in the CLASP Lab open letter that it has violated the prior consultation process. The company only carries out exploratory activities in the PUT-8 block and development activities in the Platanillo block, and Colombia's Ministry of the Interior — the entity in charge of certifying the presence of ethnic groups and leading the prior consultation process in the country — has declared that in these projects' respective areas of influence there are no communities that are subject to this fundamental right.



Regardless of a prior consultation process not being required, the Company is always open to dialogue and before starting any project carries out exhaustive socialization and information processes in which local communities, civil society organizations and local authorities participate.

The most recent of these citizen participation activities was carried out in 2020 on social acceptance of the seismic acquisition project in the PUT-8 block. The Company held 59 meetings with the participation of 1,679 people to provide timely information about the program and listen to and resolve concerns. For greater information transparency, the Company furthermore set up a Monitoring Committee made up of representatives of authorities, communities and the Company to monitor the project's technical, operational, environmental, social and labor advances on a monthly basis.

GeoPark acts responsibly in Colombia and is fully committed to respecting the human rights of its neighboring communities and protecting the environment. The Company is unreservedly open to resolving the concerns of all stakeholders, and invites civil society organizations to express their concerns and disagreements respectfully and through a constructive exchange of accurate information that contributes to the development of the areas it operates in.