

**TRANSLATION**

Requ CLT / CIH / ITH

Le 15 FEB. 2013

N° 0103

MEMBERS OF THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE  
UNESCO PARIS

We, members of the Pro Madre Maíz 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 20<sup>th</sup> of 2012.

Written by the transmitters of the Paach Ceremony

[Fingerprint]

Vicente Miranda

President of the Pro Madre Maíz 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.

SEÑORES  
COMITÉ INTERGUBERNAMENTAL  
UNESCO PARIS

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 motivo a dar dicho consentimiento es para que la tradición que nuestros ancestros practicaron por largo años y que nosotros venimos realizando desde hace mas 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



Requ. OLT / H / ITH  
Le 13 FEB. 2013  
Nº 0103  
**Municipalidad de San Pedro Sacatepéquez.**

Departamento de San Marcos.

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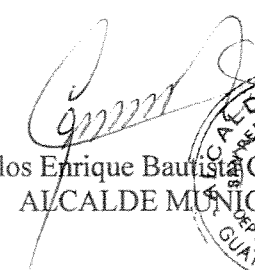
EL INFRASCRITO SECRETARIO MUNICIPAL DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL DEL MUNICIPIO SAN PEDRO SACATEPÉQUEZ, DEPARTAMENTO DE SAN MARCOS, CERTIFICA: TENER A LA VISTA EL LIBRO DE SESIONES ORDINARIAS Y EXTRAORDINARIAS DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL, EN EL QUE APARECE EL ACTA QUE COPIADA EN SU PARTE CONDUCENTE Y QUE DICE: -----

**ACTA NUMERO: CERO VEINTICUATRO GUIÓN DOS MIL DOCE (024-2,012).** Sesión Pública Ordinaria celebrada por el Concejo Municipal del Municipio de San Pedro Sacatepéquez, Departamento de San Marcos, el día veintidós de Marzo del año dos mil doce, presidida por el Señor Alcalde Municipal, Licenciado Carlos Enrique Bautista Godínez, con asistencia de los Señores Síndicos Municipales: 1º. Perito Contador Sandra Marisa Ochoa Fuentes, 2º. Licenciado Edward Paúl Navarro Mérida y de los siguientes Concejales: 1º. Bachiller Industrial y Perito En Electricidad Oziel Jeremías Orozco Godínez, 2º. Perito Contador Fredy Otoniel Miranda Bautista, 3º. Profesor de Enseñanza Media Juan Pablo Miranda Ramos, 4º. Licenciada Dora María López Orozco, 5º. Profesor Mario Moisés Fuentes (único apellido), 6º. Arquitecto Héctor Ivan Santisteban Orozco. 7º. Profesor De Enseñanza Media Juan Elpidio Gómez Maldonado. Estando presente el Señor Secretario Municipal quién suscribe la presente, Perito Contador Artemio Saúl Bautista Orozco, siendo las diecisiete horas con quince minutos, en el Salón de Honor Municipal, se procedió de la siguiente manera:----- . . . **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 parte 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. Transcribáse. 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 SACATEPEQUEZ SAN MARCOS A VEINTINUEVE DIAS DEL MES DE NOVIEMBRE DEL AÑO DOS MIL DOCE.

  
P.C. Artemio Saúl Bautista  
SECRETARIO MUNICIPAL



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



# TRANSLATION

## Municipality of San Pedro Sacatepéquez

### Department of San Marcos

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THE UNDERSIGNED MUNICIPAL SECRETARY OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN PEDRO SACATEPÉQUEZ, DEPARTMENT OF SAN MARCOS, CERTIFIES: TO HAVE BEFORE HIM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL'S BOOK OF ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS CONTAINING THE MINUTES WHICH STATE THE FOLLOWING:

**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

**Sheila Wilkin de Melendreras**

Traductora Jurada e Intérprete Legal

Reg. 31-9-90



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]

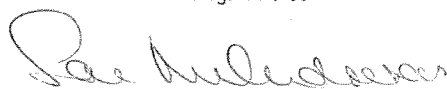
Approved by Carlos Enrique Bautista Godínez  
MUNICIPAL MAYOR

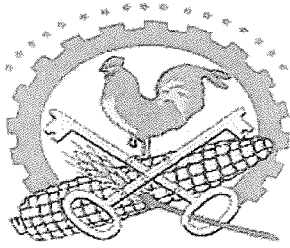
[Seal:] MUNICIPAL MAYOR – GUATEMALA, CENTRAL AMERICA  
San Pedro Sacatepéquez – Department of San Marcos

**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





# Fraternidad Shecana en Los Angeles California

*"Por la unión de los Sampoltecos ausentes de su tierra."*

Los Angeles California, March 20, 2012

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.

Aníbal Fuentes.

Vice-president.

María Cecilia Quezada.

Secretary.

**SAMPEDRAN CULTURAL ASOCIATION  
"RENACIMIENTO ACSARE"**

San Pedro Sacatepequez, San Marcos. Tel: 7760-5044 -5737 -4688  
Niño\_ferrer@hotmail.com

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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 Batzín  
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 Shekana, Guatemala de la Asunción*, has adopted in regards of the Paach Ceremonial:

1. To grant our 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 Marcos.
  - 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 Shekana, Guatemala de la Asunción*,



Miguel Angel Barrios  
Junta Directiva