



TOWARDS THE SUMMIT OF AMAZON PRESIDENTS

PROPOSALS TO GUARANTEE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PANAMAZONIA AND REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Presidents of 9 Panamazonia countries, within the scope of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)¹, are calling a summit in search of political agreements for the preservation of the Amazon and its sustainable development, scheduled to the 8th and 9th of August, in the city of Belém, Brazil. The civil society of these countries, the Pan-Amazon Ecclesial Network (REPAM), the Pan-Amazon Social Forum (FOSPA)², the World Assembly for the Amazon (AMA)³ and the national representatives of indigenous peoples who have prepared **50 proposals, collected in 6 thematic documents, which can be consulted and downloaded [here](#).**

The coordinated action of these popular movements, ecclesiastical organizations and peoples is also considered strategic in view of the realization of COP 30, in 2025, in the same city of Belém, bringing the Amazon back to the center of the world in matters of environmental emergency.

REPAM is present in the 9 countries that share Panamazonia: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, and French Guyana as an overseas territory; is a network that defends human rights, accompanied by a diversity of territorial organizations and institutions, ecclesiastical instances, and international networks with experience in Human Rights and Advocacy, and in coordination with Catholic or related universities in the region.

Based on its alliances, **REPAM seeks the support of the main international organizations and institutions for the incidence and monitoring of OCTA agreements. For this, we send you this document where we systematize the main problems and some proposals that may be of interest to the international community**, taking into account the standards for inclusive, fair development and in strict compliance with human rights, which in the Panamazonia it is still a challenge.

RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE PANAMAZONIA

In recent years, we Amazonians have witnessed a time of exploitation and looting, in a struggle bathed in violence for the ambition of extractive projects such as mining, legal or illegal, that deforests and pollutes rivers with mercury; infrastructure projects such as waterways or highways, which are implemented impacting the lands and rivers where the communities are settled; energy and hydrocarbon projects that, given the constant oil spills and the serious impacts on rivers, forests, land and food, are reported **"as a minor incident"** these and other extractive activities are not only preying on our Panamazonia but also violating the rights of the peoples who lived ancestrally in it.

Between the years 2000 and 2020, the total area devoted to **agricultural activities** in the Amazon has registered an increase of 81.5%, mainly affecting indigenous territories and protected areas because many countries promote monocultures in forests classified

¹ <http://otca.org/quienes-somos/>

² <https://www.forosocialpanamazonico.com/>

³ <https://asambleamundialamazonia.org/>



as "protected" with the excuse of promoting sustainable and socioeconomic development in the Amazon region. Which, to date, has caused this **biome** to have lost 870,000 km² of primary forests; an area that is three times the surface of Ecuador and more than three quarters of the surface of Bolivia. Deforestation in Brazil and Bolivia reaches a rate of 90% of deforestation, while Ecuador, Colombia and Peru advance in the same direction. The savannaization of the environment is an imminent situation if the current policies in the Pan-Amazon are sustained.

Regarding mining and hydrocarbon activities, we must point out that **mining** affects 17% of the Amazonian⁴ territory, it is present in all the countries of the region and covers more than 1.4 million square kilometers. 9.3% of the mining developments in the Amazon are superimposed on protected areas and a similar percentage on indigenous territories, a number that tends to grow since there are currently requests for mineral exploration and prospecting in an area of 182.1 thousand km² overlapping indigenous⁵ territories. Between 2014 and 2022, Bolivia imported more than 1,100 tons of mercury, where 55.5% of it was shipped from Mexico and the remaining 44.5% covered between Russia, India, Vietnam, Tajikistan and other countries. It is estimated that approximately half of imported **mercury** has been sent to illegal mining operations in Peru⁶ and Brazil⁷.

These activities are promoted with the support of States and international cooperation and affect not only the territories but also those who defend them. **Regarding the guardians of the Amazon Forest, the defenders, 1733 defenders of the land and the environment were assassinated in the last ten years throughout the world. 68% of these homicides have occurred in Latin American countries** and 39% of them have been against indigenous people for defending their rights.

All this violence not only puts the lives of more than 47 million people at risk, of whom approximately 2.2 million are indigenous (4,6%)⁸ belonging to at least 410 different ethnic groups or nations, including around 80 indigenous who remain in voluntary isolation, but to the life of the entire planet and future generations.

From the alarming numbers⁹ of death and identification of some activities that degrade the Amazon, many of them sponsored by some state authorities, we move some proposals that, **BECAUSE OF THEIR IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY**, in the opinion of REPAM, should be declared as **PRIORITY** in the **ACTO STRATEGIC AGENDA**:

INTEGRAL TITLE OF INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES:

1. Declare as an action of interest the legal physical sanitation of the territories of the indigenous, peasant and Afro-descendant communities with quick and simple

⁴ <https://www.forosocialpanamazonico.com/el-destino-de-la-amazonia-es-el-destino-de-sus-pueblos/>

⁵ <https://www.forosocialpanamazonico.com/el-destino-de-la-amazonia-es-el-destino-de-sus-pueblos/>

⁶ <https://www.repam.net/es/2o-informe-regional-de-vulneracion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-la-panamazonia/>

⁷ <https://www.forosocialpanamazonico.com/salvemos-a-la-amazonia-de-la-mineria-y-el-mercurio/>

⁸ Consultas: <https://www.forosocialpanamazonico.com/evitemos-el-punto-de-no-retorno-de-la-amazonia/> y https://www.laamazoniaquequeremos.org/spa_publication/capitulos-en-resumen/

⁹ <https://www.repam.net/es/2o-informe-regional-de-vulneracion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-la-panamazonia/>

administrative procedures, assigning and allocating as part of the cooperation, the sufficient budget for those countries that prioritize this extreme¹⁰.

2. Promote the articulation of plans and programs aimed at the abrogation of norms, provisions and development plans that hinder and/or do not recognize the historical occupation of their lands, territories, possession and enjoyment of forests where they move for their survival¹¹.
3. Sanction the members of the Cooperation Treaty that promote normative measures that diminish territorial rights.
4. Promote territorial ordering, prioritizing within the cadastre, the possession and occupation of indigenous communities to prevent the indigenous peoples of the Amazon region from living in constant dispute due to the overlapping of titles between the mining, agricultural, livestock, and forestry sectors, etc.
5. All projects, activities and development plans promoted and/or implemented in the Amazon must follow a process of prior, free and informed consultation in accordance with international standards¹².
6. Guarantee a gender approach in the distribution and titling of land.
7. Punish those responsible for the displacement and dispossession of land in the Amazon basin.

ACCESS TO WATER

1. Prioritize access to water to satisfy the primary needs of the human person over any use, even in times of scarcity. No previous binding technical opinion for the granting of authorizations should put the availability of water for indigenous communities at risk.
2. Prioritize within the agenda the adoption of measures to promote access to drinking water for Amazonian communities, promoting within the cooperation, projects that implement sanitation and sewerage services.

DEFENDERS

1. All ACTO member countries must promote the ratification of the ESCAZU Agreement and establish the measures for its implementation, which implies that some States review the legal frameworks, complement and develop new specific regulatory bodies, optimizing, for example, the Single System of Environmental Information.

¹⁰ <https://www.repam.net/es/2o-informe-regional-de-vulneracion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-la-panamazonia/>

¹¹ <https://www.repam.net/es/2o-informe-regional-de-vulneracion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-la-panamazonia/>

¹² Consultas en: <https://www.repam.net/es/2o-informe-regional-de-vulneracion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-la-panamazonia/>

2. Consolidate security measures both for threatened men and women leaders and for the communities in which they belong.

IMPACT OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

1. Approve a Pan-Amazon Regional Comprehensive Plan for the protection of human rights against extractive, exploitation and development activities¹³, in which companies are obliged to have due diligence plans to respond to the negative impacts of their operations, products or services provided by your business relationships.
2. Faced with systematic oil spills in the Amazon, approve a joint work roadmap for compliance with administrative responsibility for not adopting preventive measures against the generation of environmental impacts and full reparation for the affected communities.

COMMUNITIES IN VOLUNTARY ISOLATION

1. Due to its special importance, the recommendations and international treaties signed by the States are complied with, respecting their right to free self-determination, to life and physical, cultural and mental integrity of the peoples and to their rights over the lands, territories and natural resources that have been occupied and used ancestrally by indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.
2. Sanction States that promote draft laws, norms and/or resolutions that put INDIGENOUS peoples IN VOLUNTARY ISOLATION AND INITIAL CONTACT at risk.
3. Promote the articulation of plans, projects and programs in the member countries to generate greater legal security in the areas where they transit and develop their isolated lives.

WOMEN

1. Sanction and eradicate all violence against the bodies of women, girls, cultures and worldviews.
2. Recognize the conditions of vulnerability of Amazonian communities, with emphasis on the eradication of discrimination that is exercised in public establishments towards women.
3. Guarantee the participation of women in the regional cooperation structure such as ACTO and THE PACT OF LETICIA for the construction of public policies, programs and projects with a gender approach.

¹³ <https://www.forosocialpanamazonico.com/salvemos-a-la-amazonia-de-la-mineria-y-el-mercurio/>



4. Guarantee the right to a dignified life of indigenous women, respecting their political and citizen rights, culture and ancestral identity.
5. Guarantee that in the regional cooperation structure such as ACTO and the Leticia Pact, to be agreed upon by the Summit of Presidents for the Amazon, there are defined spaces for the binding participation of organized civil society in the development and implementation of policies, programs and projects, as well as for the exercise of oversight and supervision of these initiatives, ensuring specific participation spaces for the women of the Amazon.
6. Guarantee the participation of traditional and indigenous peoples and organized civil society, including women's organizations, in the management mechanisms of financing funds for the Amazon, at the national and regional levels.
7. Ensure that in all projects for the Amazon, Free, Prior and Informed Consultation protocols are established and carried out, in accordance with Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization, guaranteeing that women are an active part in decision-making.
8. Promote regional integration policies of a popular nature, respecting and promoting the self-determination of the Amazonian peoples.

CONCLUSION

The defense of the Amazon and its inhabitants requires concerted actions at various levels. The proposals systematized and published by this block of organizations (REPAM, AMA, FOSPA), together with the national representations of indigenous peoples, are of global interest because they represent critical urgency for the world, due to their crucial support of life. Therefore, we appeal to the support of international institutions and organizations for the defense of human rights so that this consistent initiative of Amazonian civil society is heard by the governments of our countries. From our identities, we need a joint effort from everyone to achieve sustainable development, we hope you will join us.