



In the framework of the International Meeting "**Afro-descendant Voices on the Road to COP 30**" the Afro-descendant countries and Peoples of the region gathered together, hosted by the **Afro-descendant Coalition for Land and Territories of Latin America and the Caribbean** with the purpose of building a joint agenda towards the inclusion of Afro-descendant Peoples in the **Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP 30)**.

Afro-descendant Peoples are an integral part of the history, economic, political, and social processes of the construction and development of the nations of the region, accounting for **21% of the region's population**, that is, around **134 million people** and occupying **205 million hectares** in the region.

However, beyond the progress made in terms of national and international legislation recognizing the rights of Afro-descendant Peoples, there **are still gaps in terms of inequality, information, and statistical data**, affecting access to justice and development. Therefore, we demand the effective participation of our people in the framework of the United Nations Climate Change Convention so they can **be part of the decision-making spaces on public policies related to global warming, loss of biodiversity, and pollution**. These are aspects that impact, in a differentiated manner, Afro-descendant Peoples and territories and deepen the inequalities expressed in development, health, economy, and life in a general sense.

It is important to point out that **Afro-descendant Peoples live in ecosystems and territories of wide diversity, such as coastal, rural, urban, and Amazonian areas**. These territories are part of floodable biodiversity, coastal marine biology, tropical rainforests, and dry forests, and their existence is crucial for the conservation, adaptation, and mitigation of climate change. Afro-descendant Peoples have protected these territories and have shown low rates of anthropic transformation, which proves our key role as environmental guardians of biodiversity.

In addition, we provide traditional knowledge in natural resource management, resilient agricultural practices, and community-based approaches that promote ecosystem conservation.





However, despite the region's economic growth, **the distribution of benefits continues to be inequitable, affecting the quality of life of Afro-descendant Peoples** as a result of structural and systemic racism.

In this regard, **we demand compliance with the Declaration and Plan of Action of the 3rd World Conference Against Racism (Durban 2001)** for the implementation of the concrete measures emanating from them to **combat racism**, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and all related forms of intolerance existing in the world.

We demand **that our children, adolescents, and youth enjoy ancestral/traditional territories free of violence and all types of contamination**, that they have full and effective access to education, health, recreation, and sports with quality and relevance, guaranteeing the transmission of the inheritance of knowledge, uses, and ancestral customs.

We emphasize that, **within our communities, the role of women is relevant as transmitters and holders of traditional knowledge and fundamental actors in the protection of biodiversity, sovereignty, food security, and economic autonomy**, which are essential elements for achieving environmental, gender, and climate justice. Even so, we must recognize that they are affected differently by climate impacts and environmental risks, making them more vulnerable to climate crises.

Consequently, we demand, in the context of the **Second International Decade for People of African Descent and the draft Declaration on the Human Rights of People of African Descent, the recognition of historical debts and reparations**, expressed in measures and actions of climate justice with racial and ethnic justice.

Submitted in the city of Brasilia on April 1 to 4, 2025.

