

Indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin facing the results of COP26

Faced with the reality of an Amazon that is at a dangerous point of no return and the urgency of taking action to mitigate climate change globally, despite the difficulties of access and limited mobilization by the restrictions presented, with a strong conviction and historical participation, the indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin raised our voices strongly to present our demands and proposals from the territory, in the United Nations Conference on Climate Change - COP26, held in Glasgow - United Kingdom, from 01 to 12 November 2021.

New scientific research indicates that severe deforestation and degradation have reached 22% of the Amazon¹, therefore, protection actions become urgent, since in a few years it is possible that the Amazon basin, as we know it today, will cease to exist. In this framework, the delegation of the Coordinating Committee of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin - COICA in the different spaces of the COP26, we call on governments and private funders to support the plan "Amazon 80x25", to achieve the protection and recovery of 80% of the world's largest tropical forest by 2025, as an urgent measure to curb the current climate crisis.

Achieving the Amazon goal requires as minimum commitments 100% of legally recognized and demarcated indigenous lands and the allocation of permanent financial resources to enable their titling and expansion; restoring at least half of the degraded forest areas; and stopping industrial activities to halt the extraction of fossil fuels by 2025.

However, despite the fact that COP26 was the scenario where important cooperation ties were generated, efforts were made to recognize the leading role of indigenous peoples in the protection of nature and a commitment was made to double the funds for developing countries to adapt to climate change; the actions defined by the 197 countries that signed the Glasgow Pact are insufficient considering the current climate emergency. The final document shows a lack of political will on the part of the most industrialized and polluting countries for a real energy transition, since the elimination of the use of coal, fossil fuels and subsidies for their production was not approved, despite the fact that coal is recognized as the main source of global warming.

In addition, attractive announcements have been made to stop the climate crisis, such as the one made by the UK, Norway, Germany, the US, the Netherlands and private donors, who pledged to support with 1.7 billion dollars for the protection of indigenous territories over the next four years; however, financing mechanisms have not been guaranteed for the funds to reach the territories directly, since historically, projects for the conservation and protection of the environment have not had a real result, and indigenous peoples have witnessed that climate commitments have remained only in discourse and on paper.

In this framework, COICA and its member organizations in the nine countries of the Amazon Basin, RESOLVE:

¹ *Summary of Key Results Amazon for Life: protect 80% by 2025*, research conducted by the Amazonian Network of Geo-referenced Socio-environmental Information (RAISG), 2021. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O10FEHEsMDBVorJHZ2S8P2cJSIpU7yVX/view?usp=sharing>

- Lead and execute a strong global campaign for the protection of 80% of the Amazon by 2025, as an urgent measure to confront the current climate crisis; based on the principles established in motion 129 approved by the International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN.
- Manage direct financing mechanisms for indigenous peoples through the 80 x 25 initiative, as a concrete action to ensure that funds reach directly to those of us who inhabit and defend the territories, as key actors with the ability to offer viable and concrete solutions for the protection of nature and climate change mitigation.
- Remain alert, vigilant and follow up on the agreements established in the Glasgow Pact, to recognize the efforts or condemn the inaction that will be evident in the near future of the planet.
- Promote that international pacts and State plans consider the nationally determined contributions of indigenous peoples - indigenous NDCs - as a strategy to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, based on our ancestral knowledge and wisdom for the conservation of nature, vital to stop environmental damage, the loss of biodiversity and the risk of new pandemics.

It has been 27 years since the countries that have ratified the United Nations Conventions on Climate Change have been meeting to define global agreements with emission reduction targets, yet the climate goals have not been met. The climate crisis is only getting worse, causing more and more losses, damages and social, economic and environmental threats, and in the face of this situation we must ask ourselves: Who is responsible for these damages? Who assumes the consequences of a reality that puts our survival as humanity at risk?

It is time to stop the hypocrisy and double talk. Governments commit themselves in international events to work to mitigate climate change, but at the same time they are passing laws that invade our territories and violate our rights with the implementation of extractivist projects. It is time that once and for all, developed countries, financial institutions, the United Nations, governmental and non-governmental organizations work in coordination with indigenous peoples and organizations and transform into action the commitments made to meet climate goals and ensure life on the planet. A planet without the Amazon is not possible.

A living Amazon, a secure humanity.

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Sincerely,

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