



OPENING Remarks

NOVEMBER, 7TH 2025

OPENING REMARKS – PRE-COP30 MEETING OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE FOR CLIMATE SOVEREIGNTY AND RESILIENCE

Ladies and Gentlemen, representatives of governments, dear institutional partners, esteemed members of Indigenous Peoples, dear colleagues from civil society, dear sisters and brothers from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and South Asia,

It is with profound emotion and a keen sense of collective responsibility that I speak to you today on behalf of the organizations of the Global South gathered under the banner of ecological sovereignty and climate resilience. Our presence here, on the eve of COP30, marks a decisive step in reclaiming our right to be not merely beneficiaries, but full actors in global climate governance.

The Brasília Declaration, which we are jointly supporting, is not a symbolic text. It is a political and moral manifesto. It proclaims that climate change is first and foremost a crisis of inequality, a crisis of representation, and a crisis of sovereignty. She affirms that our solutions already exist, emerging from our territories, our knowledge, our women, our youth, and our communities.

Our vision is clear: to build a world where ecological justice, democratic participation, and South-South solidarity become the foundation of a just transition. We no longer want a global climate architecture that speaks for us without us. We demand a transformation where climate finance reaches communities directly, where free, prior, and informed consent is respected, and where traditional knowledge engages in dialogue as equals with modern science to co-create the solutions of tomorrow.

We know that climate sovereignty cannot be decreed from the capitals of the Global North: it is built on the ground, where forest are restored, where women defend seeds, where young people innovate in agroecology, and where Indigenous people safeguard sacred territories. The resilience of the Global South is not a utopia: it is a reality that is being affirmed every day through millions of local initiatives that prove hope thrives, even in the most arid lands.

Today, we say loud and clear: Nothing for us without us. We demand a permanent seat for South-South civil society in the UNFCCC's decision-making processes. We call for a through reform of climate finance, so that it is transparent, equitable, and directly accessible to communities. We demand that the Pact for Sovereignty through Solutions be integrated into the outcomes of COP30 as a strategic instrument for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

We refuse to let the green transition become the new face of extractivism or dependency. Ecological sovereignty is our right to choose our development model, to protect our resources, to value our knowledge, and to chart our own course toward carbon neutrality. Solidarity is our shared strategy for achieving this, by forging alliances between peoples and continents, between savannas and rainforests, between the Andes, the Sahel, and the Caribbean.

From Brasília to Belém, from Dakar to Quito, from Port-au-Prince to Kathmandu, our voices resonate with a single conviction: climate justice is not negotiable; it is won through cooperation, dignity, and participation. We are not the victims of climate change; we are its guardians and innovators.

I will conclude with this appeal: may this pre-COP30 meeting be not only a space for dialogue, but a founding act of a new climate order—one that is fairer, more inclusive, and truly multilateral. May our discussions generate a political energy capable of transforming COP30 into a historic turning point—one where the Global South, united and sovereign, speaks out to redefine the rules of the game.

Our ecological sovereignty is our right. Our solidarity is our strength. Together, we will amplify the voice of the South, not as a plea for aid, but as an offer of solutions.