

DECLARATION OF THE PAN- AMAZON RIVER ALLIANCE
IN COBIJA DECEMBER OF 2012

Whereas the Sixth session of the Pan-Amazon Social Forum, has the theme: "Unity of Pan-Amazon peoples to transform the world";

Whereas discussions and debates have been conducted by the peoples, organizations, and movements of the Pan-Amazon River Alliance;

Whereas at present Latin American states, which are choosing models of development such as the Initiative for the Integration of South American Regional Infrastructure - IIRSA, and the Program of Acceleration of Growth - PAC (Brazil);

Whereas mega-projects that are in the planning, implementation or completion phase in the Pan Amazon region, such as the Santo Antônio and Jirau hydroelectric dams on the Madeira River, the Belo Monte hydroelectric dam on the Xingu River, the Colíder, Teles Pires, São Manoel and Foz do Apiakás hydroelectric dams on the Teles Pires River, the complex of hydroelectric dams on the Tapajós River, the Estreito dam on the Tocantins River, the Tabajara hydroelectric dam on the Machado River in Rondônia, as well as small hydroelectric dams scattered throughout the Pan-Amazon, in addition to concessions of forest resources, mining projects, waterways, ports, roadways, petrochemical exploration, gas pipeline projects, thermoelectric power plants and inter-oceanic highway projects;

Whereas the Pan-Amazon region is today the largest area of fresh water, biological, cultural and linguistic diversity in the world and that all of these enterprises are being carried out through an authoritarian and crushingly scornful logic;

Whereas the effectiveness of social and environmental protections has been greatly diminished, alongside that of the rights of Latin America's indigenous peoples;

Whereas in order to approve large-scale projects, one of the primary strategies consists in the overruling of constitutional guarantees, in solemn contempt of Convention 169 of the ILO while undermining of the rights of the indigenous peoples in Brazil, with documents such as the (proposed Amendment to the Constitution) PEC 215, the PL 1610-95 and Decree 303 of the AGU (Attorney General);

Whereas the Pan-Amazon region is not a colony for exploitation by States and large corporations, but is rather a place where, for millennia, indigenous peoples have been living, with their own ways of life, development, customs and methods for use of natural resources;

Whereas these peoples are being deprived of natural resources, of their territories and of their cultures through a strategy of forced assimilation and integration into the existing economic system and, more recently, the Federal Government has been militarizing its approach on these

projects by criminalizing resistance movements and weakening the struggle of the indigenous peoples and traditional communities;

Whereas the continuation of the policy of extermination of the indigenous peoples of South America, which has as its most recent example the invasion of the Munduruku Village of Teles Pires in the State of Mato Grosso by the Federal Police, where people were murdered and gravely injured, women and children shot with rubber bullets, tear gas grenades, stun grenades, in addition to the compromising of the quality of the water and community food resources;

Whereas this entire process is being financed with public resources from the Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES), without control and transparency in the transfer of resources;

THE PAN-AMAZON RIVER ALLIANCE DECLARES:

1. Unity of the peoples of the Rivers of the Pan-Amazon region in their continuous struggle for a development model that respects their ways of being, producing, living, knowing and of organizing among Amazonian peoples;
2. We continue to demand that governments adopt and implement public policies with an understanding and appreciation of the voice of the peoples of Pan-Amazonia;
3. We will not retreat from our ethical or political principles in the struggle for participatory democracy, human rights and socio-environmental justice, denouncing all massacres, genocides, ethnocides, abuses and forms of violence that are being practiced by Latin American states in order to allow large-scale projects to operate in Pan-Amazonia;
4. The peoples of Pan-Amazonia no longer accept the cruel truculence with which governments are conducting their model of development, nor that this model should be called "sustainable";
5. That in Pan-Amazonia there exist indigenous peoples, as well as hundreds of communities meaning this is not an empty space or a "wilderness";
6. We declare to the world that the nations of the Amazon basin are facing a moment of over-valuing of economic growth to the detriment of political and social guarantees and that this is a notable characteristic of dictatorial states;
7. We seek the unity of the peoples of Pan-Amazonia to struggle for maintaining a truly democratic State and for sustainable development that considers the rights of the peoples, the forests, the waters, the animals and all of nature;
8. We declare that we no longer accept the use of force and police violence against the peoples of Pan-Amazonia and that we hold the Brazilian government fully responsible for the invasion and massacre of the Munduruku indigenous village of Teles Pires;
9. We declare that we no longer accept that the large projects be financed with public resources;

10. We declare that we seek international support for the protection of our rights and that for this we declare, at this time, our insurgency and our antagonism in the meaning that international public law confers to these categories.

This is our commitment, our faith, our hope and our struggle.

Cobija, Bolivia, December 1, 2012,
PAN-AMAZON RIVER ALLIANCE