



OPEN LETTER FROM THE COP OBSERVATORY IN THE AMAZON (OCA)¹

Belém, October 20, 2025

To the competent authorities, representatives of civil society, international organizations, and the Brazilian and Amazonian populations,

We, members of the COP Observatory in the Amazon (OCA), an extension project linked to the International Relations course at the State University of Pará (UEPA), publicly express our ethical and political position in the face of the socio-environmental challenges of the Amazon and climate governance in the context of COP-30.

Our initiative aims to strengthen the public university as a space for critical dialogue between different types of knowledge. We seek to promote a construction of knowledge that goes beyond the classroom, establishing a horizontal relationship with Amazonian communities and valuing the experiences and epistemic strength of local knowledge, in order to overcome the dichotomy between nature and society.

We consider scientific knowledge as a fundamental tool to prove that the global climate crisis is already a reality that affects regions at different levels. And, in this way, the effectiveness of environmental management depends both on international cooperation and on the recognition of the historical vulnerability of peoples and territories in the face of the most diverse forms of environmental degradation, systemically produced.

However, we warn that the Western scientific paradigm itself, Eurocentric, unsustainable and dualistic, has contributed to the perpetuation of an exploitative system. This is manifested through contradictory development projects, such as oil exploration at the mouth of the Amazon River, carbon market inconsistencies, and the construction of infrastructure works that compromise the territorial rights of traditional peoples and communities. In this context, it is urgent and essential to ensure the active participation of local communities in decisions that affect their territories and ways of life, whether in forest, urban or rural areas.

We believe that COP-30 is the COP of the Amazon, since the choice of Belém as the host city is a political act, not a neutral one. The event represents a unique opportunity to address the climate crisis and the degradation of the Amazon as two sides of the same coin. For this reason, the international community will meet in November to discuss not only the energy transition or market mechanisms in a generic way, but to pressure, negotiate and decide on the fate of humanity in a concrete way. Given this mission, the credibility of the event will not come from its impeccable logistics, but from its genuine ability to incorporate the plural voices and realities of the region.

OCA defends a broad and integrated vision of the environment, capable of overcoming stereotyped, landscape and utilitarian interpretations of the Amazon. Our region is more than a carbon sink; The defense of nature and territories consists of defending the life, dignity and autonomy of peoples and communities that cohabit this place. Thus, we

¹ This document was prepared after listening to multiple social sectors – students, teachers, public officials, companies, social movements, non-governmental organizations, activists, and professionals – which democratically participated in several discussions in diverse Amazonian areas.

demand that the guarantee of human integrity and socio-environmental justice in the Amazon be a priority responsibility of the Brazilian State, in a horizontal dialogue with other political agents.

That said, our training activities, carried out through symposia, research groups and newsletters open to the community, are oriented in favor of:

- i. Overcoming the merely symbolic character of COP-30 in the Amazon, believing in the conference's ability to produce institutional frameworks and concrete actions favorable to the region's just climate transition.
- ii. The safeguarding of the territorial rights of traditional peoples and communities – materialized by the urgent demarcation of their lands – as well as their practices, knowledge and technologies, in an integrated manner with the mitigation and climate adaptation commitments of States, especially Brazil.
- iii. The strategic meeting between the global climate agenda and the formulation of national and local public policies, with the active participation of subnational actors, in such a way that multilevel governance is the great political legacy of the conference.
- iv. The strengthening of legislation and environmental institutions that act effectively to combat violence in the countryside, work analogous to slavery, illegal mining, land grabbing, deforestation and environmental degradation. These are historical challenges in the Amazon that are aggravated by the concentration of land and the implementation of large projects that do not prioritize the well-being of local workers and producers.
- v. Guaranteeing access to basic living conditions, such as sanitation, access to water, housing, decent work, culture and security, especially for groups historically marginalized by public policies, such as people with disabilities (PwD), the LGBTQIAPN+ community, youth and populations from the urban peripheries of the Amazon.
- vi. The opening of a Regional Representative Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belém. In a democracy like Brazil's, expanding the listening of Amazonian citizens in the construction of a foreign policy as a public policy is not only an obligation. It is also an additional barrier against the internal colonialism that, unfortunately, still affects the northern region of the country.
- vii. The strengthening of regional initiatives, such as the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), to the strategic defense of Amazonian peoples and territories. We believe that tackling the climate crisis requires effective coordination among Amazonian states. We reinforce that regional cooperation must be intersectoral and that, in addition to being a diplomatic instrument, it must be an expression of shared solidarity among the peoples that make up the Pan-Amazon.

- viii. The qualitative and quantitative expansion of investments in environmental education and cultural manifestations as instruments of social transformation. We position ourselves in favor of intersectional educational and cultural actions, valuing the plurality of knowledge that constitutes the regional reality. Investment in these activities is essential for the strengthening of democracy, for the multiplication of purposeful social technologies, and for the dissemination of counter-narratives capable of confronting climate denialism, as well as environmental racism and xenophobia directed at the Amazonians.

Our Collective wants, through and beyond the political opportunity generated by COP-30, to continue qualifying, expanding and supporting the protagonism of subjects who, at different scales, continue to be impacted by the patterns of access and use of nature, as well as by environmental scheduling.

It is essential that States and cooperation bodies recognize that the construction of a fair climate policy and a more democratic and participatory environmental governance does not take place without the popularization of knowledge and the promotion of quality of life.

OCA defends, therefore, the active and autonomous presence of universities in the Amazonian territories as essential condition for translating the aspirations of the global climate agenda into concrete, plural and citizen local actions. We invite everyone to join us in keeping the Amazon alive, fair and diverse.

COP Observatory in the Amazon (OCA)