



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN

On this International Indigenous Women's Day, we raise our voices not to celebrate, but to remind the world that our struggles continue, more valid than ever. Far from being a day of celebration, September 5 is a day to make visible the multiple forms of violence we continue to face: gender-based political violence, violence within our own institutions and organizations, and the abandonment to which we are condemned by those who should be on our side.

Our indigenous sisters, especially in the Amazon, are on the front line of defense of our territories, our culture and our rights. However, instead of receiving the support and protection they deserve, they are often ignored, marginalized and silenced. This violence not only comes from outside, but unfortunately also arises from within our own communities and organizations, where women continue to be underrepresented and our voices are often minimized.



Today, more than ever, we reaffirm our commitment to continue fighting for a world where gender parity is a reality and where indigenous women can live without fear of violence and abandonment. We do not ask for privileges; we demand respect, justice and full participation in all decision-making spaces.

This September 5, we do not celebrate. We reflect and renew our strength to continue confronting these injustices. Because our struggle is not over, and we will not rest until dignity, respect and equality are for all indigenous women.

Let's go forward, together in the struggle.

VOICES PROJECT: COICA AND CONFENIAE TOGETHER IN ACTION





COICA and CONFENIAIE reaffirmed their commitment to work together to strengthen organizational capacity and develop effective actions to respond to emerging alerts and complaints from the Amazon territory. In a key meeting, both organizations discussed strategies to improve coordination and effectiveness in the management of critical situations, with a particular focus on the use of CONFENIAIE's Geographic Information System (GIS).

During the meeting, the use of more than 900 forms to evaluate land issues was highlighted, revealing that only 40% of land titling has been completed, leaving 58% still pending. This detailed analysis has allowed the identification of conflictive areas, such as the provinces of Zamora and Morona Santiago, where deforestation and the issuance of illegal deeds are generating serious legal and territorial disputes.

In addition, the collaboration is part of the "VOCES" project, which aims to make visible and disseminate the realities of indigenous communities nationally and internationally. Effective communication, in conjunction with the GIS, ensures that early warnings and complaints are dealt with quickly, strengthening the defense of territorial and human rights in the Amazon.





WILD 12: WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Fany Kuiru, COICA's General Coordinator, was invited as a special speaker at this important event. Recognized for her leadership in the defense of indigenous and environmental rights, Fany brought the voice of the peoples of the Amazon Basin to the global stage. Her participation was essential in the discussions on the conservation and administration of the Earth, contributing her experience in the process that led the Colombian government to hand over the Predio Putumayo Resguardo to the native peoples.

WILD12 is more than a congress; it is a call to action to protect the planet's wilderness areas. Indigenous peoples, as ancestral guardians of more than 80% of the world's biodiversity, demand the recognition of our territories as crucial tools to achieve conservation goals. In this context, it is essential to highlight the role of Amazonian indigenous women, who combine ancestral wisdom with an innovative vision to address environmental crises.

Among the expected outcomes of WILD12 are the issuance of an official declaration that reinterprets wilderness areas from an indigenous perspective, the creation of a global framework for tribal-led wildlife designations on traditional lands, and the promotion of indigenous land restoration as part of efforts to conserve 50% of the planet's lands and waters.



Review COICA's statement here:
COICA WILD 12 STATEMENT





COICA: A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF YASUNÍ



The Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA) had a crucial participation in this summit, represented by Marco Martínez, Jamner Manihuari and Nazareth Flores. As a member of the Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty, COICA reaffirmed its commitment to the protection of Amazonian territory and the rights of indigenous peoples. COICA's presence underscored the importance of unity among Amazonian peoples in the fight against extractivism and the promotion of a post-extractivist development model.

A Post-Extractivist Plan of Action

During the summit, an action plan was developed that seeks to ensure a dignified and sustainable life for the Waorani people and other indigenous communities. The Yasuní Summit not only seeks to protect biodiversity, but also to ensure that indigenous communities have the main voice in decision-making about their future.

The resolutions adopted at the summit highlight that the struggle for Yasuní is a struggle for life and climate justice. The Waorani peoples, along with the Tagaeri and Taromenane, have faced the devastating consequences of more than 50 years of oil exploitation in their ancestral territory. The International Summit for Yasuní has marked a milestone in the defense of indigenous rights and environmental protection, positioning the Amazon as a global reference in the fight against the climate crisis.

COICA will continue to promote legal and advocacy actions at the national and international levels to ensure respect for the will of the people and the implementation of a sustainable development model that guarantees the life and biodiversity of the 511 indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin.



OPEN LETTER TO THE POLITICAL AUTHORITIES OF THE CENTRAL AND DECENTRALIZED

Indigenous Women: Defenders of Amazonia

Indigenous women in the Amazon have been frontline defenders and leaders in the struggle to defend our ancestral territories and the natural resources that sustain our communities. It is essential to support our demands and guarantee our participation in decision-making. Likewise, our work has been tireless for social and environmental justice that has served as an inspiration worldwide.

Since time immemorial, with the chronicles of Orellana 500 years ago, he described the powerful women who defended the river with tenacity, giving its name to the Amazon in honor of the Warriors, so that indigenous women carry the spirit of our ancestors and now we have united to confront the invasion of our territories and the indiscriminate exploitation of our heritage by logging companies, We indigenous women continue to be at the forefront of the defense of the Amazon, facing new challenges such as climate change and the loss of biodiversity.



Our main demands as Amazonian indigenous women

Territorial rights: Indigenous women play a crucial role in the management and protection of the ancestral territories of our communities, which is why we demand legal recognition and effective protection of our territories against the invasion of lands and natural resources by external interests.



Environment: Defense of the Environment is fundamental to indigenous communities in the Amazon, and women often lead efforts to protect local forests, rivers and biodiversity, essential to our livelihoods and culture, we maintain a deep connection with nature so the spiritual violence that is generated affects us

Human rights: Demands include respect for basic human rights, such as access to health, education and dignified living conditions. Women often struggle against discrimination and gender-based violence within and outside our communities.

Political participation and leadership: Many indigenous women seek to increase our participation in decision-making within our communities and at the national level, promoting equal representation and an active voice in the public policies that affect our lives, and we work to eradicate political violence against our women leaders.

Climate change: With the growing impact of climate change in the Amazon region, indigenous women are increasingly involved in advocating for sustainable and resilient practices that protect our territories and resources from environmental threats, as well as a decarbonized model for our children.

Funding: Indigenous women lack access to funding and support from private and public institutions for our initiatives of territorial defense and entrepreneurship and chains of the indigenous economy and bioeconomy, we also call on national agencies and international cooperation to channel funds and technical assistance for our initiatives.

Gender focus in environmental and leadership programs: Incorporate projects with a gender focus in territorial governance, environmental incentives and sustainable practices to reduce deforestation in the Amazon biome.

The impact of extractivism in our communities has brought us much contamination of rivers and soils, affecting the health and livelihoods of our communities, at the same time the violence that we face indigenous communities are from threats, harassment and aggression by companies.

In this sense, the role of indigenous women in the defense of the territory is fundamental because we are guardians of the territory and the main custodians of the ancestral knowledge of our natural resources, leading movements and articulating resistance strategies against extractivism.

On the other hand, we indigenous women are activists who denounce abuses and fight for the rights of our peoples at the local and international level, and for this reason we women face threats, aggressions and criminalization for our activism.



We say enough of repression and silence. Indigenous women demand respect from governments and all nationalities, we say no more repression and silence, “mistreatment is not cultural, we do not accept violence in all its forms. We demand the protection of our participation in elections without conditions or exclusions. We want recognition of the role of women in society and in decision making. We want political sorority and we aspire to solidarity, that we understand our differences and defend ourselves united, in one voice. We want to heal from the depths as resilience to defend our territories. We want autonomy, independence and economic freedom.

Finally, we urge international solidarity to amplify the voices of indigenous women on the global stage, making visible the protection they can provide for greater security and support for the leaders who defend our territories, it is time to unite our voices and actions to defend our rights and preserve the integrity of the territories.

From our millenary resistance, the voices of indigenous women for the action of the rulers of our Amazonian countries.

Nemo Guiquita
Indigenous Leader



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