AMAZONIAN SOCIO-BIODIVERSITY MEETING

For an economy capable of coexisting with the forest, guaranteeing rights and distributing income fairly

October 18–20, 2021 – Belém, Pará

LETTER FROM THE AMAZON 2021

To the participants of 26th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP26)

At this moment, it could not be more strategic for us, Brazilian Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Populations and Communities, to reaffirm our defense of the socio-biodiversity of the Amazon while the whole world is meeting at COP26 to discussthe climate crisis. A crisis that affects all who are living on Earth! Global societies and social movements know very well who are the governments and economic actors that are responsible for the environmental crisis. However, in Brazil, there is a political process of socio-environmental pressure that seeks to transfer the problems caused by climate change onto us.

From October 18–20, 2021, the National Council of Extractive Populations (CNS) and the Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB) brought together indigenous peoples, extractivists and quilombolas in Belém, Pará for the *Amazonian Socio-biodiversity Meeting* -- a meeting held to counter the *World Bioeconomy Forum*, which was hosted by the State Government of Pará, Belém during the same period. Together with the participation of several representatives of the traditional populations from the Brazilian Amazon, Cerrado, and Coast, representing 30% of allprotected territories, the *Amazonian Socio-biodiversity Meeting* reaffirmed the commitment to **defend an economy capable of coexisting with the forest, guaranteeing rights and distributing income fairly.** It also proposed viable environmental and economic alternatives, as well as offered political guidance to socio-environmental movements on resisting the hegemonic model that dominates regional, national, and international economic structures with policies based on environmental destruction, which is driven by transnational companies and national and subnational governments.

Our protected territories and respected rights are the demands of the social and environmental movements in Brazil. We do not agree with any attempt or strategy based on market logic, with companies that enact environmental legislation that threatens our rights, and with financing mechanisms that do not correspond to the reality of our territories. Rather, we propose our best strategies: the experience of our historical societies and cultures, built on our traditional and ancestral knowledge, in addition to our deep knowledge of nature.

The *socio-bioeconomy* that we defend is based on science and technology to improve the production of forestry and fishery products, enabling us to process, store, and market socio-biodiverse products while respecting our ways of life. We are against innovative processes that result in technological packages and high-input production systems designed to replace the native forest with a monoculture of genetically uniform varieties with the objective of serving the food industry and being falsely propagated as environmentally adequate systems. For us, innovation, must not result in processes that threaten our territories nor our traditional and harmonious ways of living and producing.

Faced with this threatening reality in Brazil, we Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Populations and Communities gathered at the *Amazonian Socio-biodiversity Meeting*, reaffirm our role as protectors and defenders of the natural heritage of Brazil to the authorities of world governments, the private sector, and COP26 participants. Our historic struggle, which resulted in the Alliance of Forest Peoples during Eco92, remains strong and actively committed to current challenges, many of which we have already faced in the past. Let's continue to be united and active through social struggle, political struggle, and environmental solidarity with life and nature!

Amazon, Brazil, October 20, 2021.

National Council of Extractive Populations (CNS)

Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB)

National Coordination for the Coordination of Quilombos (CONAQ)

Interstate Movement of Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu (MIQCB)

Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)

National Coordination of Agroecology (ANA AMAZÔNIA)

National Commission for Strengthening Coastal and Marine Extractive Reserves (CONFREM)