



COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA



Perú

AMAZON DECLARATION IN THE FACE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19

The Coordination of Indigenous Organizations from the Amazon Basin (COICA) and its member organizations from the nine countries of the Amazon Basin:

COIAB, Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon
OPIAC, National Organization of indigenous peoples of the Colombian Amazon
CONFENIAE, Confederation of the Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon
ORPIA, Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon (Venezuela)
AIDSESEP, Interethnic Association of Development of the Peruvian Jungle
CIDOB, Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Eastern Bolivian
FOAG, Federation of Indigenous Organizations of French Guiana
APA, Association of Amerindian Peoples of Guayana
OIS, Indigenous Organizations of Suriname

Agree to issue this urgent Declaration.

Considering:

That the world is going through a crisis and a health emergency due to the unpredictable consequences of COVID-19, which to date has killed more than 30,000 people and infected hundreds of thousands in almost every country in the world.

That indigenous peoples face a double vulnerability due not only to the historical exclusion and marginalization to which we have been subjected, but also as a result of the characteristics and geographical conditions in which we survived in the ancestral lands and territories due to the difficulty of access.

That, in the face of the emergency, indigenous peoples do not have specific protocols in the case of none of our countries to face the pandemic since the states have not been in charge of generating this type of instrument to prevent contagion in vulnerable populations.

That the rights of indigenous peoples are recognized in the following international instruments:

- ❖ United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1948)
- ❖ Convention 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples in independent countries of the International Labor Organization - ILO (adopted in June 1989)
- ❖ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2007)

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❖ American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the OAS (approved in June 2016)

That, COICA is the body that represents the indigenous peoples of the 9 countries of the Amazon Basin, for the defense of the rights and territories of the 511 Indigenous Peoples, and more than 66 Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact, who survive in thousands of ancestral communities in the Amazon in 200 million hectares of the most biodiverse tropical forest in the world, with a unique cultural diversity, based on a holistic relationship with its territory.

That the rights of Amazonian indigenous peoples continue to be systematically violated, not only by legal and illegal extractive companies and activities, but also by the States themselves, which, being responsible for protecting the life and existence of the peoples, and their territories and serving their differentiated needs, do the opposite by implementing extractive policies - such as large-scale mining, oil exploration, large-scale agribusiness and others - destroying the Amazon without valuing its natural and cultural wealth for the countries themselves and for the entire planet; States that by action or omission generate favorable conditions for the occurrence of catastrophic social and environmental scourges for the survival of indigenous peoples in our territory. Furthermore, despite the pandemic, extractive companies continue to work normally in many of our countries, not observing the decisions of the States as declarations of emergency and curfews.

That violations of the rights of indigenous peoples and their Amazon territories have been constantly denounced by the leaders of COICA and its national indigenous organizations in 9 countries, so that they can be known by the entire world; both in spaces of international, regional and national incidence, and in public statements.

That the right of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own cultures, ways of life and institutions, their right to participate effectively in decisions that affect them, and other rights that have been contemplated in international treaties, are not being fulfilled an effective form. Noting, in addition, that said treaties have not been ratified by all the countries of the Amazon basin, since ILO Convention 169 has not been ratified by 3 of the 9 countries within the framework of COICA.

That the contribution of indigenous territories to global climate stability has been scientifically recognized and quantified, and that this contribution begins with the need to safeguard safe community rights to land and natural resources that are fundamental for sustainable management and for effective forest conservation.

That the only system and safe space for Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin against the planetary health and climate crisis are their communities and territories, and the States have not advanced towards Titling, demarcation of lands and territories.

For all these reasons, we demand and demand from States and international rights organizations:

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1. We demand that the governments of the Amazon countries take urgent protection measures for indigenous communities, including information and prevention campaigns in their own languages, as well as the strengthening of public health systems that provide services to communities.



Guyana

2. We demand that the governments of each of our countries publicly acknowledge their responsibility towards Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities, as populations especially vulnerable to the pandemic -such as older adults and people with depressed immunity- and take all measures necessary, culturally appropriate and effective to protect our communities and territories, and, in case of contrary action or omission, we ask the international community to remain on high alert to the possible commission of a genocidal act.



Ecuador

3. We request the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the United Nations to comment on the historical neglect that indigenous peoples have suffered regarding access to health systems public.



Bolivia



Brasil

4. We urge the intervention of the UN and all the precursor instances of human rights, as well as the solidarity of all the States of the international community so that they remain vigilant before any eventuality that in the context of the health emergency affects the indigenous communities.



Guyana
Francesa

5. We request the activation of international cooperation for solidarity and humanitarian purposes through the organic structures of Indigenous Peoples so that timely medical care can be provided for the communities affected by COVID-19 and to meet the basic needs of the communities.



Surinam

6. An agile and effective coordination is established in coordination with the organizations of indigenous peoples and the respective authorities of each country to keep communities free of contagion and insured in fundamental issues such as food and comprehensive health.



Venezuela

7. Access to food is guaranteed by protecting the survival economies of the producing communities and assuring the communities access to their own food sources provided through fishing, hunting and gathering practices, ensuring that they are not contaminated or affected by third parties, including companies or those who carry out "legal" and illegal mining, oil, hydroelectric and forestry activities.



Colombia

8. Comprehensive health is guaranteed for indigenous peoples and nationalities by undertaking culturally appropriate primary prevention actions to prevent Covid-19 from reaching the communities and the respective secondary prevention for the early detection of cases, as well as tertiary prevention to reduce the maximum possible any chance of mortality.

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9. Due assistance is provided to Indigenous Peoples living in their communities with the necessary quantity of supplies for individual protection, symptomatic medications, personal hygiene products and to guarantee adequate flow of replacements.

10. We demand that governments intensify surveillance and protection actions for territories invaded by oil, mining, logging companies and people outside the territories, since companies and areas have been identified where the emergency measures ruled are not being complied with, and extractive activities are continuing, at high risk to the towns and communities settled in these areas.

11. It is mandatory and necessary that governments prioritize the rights to dignified life, health, physical integrity, consent and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples over extractive activities in their territories. Likewise, we request that, regarding the payments of the respective external debts of each one of the countries, the resources be channeled to attend to the global health emergency.

12. We will be vigilant about post-covid-19 actions and emergencies in indigenous territories because there will be more pressure and threats to intensify the extraction of natural resources in the face of the debts contracted by governments with multinational organizations.

13. We invite all the people of the world to establish solidarity networks that allow us to face this crisis both in the countryside and in the cities.

13. We recognize the heroic work of health workers, scientists, peasants and all the people who fight day by day to save lives, provide food and find solutions so that the world can emerge from this crisis that is plaguing it.

For the record of the resolution, in the city of Quito, on March 31, 2020, sign:



Guyana



Ecuador



Bolivia



Brasil



Guyana
Francesa



Surinam



Venezuela



Colombia

Gregorio Mirabal
General COICA Coordinator

Francinara Soares
COIAB Coordinator (Brazil)

Tomas Candia
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