



INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND YOUTH GLOBAL SUMMIT

POLITICAL DECLARATION

We, Indigenous Women and Youth from the seven socio-cultural regions of the world, gathered at the Global Summit of Indigenous Women and Youth in Belém do Pará, Brazil, in the context of the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the UNFCCC, bring with us the voices of our Peoples, the wisdom of our ancestors, and our shared commitment to protect Mother Earth and confront the climate crisis.

We express our deep concern over the escalating ecological and climate emergency that threatens the continuity of life on Earth. This environmental crisis is also spiritual, cultural, social, and political. It stems from a model of development based on exploitation, domination, and structural inequalities that disproportionately affect Indigenous Peoples, Women, Women with disability and Youth.

Rooted in our lived realities and grounded in ancestral knowledge, we offer the following collective understanding of the climate crisis and our role as Indigenous Women and youth.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT:

- Indigenous Peoples are guardians of the world's biodiversity and stewards of key carbon sinks across the Amazon, Congo Basin, Arctic, Asia and Pacific Islands. Protecting our lands and territories is indispensable for any effective climate solution.
- For generations, Indigenous Women have been in the frontlines in safeguarding lands, waters, seeds, and forests; ensuring food sovereignty, biodiversity, and resilience. We are both the most impacted by climate change and the most active in responding to it.



- We Indigenous Women face intersecting forms of violence; such as gender-based violence, displacement, criminalization, and environmental harm—that are deepened by the climate crisis and extractive industries. This climate violence is both ecological and structural, rooted in colonialism, patriarchy, and systemic injustice. An effective climate response must confront these realities and prioritize the protection, rights, and leadership of Indigenous Women in all their diversity.
- We Indigenous Youth are carriers of ancestral knowledge, innovation, and intergenerational commitment. We must be recognized as political actors, not beneficiaries.
- Our Traditional knowledge systems, languages, cultures, and spirituality are vital parts of humanity's heritage. Their loss is also a damage that must be acknowledged, prevented, and restored.

Building on this recognition, we affirm the principles and truths that shape our resistance, leadership, and vision for climate justice.

WE AFFIRM THAT:

- The climate crisis is fundamentally a crisis of rights, justice, and life rooted in colonialism, exploitation, and structural inequality—and addressing it requires a just and urgent transformation of the systems that continue to harm our Peoples and Mother Earth.
- Indigenous Peoples are vital knowledge holders, whose ancestral wisdom, spiritual teachings, and governance systems are essential to restoring harmony with nature, and must be valued equally alongside scientific knowledge in all climate policy and decision-making spaces.
- Self-determination, territorial sovereignty, and the recognition of Indigenous governance are fundamental to effective climate action and



biodiversity protection, and we assert our right to manage, protect, and



sustain our lands, waters, and ways of life according to our own worldviews.

- We Indigenous Women and Youth are political actors and rights-holders. Our leadership, agency, and voices must be fully recognized, respected, and supported at every level of climate governance.
- Indigenous environmental defenders play an essential role in safeguarding forests, waters, and territories for the benefit of all humanity. Yet they continue to face escalating persecution, criminalization, violence, and even assassination for carrying out this vital work.
- Our bodies, lands and territories are sacred, living systems that sustain global climate balance and cultural identity, and must be honored as spaces of life, spirit, and interconnection and never be reduced to commodities or carbon offsets.
- Our languages, cultures, and spiritual knowledge are inseparable from climate justice, as they embody principles of care, reciprocity, and balance, and their protection is essential to safeguarding life in all its forms.
- For Indigenous Peoples, loss and damage includes both economic harm as well as non-economic losses such as the erasure of our cultures, knowledge, languages, and sacred sites; which must be acknowledged, repaired, and prevented.
- A truly Just Transition must break from extractive models and center Indigenous-led solutions that are grounded in rights, regeneration, and community sovereignty over land and energy systems





- Climate finance is a right, not a favor. Our presence in these spaces is not granted, but achieved through generations of struggle, resistance, and organizing. Every step toward recognition and access has been the result of our persistent efforts to raise our voices and defend our rights. Climate finance must therefore be directly accessible to Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Women and Youth through mechanisms we govern, ensuring that resources are aligned with our priorities, values, and visions for climate and territorial justice.
- Indigenous Women and Girls with Disabilities face multiple and intersectional layers of discrimination, making their access to health, education, livelihood, and access to justice critical to exercise in their daily lives, yet due to the lack of disaggregated data, evidence, and programs, they remain invisible and unheard in all spheres, with limited targeted measures and research making advocacy and intervention a challenge

From this foundation, we call on governments, institutions, and climate actors to act with urgency, justice, and respect for Indigenous rights, knowledge, and leadership.

WE URGE STATES, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND THE UNFCCC TO:

1. Recognize and secure the full protection of Indigenous lands, territories, and waters as essential to global mitigation and adaptation efforts, and explicitly reaffirm this commitment in the COP30 Action Document, acknowledging that Indigenous lands, territories and waters across all the 7 social cultural regions play a decisive role in regulating the Earth's climate and preserving biodiversity.
2. Ensure that climate finance mechanisms under the UNFCCC; including the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and the Loss and Damage Fund; guarantee direct, simplified, and culturally appropriate access by Indigenous Women Youth, and Indigenous Women with disabilities to resources, and



ensuring our inclusion in the governance structures of these mechanisms while recognizing Indigenous-led funds as key actors in the direct allocation of resources.

3. Ensure that the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) fully reflects the rights, knowledge systems, and lived realities of Indigenous Peoples, Women Youth, and Indigenous Women with disabilities by adopting indicators that are disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, indigeneity, and lands and territory, and by integrating the contributions of Indigenous women's knowledge; such as seed saving, agroecology, water and forest management; as measurable components of national and global adaptation strategies.
4. Guarantee that a Just Transition is rooted in human rights, Indigenous self-determination, and social equity, and that the Just Transition Work Programme includes clear provisions to prevent harm from transition-related projects, such as mining for critical minerals or large-scale bioenergy plantations.
5. Guarantee the full, and effective participation of Indigenous Women and Youth, Women and Girls with disabilities at all levels of the UNFCCC process, including COPs, subsidiary bodies, and national delegations, through accreditation, funding, interpretation, and logistical support that ensure our meaningful engagement in negotiations and the shaping of national and international climate policies.
6. Ensure the full implementation of international human rights standards of Indigenous Women and Girls, particularly **CEDAW General Recommendation No. 39**, that recognizes individual and collective rights as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169 among others. To include these instruments in national climate action plans, financing mechanisms, and the outcomes of COP30.



7. Respect, protect, and integrate Indigenous knowledge systems, languages, and cultural practices into climate governance at all levels, recognizing them as vital sources of science, innovation, and resilience. Loss and Damage mechanisms must also recognize the loss of culture, language, and knowledge as non-economic harms requiring redress and restoration.
8. To create institutional mechanisms for the protection of Indigenous Environmental Defenders as a climate justice priority by implementing national and international measures to prevent violence, criminalization, and persecution, particularly of Indigenous Women and Youth, and ensure access to justice, safety, and recognition for those who defend their territories and the wellbeing of the planet.
9. Recognize and protect, Indigenous Peoples and Women displaced due to climate change, by establishing special visa pathways and permanent protections aligned with The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, acknowledging that climate impacts force irreversible displacement and demand urgent, rights-based responses.
10. Indigenous Women, Youth and Indigenous Women with disabilities call for an ambitious, measurable, and gender-transformative Gender Action Plan, ensuring that it centers and strengthens the leadership, rights, Free, Prior and Informed Consent and knowledge of Indigenous Women and Youth across all climate actions. The Gender Action Plan should integrate traditional knowledge alongside scientific approaches, secure adequate resources for implementation, and include culturally appropriate capacity-building for Indigenous Women, Youth, Girls and Women with disabilities from all the seven social cultural regions.

While we hold others accountable, we also reaffirm our own responsibilities as caretakers of the Earth, and as leaders within our communities and movements.



WE HEREBY COMMIT TO:

- Strengthening global coordination among Indigenous Women, Youth, and Peoples to influence international negotiation spaces and advance a common agenda.
- Defending our territories and lands, cultures, languages, and ancestral knowledge as a vital legacy for humanity.
- Supporting intergenerational leadership, knowledge transmission, and capacity building for Indigenous Children, Youth and Women.
- Actively participating in COP30 and the international agenda, beyond with proposals rooted in our territories and lands, our values, our visions, and in harmony with Mother Earth.

With these commitments, we move forward in unity, grounded in our shared purpose and guided by the ancestral wisdom that connects us across generations and across our lands and territories.

Humanity stands at a tipping point, and reversing the climate crisis will only be possible by honoring the solutions Indigenous Peoples, Women, Youth and Persons with disabilities have practiced for millennia.

Climate justice is inseparable from justice for Indigenous Peoples, and every decision about the future of the planet must be made with us, not for us.

We offer our deepest gratitude to the Indigenous Peoples, Women and Youth of Brazil for welcoming us into their sacred territories; spaces of life, resistance, and biodiversity and for grounding this moment in the spirit of solidarity, ceremony, and care.

Belém do Pará, Brazil – November 13th, 2025