OPEN LETTER TO THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION

President of the Republic Luís Inácio Lula da Silva,
Minister of Foreign Affairs Mauro Vieira,
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Marina Silva,
Ladies and gentlemen diplomats representing Brazil at COP 28

We, religious and spiritual leaders, along with institutions and entities engaged in the theme of faith and the environment and the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative - IRI Brazil, undersigned, have the honor to extend this appeal to Your Excellencies. We express our deep concern about the considerable afflictions facing the Brazilian people. Our concern is not rooted in misinformation or despair but is based on a clear conscience and a sense of communion that faith provides us.

The climate crisis is undeniable, as the global scientific community has produced indisputable evidence of the planet’s climate collapse and rise in temperatures due to the emission of gases from burning oil, gas, and coal, as well as the destruction of forests.

In Brazil, the consequences of this crisis are evident: the worst drought in the history of the Amazon, unprecedented cyclones and floods in the south of the country, and intense heatwaves nationwide have caused great suffering among our population.

We recognize that exceeding the 1.5º Celsius threshold, as set by the Paris Agreement, poses an irreparable threat to human lives and Earth’s biodiversity. In 2023, the hottest year on record, Brazil has repeatedly surpassed this threshold. Without an immediate and effective reduction in gas emissions, this could become a permanent reality.

The recent Emissions Gap Report 2023, published by the United Nations Environment Program – UNEP, reveals that current climate commitments made by countries to the Paris Agreement would result in a warming of 2.5ºC to 2.9ºC by the end of the century—almost double the treaty’s established limit.

If there is no change in the attitude of political leaders, the crisis will continue to worsen. We need to unite everyone’s efforts – governments, companies and the population – to prevent major climate disasters from becoming even more frequent, with all their terrible consequences.
We know that you, as legitimate representatives of Brazil at COP 28, can exert great influence in the negotiations and lead the world with proposals and practical examples of action. Therefore, we call for you to propose that COP 28:

- Approves the reduction of fossil fuel exploration by 43% by 2030 in relation to 2019 levels; and 60% by 2035, including the suspension of new exploration fronts, especially in ecosystems critical to life on the planet, such as the Amazon, as defended by Brazilian socio-environmental and scientific organizations;

- Defends that developed countries ensure the immediate transfer of the financial resources already promised (100 billion dollars annually) and that they can increase them so that developing countries can decarbonize their economies and protect themselves as much as possible from the impact of an increasingly dangerous climate;

- Commits to creating an international system for transferring financial resources to indigenous peoples, traditional communities and rural owners who restore and preserve tropical forests and put it into operation in 2024.

Lastly, we ask that, as well as showing the world what a great achievement the country has made with the 22% reduction in the deforestation rates in the Amazon this year, measures are also announced to guarantee the continuity of this reduction and the real possibility of reaching zero deforestation by 2030:


- Establishment of an interministerial task force, mandated for three months, dedicated to reshaping federal fiscal, tax, agricultural, and infrastructure policies. This effort aims to align these policies with the goal of achieving zero deforestation across all biomes, ideally by 2030, while concurrently fostering job creation and diminishing social inequalities.
The reality itself serves as our alarm: the era of procrastination has ended. What we require now is decisive action, precisely aligned with the pressing needs and with the utmost sense of urgency. International negotiations must transition from discourse to implementation, avoiding further delays. Brazil bears the responsibility to demonstrate that prioritizing the genuine needs of the people is not only possible but paramount, transcending the interests of groups and corporations. Our sacred right to life should not be overshadowed by greed and indifference.

Brasília-DF, November 29, 2023

Brazilian Evangelical Christian Alliance
Casa Galiléia
Episcopal Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil - CNBB
Israelite Confederation of Brazil - CONIB
National Council of Christian Churches - CONIC
Anglican Diocese of the Amazon
Interfaith Rainforest Initiative - IRI Brazil
Ecumenical Institute Faith and Politics of Acre - IEFPI
Nangetu Institute of Afro-religious Tradition and Social Development
Institute of Religious Studies - ISER
Bethel Ministry in Amapá
Laudato Movement Sí
Nós Na Criação
Agostinhos Project Christian Network of Popular Advocacy - RECAP
Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network - REPAM
Brazil Ecumenical Network Amazonize
Religions For Peace Brazil
Renovar Nosso Mundo
Tearfund National Islamic Union - UNI
World Vision