

COICA Resolution

Quito, January 19, 2021

COICA AND ITS 9 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE AMAZON BASIN FACE THE RELENTLESS ADVANCE OF COVID 19

The Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) and its member organizations from the nine countries of the Amazon basin:

AIDSESP, Inter-Ethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Jungle

APA, Association of Amerindian Peoples of Guyana

CIDOB orgánica, Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of the Bolivian East

COIAB, Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon

CONFENIAE, Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon

OPIAC, National Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon

ORPIA, Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon (Venezuela)

FOAG, Federation of Indigenous Organizations of French Guiana

OIS, Indigenous Organizations of Suriname

CONSIDERING:

- The relentless advance of a second wave of COVID-19, which in recent days continues to dramatically affect Indigenous peoples.
- The complicit inaction of governments and unequivocal signs of institutionalized racism and discrimination, causing the death of thousands of brothers and sisters.
- The inequitable distribution of vaccines against COVID-19, evidencing a moral crisis due to the selfish attitude of some rich countries and companies, with the poorest countries in the world, including those of the Amazon basin.
- Sanitary needs and the cry for help issued by the leaders of COIAB, our national base organization in Brazil.

In order to avoid the repetition of alarming scenarios and the death of our brothers of the Indigenous peoples of the Amazon due to the health crisis, in defense of our territories and life,

LET US RESOLVE:

- To allow urgent action and cooperation with strategic actors to face the crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Indigenous territories of Brazil.
- To be on high alert, watch and monitor the effects of COVID-19 throughout the territory of the Amazon basin.
- To convene the Governance Group of the Amazon Emergency Fund (FEAM) and allies on an emergency basis, this Wednesday, January 20 at 4:00 p.m. EST, to intensify the

search for resources and plan priority attention and immediate response to this serious territorial crisis.

In addition, according to their roles and competencies, **WE URGE:**

1. National and federal governments, in the specific case of Brazil, must guarantee access to vaccines to 100% of the Indigenous population; and, in the rest of the Amazonian countries, to proceed according to the decisions and consents expressed in prior consultation by each of the Indigenous peoples.
2. National and local authorities implement sanitary and epidemiological barriers; and, guarantee the effective functioning of specialized medical care units in the territories of the Indigenous peoples of the Amazon.
3. Governments, organizations, and Indigenous peoples guarantee the preventive and healing use of ancestral knowledge and medicine as the first line of health defense against the impact of COVID-19.
4. Our allies to reunite and work together, with the goal of managing financial resources that will allow us to provide sanitary kits, which include medicine and oxygen tanks and logistics, to serve our most vulnerable populations.
5. International organizations, allies and global society, to take urgent action and to join the struggles of the Indigenous peoples of the Amazon in the defense of rights and life.

There is no time to lose, the pandemic, as well as the climate crisis, are taking the planet to a point of no return, increasingly exacerbating social inequalities. For this reason, the Amazonian Indigenous peoples will continue to raise our voice and fight for the defense and protection of our territories, our jungle, our Amazon, and life.

For a Living Amazon & Security for All Humanity!

Sincerely,

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