



The COP30, held in Belém do Pará, concluded with decisions that—despite some specific advances—fell significantly short of the level of ambition demanded by science, Indigenous peoples, and the global climate emergency. The process confirmed a deep tension between two visions: one that continues to prioritize extractive interests and short-term economic agendas, and another—upheld by Indigenous peoples, civil society, and youth—that defends life, biodiversity, and the integrity of Amazonian territories as a condition for the planet’s climate stability.

The negotiations left essential aspects incomplete: the full protection of Indigenous territories; the establishment of exclusion zones to halt the advance of oil and mining; the incorporation of human rights into operational texts; clear guarantees for effective participation; and a real commitment to securing direct, flexible, and culturally appropriate financing for Indigenous peoples.

In light of these gaps, and grounded in the strength of our articulation as the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin — COICA, we present this Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon. It synthesizes the political assessment of COP30, reaffirms our historical demands, and outlines the path for collective action that will continue beyond Belém.

Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon in Response to the Outcomes of COP30

Belém do Pará, Brazil – November 22, 2025

For more than two years, we, representatives of the Indigenous Peoples of the nine Amazon Basin countries, have built our participation toward COP30 through our organizations — OPIAC, COIAB, OIS, FOAG, APA, ORPIA, CONFENIAE, AIDESEP and CIDOB — all affiliated with COICA.

This COP—the Amazon COP—represented a historic moment for the rights, priorities, and solution proposals of Indigenous Peoples to be reflected in binding and ambitious decisions. However, the COP concludes with the governments of the world—so insistent on defending this as a Party-driven process—demonstrating a lack of ambition and even a lack of interest in the urgent call to action.

We leave Belém do Pará, the gateway to the Amazon, to continue our struggle for the survival of all those who inhabit and depend on this biome for our life and permanence. We present an assessment of COP30, as well as the essential elements that remain outstanding.

1. Recognition and protection of all Indigenous territories, especially those with the presence of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI), as climate policy and action

We welcome the homologation of four Indigenous Territories in Brazil and the initial reference to territorial rights included in the text of the Global Taskforce. However, these political advances are insufficient and far from ensuring legal security and the effective protection of our territories.

We also regret that references to the protection of our rights were not included in the operational parts of the texts. This omission disregards our fundamental role in climate mitigation and adaptation.

We value that the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme included the importance of recognizing our rights over lands and territories. Yet recognition is not protection, and such recognition remains insufficient. Effective protection of territories—especially those with PIACI—must be an obligation and a climate policy.

We reiterate: there will be no effective climate action without legal security, without territories free from threats, without guarantees of protection, and without respect for the principle of no-contact for PIACI.

2. Direct access to direct, flexible, and culturally appropriate financing

We welcome that the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF) recognizes the need to operationalize direct access to financing for Indigenous Peoples and establishes a minimum share of 20% for Indigenous peoples. However, this percentage remains disproportionate to the role we play in forest protection.

Robust social and environmental safeguards must be established for all territorial investments under this mechanism, designed to protect Indigenous rights and integrate our knowledge systems.

Regarding the Green Climate Fund (GCF), although the final decision was not exactly what we proposed, we welcome its promotion of direct access, including for Indigenous Peoples. While insufficient, it represents an important step. We expect the GCF Board to soon implement a specific, flexible, and culturally appropriate window for Indigenous Peoples and their own financial mechanisms.

Financing for Indigenous Peoples must not be limited to mitigation: we are also key actors in adaptation and a population affected by loss and damage. We demand that these funds also develop and operate direct-access, culturally appropriate mechanisms to strengthen our governance systems and territorial strategies.

3. Indigenous territories—especially PIACI territories—free from oil, mining, monocultures, and other intensive extractive activities

We recognize as a historic advance the explicit inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact in paragraph 12.i of the Just Transition Work Programme. This recognition must be a starting point, not the ceiling of ambition.

More than 180 Indigenous Peoples in isolation and initial contact live in the Amazon, and this COP30 decision marks a fundamental step in their recognition and protection.

However, we deeply regret that COP30 did not establish Exclusion Zones free of oil, gas, mining, and monocultures, especially in PIACI territories. The expansion of these industries remains the greatest threat to our lives, cultures, and to global climate stability.

The Amazon must be declared a zone free from all destructive extractivism as a minimum condition to avoid the point of no return.

We welcome initiatives such as the Belém Declaration on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels, proposed by Colombia; the call for the conference planned in Santa Marta (2026); and Brazil's willingness to lead a roadmap for a just energy transition. We urge both countries to ensure full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in these processes, including concrete actions to respect our self-determination, FPIC, and PIACI safeguards.

At the same time, we express deep concern over the removal of all references to environmental, social, and human rights risks associated with mining and transition minerals.

This omission is a serious setback—especially as these activities are promoted in the name of the energy transition and already generate severe impacts on Indigenous territories.

We also welcome Colombia's declaration of the Amazon as a zone free from large-scale mining and hydrocarbons. We demand that the entire Amazon be an exclusion zone from all forms of extractivism.

3. Full and effective representation and participation

We acknowledge the logistical efforts of our organizations that enabled an unprecedented Indigenous presence at this COP30. We welcome the support provided by the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil and by governments that included Indigenous representatives in their delegations.

However, presence is not full and effective participation. As rights-holders and fundamental actors in climate action, we need timely access to information, direct participation in negotiation spaces, and recognition of our own governance structures.

We regret that the COP30 Presidency did not ensure substantive and continuous dialogue with our organizations, nor did it actively champion our priorities despite their consistent presentation throughout the preparatory process.

4. Inclusion of Indigenous knowledge systems

We value references to Indigenous knowledge systems in multiple texts, including the Global Taskforce and the Just Transition Programme. However, a persistent misunderstanding remains between “Indigenous knowledge systems” and “traditional knowledge,” which are distinct terms with legal implications.

Our knowledge systems include our relationship with territory, spirituality, governance, and the management of waters and forests. They cannot be fragmented nor reduced to a technical component of adaptation.

5. Protection of Indigenous human rights defenders

We welcome Brazil's proposal for a National Protection Plan for Human Rights Defenders. Defending life is a right, not a crime. But Indigenous defenders require differentiated protection.

This initial step must translate into clear operational mechanisms to ensure violence prevention, immediate protection, investigation and sanctioning of aggressors, and direct support for Indigenous organizations that lead this defense in high-risk contexts.



Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin were present. Inside and outside the blue zone, we presented concrete proposals to meet the commitments that Parties so often mention but for which real implementation commitments do not exist.

We know that we are the answer, and we demand coherence: climate action must recognize our role as actors in the climate struggle and understand that a living Amazon is a condition for the planet's stability.

We leave Belém with our articulation strengthened, and we will continue this collective path beyond COP30. Our proposals are clear, actionable, and we will take them to every decision-making space.

¡We are the answer!