MEMBERS OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
UNESCO PARIS

We, members of the Pro Madre Maiz Committee, Parliamentarians and direct transmitters of the PA’CH CEREMONY, reiterate the fact that we have given our total consent for the Ministry of Culture and Sports to present the Pa’ch Ceremony Candidacy before UNESCO.

Based on the aforementioned and through the work process developed by the Ministry, in 2009 and 2010 we provided information that facilitated the creation of the candidacy file. We gave such consent in order for the traditions that our ancestors practiced for many years and that we have been practicing for over 60 years to continue existing in the community of San Pedro Sacatepéquez, San Marcos. We also gave our consent because we are confident that the principals of respect towards people and nature currently need to be promoted urgently. In addition, the multicultural interrelation that promotes their practice will allow us to strengthen a democratic relationship within the San Pedro community and in Guatemala in general.

Our biggest dream is to see adults, young people and children practicing the traditions that identify the San Pedro community worldwide.

Given in the municipality of San Pedro Sacatepéquez, San Marcos, on March 20th of 2012.

Written by the transmitters of the Paach Ceremony
[Fingerprint]
Vicente Miranda
President of the Pro Madre Maiz Committee
First Parliamentarian

END OF TRANSLATION

IN WHITNESS WHEREOF, and assuming no responsibility whatsoever for the contents of the original document, I issue this Sworn Translation and hereunto set my hand and seal in Guatemala City, this fourth day of December, two thousand twelve.
Nosotros constituidos en el comité Pro Madre Maíz, Parlamenteros y portadores directos del CEREMONIAL DE PA’CH, por este medio reiteramos que hemos dado nuestro total consentimiento al Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes para presentar ante UNESCO la Candidatura del Ceremonial de Pa’ch.

Por lo anterior, a través del proceso de trabajo desarrollado por el Ministerio en mención, en el año 2009 y 2010 aportamos los conocimientos que permitieron la formulación del expediente de la candidatura. El objetivo que nos motivó a dar dicho consentimiento es para que la tradición que nuestros antepasados practicaron por largo tiempo y que nosotros venimos realizando desde hace más de 60 años siga vigente en el pueblo de San Pedro Sacatepéquez, San Marcos. Porque estamos seguros que los principios de respeto a las personas y a la naturaleza, son urgentes de promover en la actualidad. Y la interrelación multicultural que promueve su práctica nos permitirá fortalecer una relación democrática dentro de la sociedad sampedrana y en Guatemala en general.

Nuestro sueño más grande es ver a adultos, jóvenes y niños continuar con la tradición que nos identifica a los sampedranos ante el mundo entero.

Dado en el municipio de San Pedro Sacatepéquez, San Marcos, a los 20 días del mes de marzo de 2012.

Por los portadores del Ceremonial de Paach

Vicente Miranda
Presidente del Comité Pro Madre Maíz
Primer Parlamentero
EL INFRASCrito SECRETARIO MUNICIPAL DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL DEL MUNICIPIO SAN PEDRO SACATEPÉQUEZ, DEPARTAMENTO DE SAN MARCOS, CERTIFICA: TENER A LA VISTA EL LIBRO DE SESIONES ORDINARIAS Y EXTRAORDINARIAS DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL, EN EL QUE APARECE EL ACTA QUE COPIADA EN SU PARTE CONDUCTICE Y QUE DICE: 


PRIMERO: 

DECIMO SEXTO: El Concejo Municipal del municipio de San Pedro Sacatepéquez, Departamento de San Marcos, CONSIDERANDO: Que siendo deber primordial del mismo, fortalecer las costumbres y tradiciones que por muchos años han sido de la cultura y tradiciones de los habitantes de nuestro municipio, atendiendo requerimiento presentado por el Señor Alcalde Municipal, haciendo uso de las facultades que confiere el Código Municipal, por unanimidad ACUERDA: I- Aprobar el Plan de Trabajo de la propuesta de la Candidatura del Ceremonial de la Pa’ch ante la UNESCO, incluyendo un aporte económico por la cantidad de OCHO MIL QUETZALES (Q.8,000.00), el apoyo de todas las actividades y la gestión que haga el Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes ante dicha organización. II- Lo que le compete a la Municipalidad, se delega en la Comisión de Educación, Educación Bilingüe Intercultural, Cultura y Deportes con el apoyo de la Casa de la Cultura Sampedrana. III- para los gastos aprobados se utilizarán fondos de la partida respectiva del presupuesto de gastos de esta Municipalidad correspondiente al ejercicio fiscal dos mil doce. IV- El presente acuerdo surte sus efectos inmediatamente. Transcúbrase. Fs) ilegibles. Sellos correspondientes.

Y PARA LOS USOS LEGALES QUE ESTIME CONVENIENTE SE EXTIENDE LA PRESENTE COPIA CERTIFICADA EN PAPEL MEMBRETADO DE LA MUNICIPALIDAD DE SAN PEDRO SACATEPÉQUEZ SAN MARCOS A VEINTINUEVE DIAS DEL MES DE NOVIEMBRE DEL AÑO DOS MIL DOCE.

P.C. Artemio Saul Bautista 
SECRETARIO MUNICIPAL

Vo. Bo. Lic. Carlos Enrique Bautista Godínez 
ALCALDE MUNICIPAL

MINUTES NUMBER: ZERO TWENTY-FOUR DASH TWO THOUSAND TWELVE (024-2012). Ordinary Public Meeting held by the Municipal Council of the Municipality of San Pedro Sacatepéquez, Department of San Marcos, on March twenty-second of two thousand twelve, presided by Municipal Mayor Carlos Enrique Bautista Godínez, and with the presence of Municipal Representatives: 1. Expert Accountant Sandra Marisa Ochoa Fuentes and 2. Edward Paúl Navarro Mérida, and City Councilors: 1. Oziel Jeremías Orozco Godínez who has a degree in Industrial Engineering and is an expert in electricity, 2. Expert Accountant Fredy Otoniel Miranda Bautista, 3. Secondary School Teacher Juan Pablo Miranda Ramos, 4. Dora María López Orozco, 5. Teacher Mario Moisés Fuentes (no other last name), 6. Architect Héctor Iván Santisteban Orozco, 7. Secondary School Teacher Juan Elpidio Gómez Maldonado. This meeting was held at 17 hours with fifteen minutes in the Municipal Honor Room and we proceeded as follows:-----

----- . . . FIRST: . . . SIXTEENTH: CONSIDERING: That its primary duty is to strengthen customs and traditions that have been part of the culture and traditions of the municipality’s inhabitants for many years and due to a requirement made by the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of San Pedro Sacatepéquez, Department of San Marcos, based on the powers conferred by the Municipal Code, unanimously
AGREES: I- To approve the Work Plan on the proposal for the application to UNESCO for the Pa’ch Ceremony to be a Candidate, including an economic contribution of EIGHT THOUSAND QUETZALS (Q.8,000.00), support for all the activities, and the management tasks carried out by the Ministry of Culture and Sports before such organization. II. That the Municipality’s duties shall be delegated to the Education, Intercultural Bilingual Education, Culture and Sports Commission with support provided by the San Pedro House of Culture. III- That in regards to approved expenses, the funds obtained from the budget that has been assigned to this Municipality for the two thousand thirteen fiscal year shall be used. IV- That this agreement shall enter into force immediately. To be transcribed.

Illegible signatures. Corresponding seals.

---------------------------------------------------------------------
AND FOR THE LEGAL USES DEEMED CONVENIENT, THIS CERTIFIED COPY ON
A HEADED SHEET OF PAPER FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN PEDRO
SACATEPÉQUEZ WAS ISSUED ON NOVEMBER TWENTY-NINTH OF TWO
THOUSAND TWELVE.

[Illegible signature]
P.C. Artemio Saúl Bautista
MUNICIPAL SECRETARY
[Seal:] MUNICIPAL SECRETARIAT – GUATEMALA, CENTRAL AMERICA
San Pedro Sacatepéquez – Department of San Marcos

[Illegible signature]
Approved by Carlos Enrique Bautista Godínez
MUNICIPAL MAYOR
[Seal:] MUNICIPAL MAYOR – GUATEMALA, CENTRAL AMERICA
San Pedro Sacatepéquez – Department of San Marcos

END OF TRANSLATION

IN WHITNESS WHEREOF, and assuming no responsibility whatsoever for the contents of the original document, I issue this Sworn Translation and hereunto set my hand and seal in Guatemala City, this fourth day of December, two thousand twelve.

Sheila Wilkin de Melendreras
Traductora Jurada e Intérprete Legal
Reg. 31-9-90
Mr. Carlos Batzin, Attorney.

Minister of Culture and Sports, Guatemala.

Distinguish, Mr. Batzin;

With great pleasure I would like to inform you that in a session with the board members of our organization; Fraternidad Shecana, in Los Angeles California, we have concluded that; “We absolutely support the efforts made by the Ministry of culture and sports carried out on behalf of the Government of Guatemala,” to promote the submission of the Ritual of La Paach, and this be declared Intangible Heritage of humanity by the United Nations (UNESCO) Education Fund and the process be expedited and safeguarded to ensure its survival.

Our organization’s commitment will be maintaining the interest of preservation, through continuous activities within and outside the Republic of Guatemala to safeguard its historical content. To do this, we will establish a classroom, friendly forums, seminars and cultural workshops to propagate its truest expression will be given in Mam, English and Spanish languages.

We will support with the necessary tools to produce and play videos, all the literature that speaks of the dance of La Paach, and its cosmonautical, scientific and mystical ritual dedicated to the worship of corn. In addition, we will share and support any initiative that is made in this regard. It will be a motivation to do a scientific research on their elements and relationship with the environment.

Sincerely yours.

Byron Quezada.
President.

Anibal Fuentes.
Vice-president.

María Cecilia Quezada.
Secretary.
Mr. Carlos Batzin
Minister
Ministry of Culture and Sports
His Office

Dear Mr. Minister:

The Municipality of San Pedro Sacatepequez, San Marcos, is located in the Toj’chum Valley and its inhabitants are descendants from the Mam ethnic group; we are aware of the great legacy that the Mayan culture has contributed for the development of the humanity.

The Paach Ceremonial constitutes a clear example of how the Mayan cosmogony is a key value for the conservation of the environment that ensures the permanency of humanity in this planet.

It is because of this reason that this Association includes, within the celebration of the “Day of the Sampedran Identity” every June 29th, the representation of the Paach Dance, to remind the community and visitors the gratitude that the human being has for mother nature for the yearly crops.

In this sense, we fully support the candidacy of the Paach Ceremonial, presented by our country to UNESCO to be declared as Intangible Heritage of Humanity; and we also commit ourselves to responsible work for its safeguard. This important declaration by this important organization honors the people that fight to preserve its identity from neoliberal politics and globalized economies that seek to take from the peoples their traditions and customs. The Paach Ceremonial constitutes for the Sampedran people, one of the few cultural elements that the Spanish conquest left; since not only they took from us our language and ancestral names, but also a president declared us “Ladinos by Decree”.

We hope that this endorsement to a tradition celebrated for over five hundred years is considered in the decisions by the competent authority.

Best regards,

Prof. Noel Neftali Navarro Miranda
Coordinador General ACSARE

Prof. Noel Neftali Navarro Miranda
March 26th, 2012

Mr. Carlos Batin
Minister
Ministry of Culture and Sports
His Office

Dear Mr. Minister:

It is a pleasure for us to inform you about the resolutions that the honorable Board of Directors from the Fraternidad Shecana, Guatemala de la Asuncion, has adopted in regards of the Paach Ceremonial:

1. To grant your total and unrestricted support to the efforts that the Ministry of Culture and Sports is implementing in representation of the Guatemalan Government to promote the candidacy of the Paach Ceremonial to be declared Intangible Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO, and that urgent measures are taken for the safeguard of its generational transmission and its preservation as a tradition within our cultural values.

2. We commit ourselves to keep the interest of its preservation through the promotion of actions that safeguard its historical content and continuation through the generations. In order to achieve this, we will promote the following activities:

   a) To credit to the Ceremonial as one of the most faithful cultural expressions from the Municipality of San Pedro Sacatepéquez from the department of San Marcus.
   b) To promote its broadcasting through different media including TV, social networks and videos.
   c) To ensure its annual maintenance.
   d) To stimulate the causal that originates the Ceremonial.
   e) To solve the problems that could difficult the generational transmission, through valuation without conditions, economic commitments, biases or external influences from its origin.
   f) To support the establishment and operation of a school for teaching about the ceremonial in order to ensure knowledge and its long term continuation.
   g) To promote and support meetings, forum and cultural seminars.
   h) To support promotion of literature that document the ceremonial.
   i) To share and support any initiative that promotes the safeguard of the ceremonial.

By Fraternidad Shecana, Guatemala de la Asuncion.

[Signature]

Miguel Angel Barrios
Junta Directiva