

COP25 MADRID
SIDE EVENT, MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 13:15–14:45
ROOM 6



Climate Alliance



Global climate action: indigenous rights, territories and resources

The fires in the Amazon basin, which continue to burn into November, are mainly the result of such human activities as land clearing and deforestation. So far, over a million hectares have been decimated.

COICA, the umbrella organisation of indigenous peoples in the Amazon basin, declared a humanitarian and ecological emergency due to the devastating situation. More than 500 indigenous peoples are in immediate danger; the destruction of the rainforest and its biodiversity can hardly be estimated. They are an irreparable loss for humankind!

The pressure on the Amazon and the (indigenous) peoples living there is growing steadily, above all due to the economic development of the region. In addition to the expansion of agricultural land, for example, through cattle breeding and soy cultivation, the construction of settlements and roads as well as the mining activities contribute to the destruction of Amazonia's rainforests.

There is a direct links between deforestation, human rights violations, the current situation of indigenous peoples and European imports. E.g. Europe is Brazil's second largest market for consumer goods and raw materials. Our consumption behaviour thus helped trigger the situation in Amazonia and is providing incentives for the burning of the rainforest.

The EU-Mercosur trade agreement in its current form will only aggravate the situation and that the EU doesn't have any tool in place to ensure that its imports do not cause deforestation and human rights violations. There is growing momentum worldwide to require companies to undertake human rights and environmental due diligence and hold companies accountable for their negative impacts.

Together with our indigenous guests from Colombia and Peru we would like to discuss the actual situation in the Amazon basin and the need to securing indigenous territories.





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Speakers:

Robinson Descanse López, Coordinator for Climate Change and Biodiversity of the COICA, Ecuador and Vice-president of Climate Alliance

Miguel Guimaraes, President of FECONAU (Federación de Comunidades Nativas de Ucayali y Afluentes), Peru

Dietmar Mirkes, Climate Alliance Luxembourg / ASTM (Action Solidarité Tiers Monde), Luxembourg

Moderation:

Silke Lunnebach, Climate Alliance, European Secretariat

Translation (EN-ES):

Leon Meyer von Ergassen, INFOE e. V., Germany

The side event is a cooperation of Climate Alliance, Climate Alliance Austria, Climate Alliance Luxembourg / ASTM and INFOE e. V.





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Information Partners

As moderator I will give a brief introduction to the topic and then hand over to Robinson, COICA.

Robinson: discuss the current situation in the Amazon region and perhaps also mention COICA's declaration of emergency.

Marbe Luz, pointing out the indigenous youth and the importance of education, national example from Colombia and present the work of OPIAC in this area.

Miguel, you could point out the situation in your region and the violations of indigenous rights and destruction in Ucayali.

Dietmar – link to Europe, due diligence, Merco-Sur and ILO 169

Moderation

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our side event “Global climate action: indigenous rights, territories and resources” in cooperation with Climate Alliance, Climate Alliance Austria, Climate Alliance Luxembourg / Action Solidarité Tiers Monde and Infoe, the Institute for Ecology and Action Anthropology and of course in support with our indigenous partner organisations COICA, the umbrella organisation of the Indigenous Organisation of the Amazon Basin, OPIAC, the national organisation of the indigenous peoples of the Columbian Amazon region, and FECONAU, the Federation of the native communities of the Ucayali and affluents from Peru.

This year is a year of superlatives for better or worse: Huge areas of forest have been burned, the rights of indigenous people have been violated and indigenous leaders murdered.

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And on the other hand, we have a movement (of young people) in Latin America and all over the world who rebel against the existing system and demonstrate against climate change and a better future for all.

Some weeks have passed since the "October awakening" in Ecuador (**Catherine Walsh, professor at the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar**) – the "awakening" of massive social protest, in which indigenous women played a crucial role. While tens of thousands of people marched from the provinces to the capital city of Quito, thousands also occupied provincial government offices, blocked roads and commerce, and closed the country's operation, all in response and resistance to the economic policies imposed by the state and the IMF, including the presidential decree that eliminated fuel subsidies.

We had massive protests in Bolivia. At least 29 people died in the riots after the controversial presidential election in October.

Or the ongoing civil protest throughout Chile, which begun in Santiago as a coordinated **fare evasion** campaign by students and became a national wide movement. Paralyzed by protests over weeks, the president announced, that Chile won't host COP25 in Chile...

All around the world, young people becoming active and protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis. The Fridays for Future movement has millions of passionate activists who insist that their voices be heard on what many see as the defining issue of their generation. The regular marches have attracted more than one million young people in more than 100 countries. Just last Friday, a Global Strike 4 Future took place. (630,000 people in Germany)

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