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About the contributions of the UDV during AYA2019

From May 27th to June 2nd 2019 ICEERS organized, in collaboration with many supporters and partners, the third World Ayahuasca Conference in Girona, Spain. AYA2019 has been the largest conference of its kind, with over 1400 participants from 46 countries. This edition, once again, we made a great effort to bring together individuals and organizations from different backgrounds and expertise, and to give more room to sustainability and indigenous rights issues in the discussions.

We are especially pleased with the effort and presence that the UDV had in various discussion forums: 11 speakers took part in the conference and were present in the three Halls of the venue. This included participation as keynote speakers and in several roundtables, panels and a film presentation. The topics they covered were diverse: from freedom of religion, human rights and policy, to environment and cultivation of sacred plants.

The UDV participation included the the following presentations and panels:

- *Meio Ambiente e cultivo das plantas sagradas: A experiência da UDV*
- *UDV Science: scientific and academic interests and guidelines of the Centro Espirita Beneficiente União do Vegetal*
- *The fundamental right to a religious use of Ayahuasca: a new approach to strategically position Ayahuasca in a regulated scenario*
- *Master Gabriel: the pedagogy of example*
- *A Brief History of the Institutionalization of the Religious use of Ayahuasca in Brazil*
- *Ayahuasca, buen vivir e multiculturalidade: A experiência da UDV na concretização dos princípios da liberdade religiosa, do buen vivir e do diálogo intercultural*
- *Ayahuasca Reframed- Special discussion panel*
- *Envisioning the future: Towards sensible, human rights-based policies for ayahuasca practices -Panel*
- *Can the environmental characteristics cause variation in DMT (N,N- Dimethyltryptamine) production in Psychotria Viridis?*
- *Molecular investigation of the rapid antidepressant effect involved in the pharmacodynamics of Ayahuasca in patients with resistant depression: Bibliographic Review*
- *Ayahuasca y Aprendizaje Cooperativo: La experiencia de la Unión del Vegetal - UDV*
- *The multifaceted challenges faced by UDV in its 58 years*

The voices from the UDV that were heard during AYA2019 brought light into the challenges that the Ayahuasca community faces: sustainability, legal uncertainty, religious freedom, human rights, amongst many others. At ICEERS, we've advocated towards the recognition of the complex and multidisciplinary aspect of ayahuasca and in this line, we were fortunate enough to have a wide range of speakers from the UDV that brought this forward. This inspires us to continue advocating towards a human rights-based approach and to double our efforts to effectively promote the full recognition of the freedom of religion.

After the screening of the movie "Ayahuasca Reframed" a special panel was held with people that have been in conflict with the law for the use of ayahuasca. Here, an important piece of the heart of our conference was held; we learned that in complex times, our community must remain in constant dialogue

and in continuous support. During this panel, we heard the voices of those that have faced any legal challenge with regards to ayahuasca, and we are confident that our efforts in this field must actively continue. The experience of the UDV in the US is particularly relevant since it deeply inspires us to continue serving those that might face a legal obstacle in the future.

Within the framework of AYA2019, we also hosted the *Informal Dialogue on Ayahuasca, Human Rights and Policy Options*. The goal of this session was to create an informal meeting space for policy makers, international organizations officials and civil society representatives, with the aim of sharing visions and strategies on the challenges related to the globalization of ayahuasca and other traditional plants. The perspective and expertise of UDV was also present at the meeting, in which Jeffrey Bronfman shared with the attendees the particularities of the situation in the United States and Canada.

The World Ayahuasca Conference reminded us that we must stand together as a whole, that human rights should be at the center of public policies surrounding ayahuasca, and that its sustainability should concern us all. We deeply thank the UDV for the words, the inspiration and the support during the conference.

In gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Constanza Sánchez Avilés".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalia Rebollo Corral".

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