

LETTER OF THE NATIONAL SEMINAR OF THE BRAZILIAN FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



ALERT TO THE PEOPLES OF BRAZIL AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

We live in challenging times. The confrontation between people who love and defend life and those who only want money and power, who do not care about the consequences of their actions, is becoming more fierce every day. Humanity runs a serious risk of being defeated in defending itself and Mother Earth by those who know their responsibility and prefer to stay on the path that leads to death. The year 2023 has been recognized by scientists as the hottest in history. The year 2024 could be even worse. Terrible dramas have been and are being experienced by human communities and other living beings. These are cases followed live on TV and social media, such as the wildfires in Brazil, Chile, Europe and other regions, consequently, the multiplication of heat waves, droughts - such as those in the rivers of the Amazon and Pantanal - and floods across the planet. These episodes end up serving media spectacles, especially in corporate media, without contributing to urgent critical reflection regarding the necessary changes.

The most irrefutable proof of this drama is presented by the UN in the practices that characterize the COPs on Climate Change. Over thirty years, practically no agreements have been approved with mandatory implementation for all countries. The Paris Agreement, at COP 21, in 2015, was announced, however, without practical effectiveness. Everything indicates that companies and countries producing the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions - oil, gas and coal - took control of the latest Climate Conferences. These actors, in turn, use the power of sponsorship to impede the setting of deadlines for the exploitation and consumption of fossil fuels. Thus, they push us closer to the abyss.

Facing this situation, we who are members of the Forum on Climate Change and Socio-Environmental Justice - FMCJS are hopeful that a broad socio-political mobilization could provide another direction to COP 30, which will be held between November 10 and 21, 2025, in Belém do Pará, Brazil. This mobilization should reach the Federal Government and the representatives of 198 participating countries, so that they have clarity on the essential options and that global warming is reduced.

The following measures are necessary and urgent: end to the exploration and use of fossil fuels; end of solutions presented by the false 'green' and 'blue' economies (mega-projects in renewable energy and mining); end of the mercantlist logic over land and territories; end of deforestation and the consequent destruction of biomes (Amazon, Caatinga, Cerrado, Atlantic Forest, Pampa, Pantanal and Coastal Zone); the necessary change in relation to land uses that have dominated since the conquest/colonization, reducing industrial livestock farming and overcoming aggressive and contaminating agribusiness technologies; and end to the commodification and abuse of water resources.

Climate emergencies have accentuated socioeconomic inequalities related to gender and race/ethnicity, the criminalization of poverty, and environmental racism. We need to take a more responsible approach to extreme climate events that mainly affect traditional communities and territories in situations of vulnerability. With changes in rainfall regimes and the consequent droughts, there has been a proliferation of forest fires, landslides and floods. Therefore, it is necessary for the three branches of government to adopt public policies with allocation of budgetary resources in budgets to implement preventive, adaptive and mitigation measures for the climate emergency. We emphasize

the importance of state reparation policies for victims that live in territories vulnerable to socio-environmental crimes and false solutions implemented through authoritarian practices. We highlight the need for governments to curb the militarization of territories following climate tragedies.

As host and president of COP 30, the first goal assumed by the Brazilian government should be a global agreement and with commitments proportional to the historical responsibilities of different countries in relation to climate emergencies. This goal should be the same for the G20 meeting in November this year in the city of Rio de Janeiro, which, unfortunately, is yet another space that serves to promote and strengthen false solutions such as markets for carbon and environmental services. The Brazilian government itself must avoid: i) new fossil fuel exploitation in the so-called “Equatorial Margin” that extends from Amapá state and the mouth of the Amazon River to Northeast Brazil; ii) reject entry into the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); and iii) take effective steps in other sectors responsible for socio-environmental crimes. Only in this way, going beyond *marketing speeches*, will Brazil have the moral and political force to lead humanity on a path to recovery of the planet with all its forms of life.

On the other hand, we need to confront false discourses and initiatives that try to paint old and new practices that are aggressive to the environment and the rights of nature and people as “green” or “blue”. In the Caatinga, Pampa and coastal areas of the Northeast and South, megaprojects are already taking place, such as large-scale solar photovoltaic and wind energy farms, which are neither clean nor sustainable. These enterprises contribute to increasing desertification (or sandization), the dismantling of small properties in communities and the worsening of the process of global warming. These harmful mega-enterprises are spreading to other biomes and territories.

This is a big challenge, as an energy transition is urgent. Replacing the use of fossil energy with renewable energy cannot violate rights and negatively impact socio-agro-biodiversity, at the risk of worsening, rather than contributing to solving the ecological crisis. Resistance struggles against these projects and initiatives promoted by communities and popular organizations signal the need for an energy transition that is popular, fair and truly sustainable.

As such, our words and actions are intended as a warning and an appeal to the peoples and the government of Brazil to move forward on the urgently necessary path of personal, collective and structural changes with coherence between what is announced and what is practiced. Let us be passionate about the truth, revealed in the coherence of our daily lives and struggles. And, even more vehemently, in criticizing the false statements and practices of certain government policies and business tricks. The great diversity of popular initiatives, from traditional peoples and communities and social organizations, which seek to restore belonging to the Community of Life, in all biomes, are our hope in the face of the climate emergency.

Our invitation is this: help us with firmness and courage carry out our mission as the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change and Socio-environmental Justice (FMCJS); preferably by joining us and reinforcing our desire to advance in practices of harmonious coexistence with the Earth. Multiply our capacity to influence the definition and implementation of public policies, in particular socio-environmental policies. To this end, let us take great care in supporting popular participation in this year’s municipal elections and join together with ideas and strengths to reach COP 30 in a position to convince and call on the world to follow a collective path of coexistence with Mother Earth.

Brasília, March 6, 2024.

Realization



Support

