

THE PEOPLES PLEDGE



At COP-30, we, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, present our own commitment. We are prepared and committed to invest 500 million dollars over the next five years in truly territorial actions, guided by our own governance systems and aligned with the principles of direct funding. This is the Peoples' Pledge — a commitment that gives substance to global pledges and turns promises into concrete action on the ground. We are the ones who can ensure that the resources announced at this conference actually reach our communities and become tangible results for life, rights, and the ecosystems we protect. That is our strength.

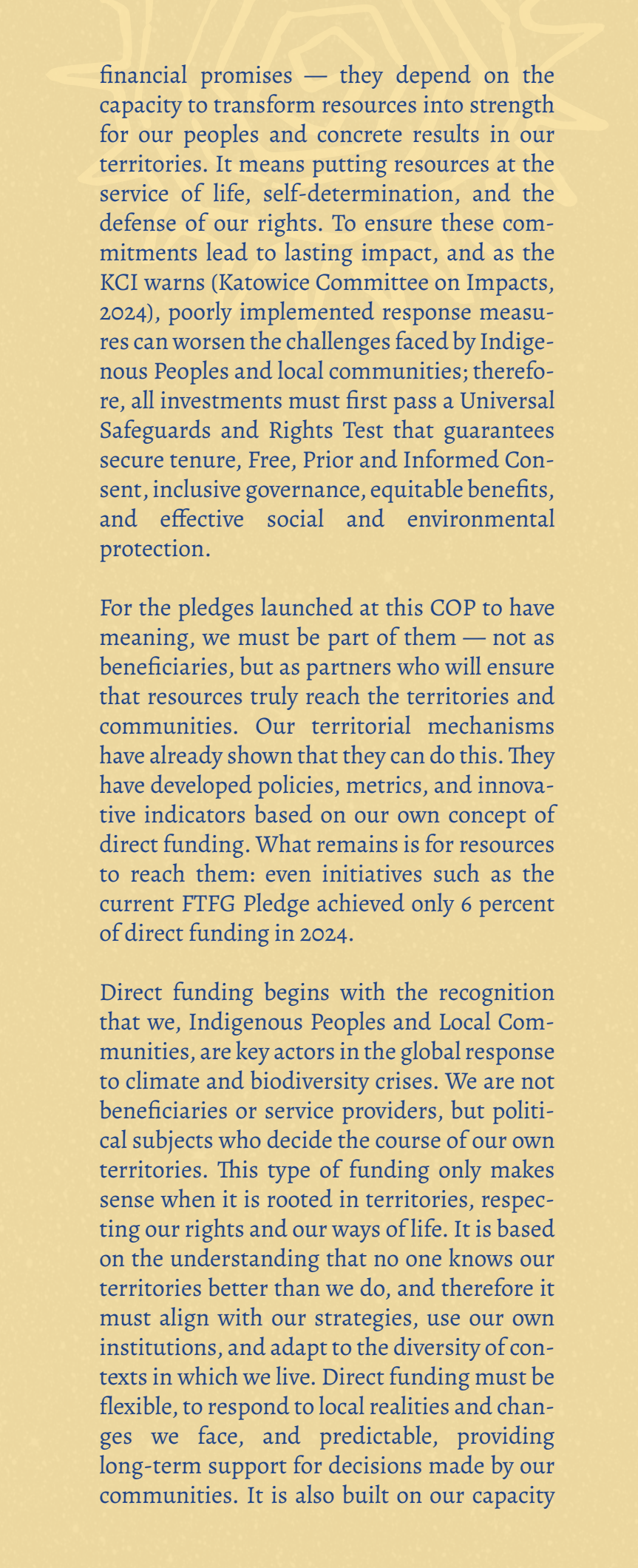
We arrive at COP-30 knowing that this is a historic moment for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities around the world. No other Climate Convention has ever sought to recognize so broadly the essential role we play in addressing the multiple crises we face. Western science has long confirmed what we have known for generations: the most vibrant ecosystems, natural landscapes, and forests — and much of the planet's biodiversity — are found in our territories. Despite constant threats and violations, we continue to protect vast traditional areas that hold many of the world's remaining intact ecosystems and play a fundamental role in climate regulation and the preservation of life. Between 2000 and 2016, for example, the rate of intact forest loss in our territories was less than half that recorded elsewhere. This is because we are inseparable from our territories and, more than anyone, we understand their value — including in facing crises that we did not create.

Despite this growing recognition, a profound imbalance persists. While many investments are made in the name of global environmental policies, powerful economic interests continue to destroy our ways of life and turn our lands into sources of profit. As a result, the resources intended to strengthen our actions remain scarce. Even rarer are the funds that reach our organizations and

territorial mechanisms directly — those that are genuinely close to our communities and know what must be done.

This is why COP-30 is decisive. It has been four years since the Glasgow COP, when, after our persistent demands, a group of donors gathered under the Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG) and pledged 1.7 billion dollars for our territories. Now, at this COP, a new commitment will be made. We welcome this initiative and acknowledge the efforts of donors who exceeded the initial amount before the end of the commitment period. At this same conference, the first Intergovernmental Commitment on Land and Territorial Rights will be launched through the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership (FCLP), along with the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), which allocates at least 20 percent of its resources directly to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. These achievements are not only a reflection of donor commitment but also the direct result of our political engagement and constant vigilance, ensuring that what is debated in the global arena resonates with the voices of our communities and truly secures our rights and territories. In any of these pledges and also in new initiatives like the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, also to be launched in COP-30, all the resources invested must draw on Indigenous knowledge, governance, and values to deliver real and lasting results for the remaining ecosystems of the world. As the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment highlights, no climate or biodiversity policy can succeed without respecting and embedding diverse knowledge systems and worldviews.

We recognize these commitments as signs that, with political will, we can move forward together. Yet we know that much remains to be done. The pledges made at COP-30 must gain strength, coherence, and substance. To do so, they must be grounded not only in good intentions but in the practices, processes, and responsibilities that we have built within our communities. Real commitments go beyond



financial promises — they depend on the capacity to transform resources into strength for our peoples and concrete results in our territories. It means putting resources at the service of life, self-determination, and the defense of our rights. To ensure these commitments lead to lasting impact, and as the KCI warns (Katowice Committee on Impacts, 2024), poorly implemented response measures can worsen the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples and local communities; therefore, all investments must first pass a Universal Safeguards and Rights Test that guarantees secure tenure, Free, Prior and Informed Consent, inclusive governance, equitable benefits, and effective social and environmental protection.

For the pledges launched at this COP to have meaning, we must be part of them — not as beneficiaries, but as partners who will ensure that resources truly reach the territories and communities. Our territorial mechanisms have already shown that they can do this. They have developed policies, metrics, and innovative indicators based on our own concept of direct funding. What remains is for resources to reach them: even initiatives such as the current FTFG Pledge achieved only 6 percent of direct funding in 2024.

Direct funding begins with the recognition that we, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, are key actors in the global response to climate and biodiversity crises. We are not beneficiaries or service providers, but political subjects who decide the course of our own territories. This type of funding only makes sense when it is rooted in territories, respecting our rights and our ways of life. It is based on the understanding that no one knows our territories better than we do, and therefore it must align with our strategies, use our own institutions, and adapt to the diversity of contexts in which we live. Direct funding must be flexible, to respond to local realities and changes we face, and predictable, providing long-term support for decisions made by our communities. It is also built on our capacity

to learn from one another, continuously strengthening the ecosystem of territorial funds and organizations we have created, and it must be transparent, with traceable resources and culturally adapted impact metrics that make sense to us and to the communities to whom we are accountable. We reaffirm that Indigenous Peoples cannot implement climate solutions while under threat. We call for urgent measures to protect land defenders, and for investments to include protocols for safety, legal support, and emergency response.

By strengthening our territorial funds and organizations, we also strengthen the global network of peoples and communities who protect forests and life. Through this investment, we are the ones who can give real substance to the commitments made in Belém and advance our territorial rights, free, prior and informed consent, the protection of life in the face of mounting threats, and the flourishing of our traditional knowledge. Likewise, we recognize the importance of investing in youth — the seeds of the future — and in women — the great guardians of our knowledge — as well as ensuring a fair distribution of resources across regions and ecosystems, because we understand that each part of the whole sustains and strengthens the other.

The Peoples' Pledge is both our commitment and our invitation to you — a commitment to continue doing our part, and an invitation for everyone to do theirs. Because we know that the answer is us — all of us.





**Global
Alliance**
of Territorial
Communities