



**COP28**  
**UAE**



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## IRI BRAZIL AT COP 28

### 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 1.5° 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 2.5°C to 2.9°C 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.



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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:

- Reinforcement of the country's socio-environmental governance structure, with the allocation of additional financial resources in the 2024 fiscal budget to expand the actions of the Ministry of the Environment, Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade – ICMBio, Instituto Brasileiro de Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis – IBAMA, Brazilian Forest Service – SFB, Ministry of Indigenous Peoples – MPI, National Foundation of Indigenous Peoples – FUNAI and the Amazon and Environment Directorate of the Federal Police.
- 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.



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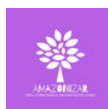


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The reality itself serves as our alarm: the era of procrastination has ended. What we require now is decisive action, precisely aligned with the pressing needs and with the utmost sense of urgency. International negotiations must transition from discourse 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 - IEFP  
Nangetu Institute of Afro-religious Tradition and Social Development  
Institute of Religious Studies - ISER  
Bethel Ministry in Amapá  
Laudato Movement Sí  
Nós Na Criação  
Agostinhas 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



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