

PACT FOR THE LIFE OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN

COP30 – Belém do Pará, Brazil, 2025



**Declaration of the Leaders of the Global Alliance of
Territorial Communities (GATC) Women's Movement**



We, Indigenous women from Latin America, Africa, and Asia, gathered at COP30, raise our voices for life, for our territories, and for Mother Earth. From within our communities, we protect forests, rivers, and seeds through the ancestral knowledge passed down by our grandmothers. We are guardians of life, yet we continue to face violences, exclusion, and inequality.

The **Pact for the Life of Indigenous Women** is our global call to recognize our **dual role in the climate crisis**: we are **providers of solutions** through our traditional knowledge and practices, while also being **among the most affected** by the destruction of ecosystems, the loss of territories, and the violence deepened by this crisis.

As contributors and solution-bearers, Indigenous women restore the land, sustain food systems, preserve native seeds, and protect biodiversity. Our traditional knowledge is ancestral science, passed down from generation to generation—a living technology that sustains climate resilience. We, as women, are the ones who maintain the balance between life and nature, who transmit the values of respect and care that guide life. It is circular.

But we are also **those who suffer most from the impacts of climate change**. The initial impact is emotional and psychological. Then we face confrontations, droughts, and fires, while the loss of forests destroys our sources of food and water. The climate crisis intensifies historical inequalities and increases gender-based violence in our territories. Defending life must not be a reason for persecution. We demand comprehensive protection and the implementation of CEDAW, General Recommendation No. 39, and the Escazú Agreement as an important step toward political recognition for women defenders, because the safety of women is also the safety of the Earth.

Recognizing our role in climate action means **guaranteeing our full and effective participation** in all climate and territorial governance processes. Decisions that affect our peoples must be made with us, not without us. Our leadership is essential to ensure solutions that are just, lasting, and grounded in the lived experience of those who care for the territories.



We also demand **direct, sustainable financing with a gender and territorial approach** for initiatives led by Indigenous women. Only a small portion of climate funds reaches us. It is urgent to increase funding dedicated to women to enable their genuine empowerment and strengthen their leadership

in climate action. Resources must flow directly to territories, without intermediaries, to strengthen the actions we already lead: protecting forests, restoring ecosystems, caring for water, and ensuring the well-being of our communities.

Strengthening our organizations and networks is essential to sustain this collective action. Investing in Indigenous women is investing in the life of the planet.

In this regard, **we, the Leaders of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, endorse the Brazzaville Declaration**, adopted during the First Global Congress of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities from the Forest Basins, convened by the Global Alliance in May of this year. In that declaration, we reaffirm the demands of Indigenous women and highlight the need for States to uphold their international obligations and commitments.

We urge governments to fulfill the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*, including *General Recommendation No. 39* on the rights of Indigenous women and girls, by advancing and ensuring our **rights to lands, territories, and resources**, and by guaranteeing our **inclusion in governance and fair benefit-sharing** from those resources.

Likewise, **the Women's Movement of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities** calls on allies, donors, and governments to **prioritize the full and effective participation of Indigenous and local community women in climate and biodiversity solutions**, recognizing our experience and ancestral knowledge as the foundation for a just and livable future.

Today, from Belém, we reaffirm that **protecting the rights of Indigenous women is protecting the future of the planet.**

We invite the whole world to join the Pact for the Life of Indigenous Women, because only with us will it be possible to build a future of justice, balance, and hope for all humanity.

