



COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES  
INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA



Perú

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES STATEMENT ABOUT THE AMAZON IN THE FACE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

## *A letter from the Mother Jungle in the Amazon to the World*



Guyana

The Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (**COICA**) and its member organizations in nine countries in the Amazon basin:



Ecuador

**AIDSESP**, Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest.

**APA**, Amerindian Peoples Association for Guyana.

Organic **CIDOB**, Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia.

**COIAB**, Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon.

**CONFENIAE**, Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador.

**OPIAC**, Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon.

**ORPIA**, Regional Organization of Amazonian Indigenous Peoples (Venezuela).

**FOAG**, Federation of Indigenous Organizations of Guyana.

**OIS**, Organization of Indigenous People in Suriname.



Brasil

In defense of our territories and life, in response to the unceasing advance of COVID-19 and other diseases for which, in the last months, polices have excluded and have caused the death of thousands of brothers and sisters; in the face of the deliberate omission of the role of the indigenous territories for the protection and restoration of ecosystems considered vital for the global society and its fight against climate change; and above all, in face of the threat of a non-sustainable global economy system that attempts against the survival of our people due to the merciless voracity of the extractive, agribusiness, and energy sector that with blood and at the pace of 1.76 acres of jungle destroyed every 6 seconds (WRI, 2020) devour our rights, our present and future; we agree to raise our voice and take action through this Statement.



Guyana  
Francesa



Surinam

### CONSIDERING:



Venezuela

- That, the Amazon is the largest tropical forest in the World with a great diversity of ecosystems, with an extension of more than 8 million square kilometers (RAISG, 2020), absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and setting it in its structural units, clearing the atmosphere of more than a billion of greenhouse gas every year, becoming one of the most fundamental ecosystems to mitigate Climate Change.



Colombia

- That, the Amazon is a great reservoir of freshwater that born in the Andes and forms several watercourses draining and feeding the region's main rivers until most of them converge in the Amazon River (RAISG, 2020), the longest river in the planet; and the Amazon forests house more than 600.000 million trees, creating the impressive "flying rivers" or big air water flows of steam that provoke rain in more than 3.000 kilometers away, important for the water cycle in South America, which, in its way, not only feed the Andes, but to several regions in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina (Donato, 2010).
- That, only between 2001 and 2019, 13% of the Amazon, surface of 1,1 million square kilometers which is the equivalent to Bolivia's territory, was devastated by the advance of fire (RAISG, 2020).
- That in 2020, RAISG registered 4.472 locations in the Amazon where illegal mining was practiced, 87% of them in active phase of exploitation.
- That between August 2019 and July 2020, there was an increase of 33% in deforestation than the same period of the previous year, which is equivalent to knocking down 8 times the city of Rio de Janeiro (WWF, 2020); and that, to about the collapse of the environmental

Calle Sevilla N24-358 y Guipúzcoa • La Floresta • Casilla Postal 17-21-753

Telef.: (593) 23226-744 • Email: [coica@coica.org.ec](mailto:coica@coica.org.ec) • [administrador@coica.org.ec](mailto:administrador@coica.org.ec) • [www.coica.org.ec](http://www.coica.org.ec)

Quito - Ecuador



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services in the Amazon, it is necessary to stop deforestation immediately and start restoration processes to reverse the impacts endured for decades.

- That, more than 50% of the Carbon is found in territories of the Indigenous Peoples and natural areas protected, often managed in a sustainable way (RAISG, 2020); and that, in several scientific studies, indigenous territories have demonstrated the lowest rate of net change in their carbon stocks in comparison to protected natural areas (Walker y col., 2020).
- That, the more than 511 Indigenous Peoples living in the Amazon, including more than 60 Peoples Living in Isolation or with Initial Contact (PIACI), according to our worldview and harmonic relation with the territory and mother nature, we safeguard and are the protective children of the forest and life for future generations.
- That, in the Amazon we constantly live historical process of exclusion, discrimination, and fearless exploitation of our territories which deepened with the COVID-19 pandemic because the extractive sector was never in quarantine and it intensified its activities, revealing the inefficiency of all the laws, declarations, agreements, and protocols issued in favor of the Indigenous Peoples.
- That, Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon are not an active part of national and international policies on forests, Climate Change, and global funding.
- That, the Paris Agreement, after 5 years of not accomplishing its objective and witnessing world leaders doing nothing to mitigate global warming and changing the current development model that is devouring the planet and devastating the Amazon.
- That, in the face of previous emergencies the Amazon Governments have signed pacts and commitments such as the Leticia Pact which has become a statement of Good intentions that repeats the lack of action of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty in place for almost 41 years. And which makes a discursive inclusion of the Indigenous Peoples almost naive, we involuntarily understand without knowing the unity of our families with their territories and our role as defensive children of the Amazon jungle, which transcends the creation of the States that now are attributed ownership on our ancestral territories.
- That, pandemics are not just a symptom of a sick Planet that needs to heal so it is urgent to restore the balance, harmony between human beings, and accomplish a new agreement for the Amazon Mother Jungle that avoids more killings, more deforestation and fires, and to stop the extinction and pandemics.
- That, the mandate of Macapá, according to the IV Amazon Summit: Living Amazon, Safe humanity, defines the creation of the Amazon Indigenous Fund that contributes to value and finance the different climate strategies of our peoples and correct the waste and state inefficiency of climate financing, through direct access to them, of those of us who are main actors within and for the Amazon forests; as well as equitable distribution to peoples and communities of climate benefits and incentive.
- That, the Mercosur has given priority to commercial objectives in their last agreements without considering sustainability or the risk the Amazon is exposed to with these decisions.
- That, the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization, by proposing and applying treaties, agreements, and policies, do not fully consider the worldview of the Indigenous Peoples and the importance of a healthy Amazon.

For the exposed above, and in the face of an Amazon on the point of no return, where the blood of the Indigenous Peoples is spilled to defend Mother Nature; Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin and its national organizations in nine of the Amazon countries **RESOLVE:**

- To declare **CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN THE AMAZON** and to mobilize operantly in the defense of our territories, and;

Calle Sevilla N24-358 y Guipúzcoa • La Floresta • Casilla Postal 17-21-753

Telef.: (593) 23226-744 • Email: [coica@coica.org.ec](mailto:coica@coica.org.ec) • [administrador@coica.org.ec](mailto:administrador@coica.org.ec) • [www.coica.org.ec](http://www.coica.org.ec)

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Perú

- To implement the **FUND FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN THE AMAZON**, with the objective to destine direct financing to the initiatives of renewable energy, indigenous economy, intercultural education, the development of traditional medicine, restoration, food sovereignty and security to have a full life in the Indigenous Peoples' territories.



Guyana

Taking into consideration the role of the Governments and international bodies according to this functions and competences in the face of the Climate Emergency, **WE DEMAND:**



Ecuador



Bolivia



Brasil



Guyana  
Francesa



Surinam



Venezuela



Colombia

- Responsibility and urgent action* before the climate crisis from the world leaders, where the speech be supported by actions that acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples and territory communities from the world for their transcendental role in accordance with the global goals and the reformulation of climate ambition.
- Acknowledgement* of the fundamental rights of the Indigenous Peoples and the demarcation of 100% of the indigenous territories, as a measure of effective conservation, assuring the use of resources following our organization structures, traditions, customs and own practices to the sustainable management of Mother Nature.
- Resurrect* the true spirit of the Paris Agreement (AdP) and *stop* the biodiversity loss, the deterioration of ecosystems and the cultural identity; and withing this framework stopping the extractive commercial agreements and that international financial institutions stop capitalizing projects harmful for the Amazon, that allow to stop que extractivism, deforestation, fires, extinction of Amazon species, water contamination, the jungle and ethnocide of our peoples.
- Acknowledgement and financing* of climate solutions together with Indigenous States and Peoples, based in our ancestral knowledge and wisdom like an alternative development proposal that respects the Amazon and life.
- Acknowledgement, support and financing* from Governments to the National Determined Contributions (NDC) linked to the Indigenous Peoples territories.
- Definition* from Governments of spaces for dialogue with the COICA to promote the organization of climate platforms of Indigenous Peoples in the nine Amazon countries to apply paragraph 135 of the AdP, based in our territory organization and representative structures with due acknowledge by the States; following the territory right, holistic management and respect for the cultural diversity, oriented to promote the integrity between adaptation and mitigation, transition towards renewable energy, REDD Indigenous Amazon, Territory Restoration, Full Life Economy and Health, to reduce emissions following NDC's state agreements; counting on climate funds resources, included in the permanent structure and financing of the CMNUCC without being marginalized.
- Collaboration* between governments and organizations of the civil society, responsible companies, COICA and its base organizations to promote a transparent financial mechanism that allows direct the climate investment in the Indigenous Peoples affected by this global crisis.
- Implementation* of initiatives and commitments that guarantee access of Indigenous Peoples to alternative, efficient and clean energy and transport, discouraging the use of fossil fuel and promoting the acceleration of the decarbonization of investment and economies.
- Inclusion* of the COICA and its base organizations as protagonists of the goals and the design of ecosystem restoration in 2030 defined by the ONU that should be financed by innovative mechanisms.

We call the citizens of the world to understand the importance of the Amazon and the Indigenous Peoples that speak for her for the survival of the planet, and we call to urgent action to help us stop the effects of climate change.

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Telef.: (593) 23226-744 • Email: [coica@coica.org.ec](mailto:coica@coica.org.ec) • [administrador@coica.org.ec](mailto:administrador@coica.org.ec) • [www.coica.org.ec](http://www.coica.org.ec)

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Perú

If injustice and the violation of our rights continue to exist and there is no structural change in our society, where mother nature, our diversity, interculturality and the differentiated needs of Amazonian indigenous peoples are respected, we will continue to fight for the defense and protection of our territories, our jungle, our Amazon, life.



Guyana

Living Amazon, Safe humanity!

Quito, December 23, 2020.

Kind regards,



Ecuador

### COICA DIRECTIVE COUNSEL – CDC



Bolivia

José Gregorio Díaz Mirabal  
**COICA General Coordinator**



Brasil

Tuntiak Katán Jua  
**COICA General Vicecoordinator**

Elcio Da Silva Manchineri  
**Territory and Natural  
Resources Coordinator**



Guyana  
Francesa

Adolfo Chávez Beyuma  
**Coordinator of International  
Relations and Cooperation**

Tabea Casique Coronado  
**Coordinator of Education,  
Science and Technology**



Surinam

Michael John McGarrell  
**Coordinator of Collective  
Policies and Rights**

Irvin Ray Harvey Ristie  
**Coordinator of Health and  
Communications**



Venezuela

Harold Rincón Ipuchima  
**Coordinator of Environment,  
Climate Change and Biodiversity**

Claudette Labonté  
**Coordinator of Women  
and Family**



Colombia

### COICA COORDINATION COUNSEL – CCC

Marlon Richard Vargas  
**CONFENIAE President (Ecuador)**

Tomas Candia  
**CIDOB President (Bolivia)**

Lizardo Cauper  
**AIDSESP President (Peru)**

Eligio Da Costa Evaristo  
**ORPIA President (Venezuela)**

Julio Cesar López  
**OPIAC President (Colombia)**

Sirito Yana Aloema  
**OIS President (Suriname)**

Thomas Lemmel Benson  
**APA President (Guyane)**

Francinara Soares  
**COIAB Coordinator (Brazil)**