



IX PANAMAZONIAN SOCIAL FORUM

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING
- MOCOA - PUTUMAYO - COLOMBIA 2020 -

LETTER OF MOCOA

Let's return to the land: a call for the unity of the peoples to weave the paths towards a dignified life in the Amazon

With the permission of our ancestors, elders, and savants, from the IX International Meeting of the Pan-Amazonian Social Forum -FOSPA-, we address these words so that they resonate in the feelings of those who inhabit and relate to the Amazon.

From the Major Right that summons us to live with dignity in the indigenous, peasant, black, riverside, urban, gender and age diversity; we call to feel from the spiritualities, look at ourselves inside, strengthen our bonds and heal the wounds of our territory and body, to gain the inner strength, the unity that as peoples we require for the understanding and joint action in the care and defense of the Amazon.

HOPE FOR THE AMAZON

It is the time to return to our origins and plan life with our own visions, spiritualities and with our own hands. Corporations and corporate governments maintain a state organization subordinated to the development model of capital, with a neoliberal vision of plundering the goods of mother earth, which is the safeguard for the survival and good living of the people settled here. This abusive and violent appropriation ignores the inhabitants, men and women, of the Amazon territories and violates human rights and those of nature. States that claim to represent the interests of citizens, but put our heritage and our work in the hands of transnational businesses, are treacherous and criminal states. The Amazon ecosystem is a forest of complex interactions and natural wisdom with mega biodiverse, natural and cultural expressions, from the Andes to the Atlantic. The defense of the forest requires learning to live with it, sharing its own forms of shelter, food, economy, medicine and ancestral wisdom, moving towards relationships of respect and equality in our communities, eradicating all forms of violence.

This vital force is neither understood nor compatible by the consumerist society with its extractivist ambitions, which from an unacceptable hoarding vision, acts without caring about the destruction of the common house, as a sign of a decomposition of the human species, generated by its exploitative forms of relationship. We will learn to live well, consolidating autonomous communities with a simple ethic: that of life, and its particular Amazonian manifestations; with processes of survival and coexistence compatible with it, knowing that the defense of the Amazonian forest contributes to the conservation of life on the planet.

For life, we defend the Amazon



IX PANAMAZONIAN SOCIAL FORUM

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING
- MOCOA - PUTUMAYO - COLOMBIA 2020 -

Today we are enduring an environmental, social and political crisis that goes against this natural destiny. The inability of companies and States to protect humanity from the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the failure of the neoliberal model and has shown, on the contrary, the structural deepening of the social, ethnic and gender gaps in development that are placed in the hands of the private over the public, which has led to a high concentration of wealth, furthermore crossed by corruption.

In the midst of the intensification of the climate and health crisis that especially affects impoverished people, women, and indigenous peoples, governments have taken advantage of the situation to dictate "economic recovery" policies that openly benefit financial and business groups. Confinement has served to intensify mining and energy mega-projects, infrastructure and the expansion of agro-industry and extensive cattle raising. These measures herald a time of extreme dispossession of the vital elements for the physical and cultural sustainability of all the peoples of the Amazon, rural and urban.

This model is being imposed by resorting more and more to dictatorial governments in an attempt to dismantle, through state and para-statal strategies, the processes of resistance of the peoples to plundering and de-territorialization, trampling on the rights of social protest and political opposition. Today we live the cases of Colombia and Brazil where there are numerous murders of caregivers of the territories and nature, as well as the situation in Venezuela, where its people have been subjected to unilateral coercive measures from the international level. But we also see with concern how Peru's corrupt elite, led by ultraconservative economic and political groups, tried to take the reins of power by storm to prevent the rise of alternative movements at the expense of freedoms, democracy and human rights, taking the lives of two young people.

Everything indicates that we have lost the horizon of life and it is necessary to recover it urgently. That is why the call to return to the origin, to our territorial and cultural roots, to deeply correct the directions that history has taken, particularly in the Amazon.

To advance towards the **AMAZON THAT WE WANT**, implies the commitment of all of us with the development of the following mandates that this IX FOSPA has proposed:

Peoples and cultures in Amazonian identity:

- ◆ To strengthen the Amazonian and Latin American identity of the peoples as the product of a complex exchange that has given rise to Amazonian cultural diversity. Promote the recognition of countries as a territorial diversity that includes the Amazon.
- ◆ Defend the decision of the Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) and the intangibility of the territories occupied by them.

For life, we defend the Amazon



IX PANAMAZONIAN SOCIAL FORUM

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING
- MOCOA - PUTUMAYO - COLOMBIA 2020 -

- ◆ Recognize and protect the elders of our indigenous, peasant and black peoples as guarantors of ancestral wisdom and cultural memory, in the face of the commodification of our knowledge.
- ◆ From the principle of healthy nature - healthy peoples, we propose to strengthen our own health system based on ancestral medicine and the recognition of culturally appropriate aspects of Western health.
- ◆ To develop intercultural community education as an expression of respect and the weaving of cultures in the construction of a plurinational citizenship as Amazonian peoples.
- ◆ To work for the integration of the peoples, the transformation of our territorial and intercultural conflicts and of equitable relations between the rural and the urban.
- ◆ Rethink the process of urbanization towards cities with an Amazonian focus, which recognize the territorialities of Amazonian peoples and cultures in them. It also implies the adoption of the Amazonian approach in the educational system, which forms Amazonian consciences and practices in children and youth.

Territories and ways of life:

- ◆ Promote energy, water, and food sovereignty in the territories of the Amazon, as an expression of community management of the territory, with the active participation of women and youth.
- ◆ To promote the democratic, just, and popular energy transition towards the community and public use of clean energies, making the production, access, and enjoyment of energy a right of the peoples of the Amazon.
- ◆ To strengthen and promote transformative economies as cultures of life that contribute to the implementation of harmonious coexistence relations with the Amazon.
- ◆ Promote local or neighborhood economies and integration into an autonomous market with community and solidarity exchange rules.
- ◆ Promote ecological agro-forestry, peasant family agriculture and community management of the forest and woodlands, for food security and sovereignty.

Autonomy and self-government:

- ◆ Understand, welcome and expand community government initiatives based on the principles of life and law of origin as a guide for good living in harmony with the Amazon.
- ◆ Value mestizaje and mulataje as an integral part of the social construction of the Andean-Amazon territory.
- ◆ Strengthen our organizations in the recognition and respect for the right to self-determination of women's bodies and territories, guaranteeing our commitment to get involved in the eradication of all types of violence against women in our family and community practices, as part of the dismantling of the capitalist and patriarchal system.

For life, we defend the Amazon



IX PANAMAZONIAN SOCIAL FORUM

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING
- MOCOA - PUTUMAYO - COLOMBIA 2020 -

- ◆ To promote the articulation of the diversity of organizational processes present in indigenous, peasant, black and urban communities, of women, youth, children and other associations of diverse sectors, in the countryside and the city.
- ◆ To order/harmonize the Amazon territories based on the life of water, its cycles and natural courses, as a way of confronting business and government plans.
- ◆ Cohesion of the social and community fabric to cure us of corrupt practices in our processes and leaderships, and to block that influence by companies and state governments in our territories.
- ◆ Strengthen the experiences of indigenous, peasant and afro guarding as protectors of the Amazon and community processes.
- ◆ Build scenarios of environmental and popular justice for the vindication and legitimization of our community governments.

To continue and strengthen the step in the previous paths-horizons requires the unitary will of all the diversity of initiatives that work in the integral care of the Basin. In this way we will continue to **WEAVE THE AMAZONY FOR GOOD LIVING** and we are called to promote the articulation of purposes and experiences around the Action Initiatives, whose agendas as a whole propose to advance the following tasks:

- ◆ To promote processes of participatory action-research on the realities of the energy, food, educational, health and water systems in the Amazon, as well as on community life, in order to give more foundation to our alternatives.
- ◆ Promote participatory environmental surveillance and monitoring and socio-territorial mapping from local organizations to follow up on the conflicts generated by extractive activities, mega infrastructure and agro-industry, and to prevent the affectation of rights.
- ◆ Promote exchange, training and research schools on sustainable production systems in the Amazon.
- ◆ Promote the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Rivers and the intangibility of the headwaters, water sources, rivers, and forests in the territories of the Amazon, in order to avoid the negative impacts of extractive, agro-industrial, hydroelectric, and transnational waterway activities.
- ◆ Demand that no Amazon territory be declared a Mining District, and that its status as a subject of rights be respected, as recognized by national and international norms for the protection and care of the Amazon.
- ◆ Create strategies for the recognition of the territorial, cultural and economic rights of the peasantry, as a social subject that contributes to the care and maintenance of life in the Amazon.
- ◆ Promote the Court of Justice on the rights of Andean Amazonian women and its rulings, to

For life, we defend the Amazon



IX PANAMAZONIAN SOCIAL FORUM

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING
- MOCOA - PUTUMAYO - COLOMBIA 2020 -

make women's struggles visible, denounce racist, macho, and exploitative violence, and demand justice and reparation for the victims.

- ◆ Encourage men and women to integrate the dynamics of home care into their daily lives as a way to create conditions for women's political participation.
- ◆ Develop national and international legal-political strategies to demand direct responsibility from companies and financial institutions for the fulfillment of human rights.
- ◆ Promote international campaigns and demands in the search for legal and social sanctions against corporations that violate human rights.
- ◆ Demand that States ratify and implement the Escazú Agreement for the protection of nature and its defenders.
- ◆ Promote actions that promote environmental awareness in societies and demand that States recognize the rights of nature.
- ◆ To advance in the articulation of diversities in communicative processes that in a communitarian and democratizing perspective, recognize and amplify the struggles and experiences of the peoples of the Amazon and, from their needs, ancestral knowledge and collective constructions strengthen the dispute for the electromagnetic, digital and software field for the qualified development of their bets.
- ◆ Promote life plans and territorial ordering from our own visions, in opposition to the extractive and consumerist development model of capital.
- ◆ Build political, social, and legal strategies for the enforceability and guarantee of the collective rights of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and peasants against the activities of companies that invade our territories and sacred sites.
- ◆ Demand that States ratify and fully implement ILO Convention 169 and the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants. In general, that consultation mechanisms be established in relation to any type of project that involves the territorial rights of the communities.
- ◆ To welcome the date of September 22 as the day of the mobilization for the rights of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon, and September 5, the day of the indigenous women of Latin America.
- ◆ To denounce the economic model of capital as the main generator of the climate and environmental crisis, its false solutions of "green economy", and to recognize the ancestral care of the Amazon peoples and the need for new energy, food, and water use models.
- ◆ To promote the new Action Initiatives that have emerged in the development of this IX FOSPA, such as those of Energy Transition, Community Government and Amazonian Sovereignty, Amazonian and Community Biodiversity.

In this way, the Amazonian and Andean peoples gathered in the IX FOSPA reaffirm our commitment to life and Nature, and call to strengthen the great alliance of our diversity of thoughts and ways of doing, for the defense and care of the Amazon; with the guidance of the ancestral peoples, the dialogue of knowledge and harmony with all beings who live here.

For life, we defend the Amazon



IX PANAMAZONIAN SOCIAL FORUM

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING
- MOCOA - PUTUMAYO - COLOMBIA 2020 -

The invitation is to weave ourselves into these paths of Good Living, and in that walk of the word to go deepening our common dreams and to process our differences.

Thanks to the active participation of brothers and sisters from different parts of the world, mainly from the 9 countries of the Amazon: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Surinam, the Guianas and Colombia, **with Mocoa-Putumayo as the heart of the IX PANAMAZONIAN SOCIAL FORUM** held from November 12 to 15, 2020, we consider most of the goals of the Tarapoto Charter fulfilled, and we project the lines of development of the next stage of this process initiated 18 years ago in Santarém, on the banks of the Amazon River in Brazil. The journey we are continuing towards the 10th FOSPA has many reasons for the meeting to be multiplied in the territories of the Amazon, denouncing the conflicts and, especially, promoting alternatives.

Finally, from this chagra of life, to express the feelings of solidarity of this IX International Meeting to all the libertarian manifestations of the peoples in Peru, Colombia, Brazil and Venezuela, who at this moment are facing aggressions to life and free self-determination.

FOR LIFE WE DEFEND THE AMAZON!

November 15, 2020

For life, we defend the Amazon