

POLITICAL LETTER OF THE PEOPLES AND POPULATIONS OF NORTHEAST BRAZIL TO THE PEOPLE'S SUMMIT – COP30

“True solutions for creating and sustaining life, and for fostering multispecies interactions in the spirit of ‘bem-viver’, emerge from traditional, peasant, and urban peripheral territories”

We, peoples of the countryside, the cities, the waters and the forests – traditional communities, Indigenous Peoples, quilombolas, activists, youth, women, LGBTQIAPN+ people, and all identities that make up the rich diversity of our nation and of the Northeast region – wish to express our deep concern with the climate and social crises that affect us, and to present our vision and our demands for a just and sovereign future.

We live across the Northeast of Brazil and work to safeguard the rich sociobiodiversity of the Caatinga, the Semi-Arid, the Atlantic Forest, the seas and the cities, seeking more vitality and resilience in our coastal, fishing, peasant and urban territories. We recognize ourselves as guardians of knowledge and practices that offer concrete alternatives for sustaining life in harmony with nature. Our peripheral communities and territories hold self-managed knowledge and practices that represent the resilience and the continuous struggle for dignity in our region. Therefore, we demand participation in decision-making processes that affect our territories and our knowledge systems. We are an articulation that manifests here, guided by the commitment to intervene in the People's Summit and in the United Nations Climate Conference – COP30.

Our mobilization did not begin today. This political agenda has been guiding us since early 2025, rooted in the connections built among collectives, organizations, people and territories – connections that have strengthened social participation and amplified the multiple voices of our region, voices that have sought to intervene in the context of the G20 Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2024.

The first seminar, held in Fortaleza from April 2 to 4, 2024, under the theme “Energy Transition or Energy Transaction? – International Agenda, Financing and Implications”, brought together experts and a wide range of civil society actors concerned with the direction of Brazil's energy policy, the global energy transition, and the socio-environmental consequences of the current international and national agendas

At that stage, we deepened our critical debate on the international financial and economic agenda and its effects on the so-called emerging economies, which remain far from any real distance from neoliberal globalization. What we have witnessed – and what deeply concerns us – is the growing adherence to austerity and market liberalization policies that worsen the conditions of billions of people affected daily by wars and by the economic, social, health, environmental and climate crises that define our time.

This process of participation, denunciation and creation of alternatives continues that trajectory of reflection, which culminated in the second seminar held in August 2025, also in Fortaleza. Its objective was to update analyses and formulate civil society proposals to confront the climate and humanitarian crises, in preparation for COP30 in Brazil and through mobilization for the People's Summit, seeking popular influence on both the national and global climate agendas.

It has been a rich collective process, amplifying the voices of community and territorial leaders, researchers, human rights defenders, political leaders, grassroots movements, NGOs and other democratic and popular sectors of Brazilian and Northeastern society. Together, we are elaborating collective strategies for political incidence in the People's Summit process toward COP30, including the production of a document of recommendations and public policy proposals from the Brazilian Northeast, in dialogue with global civil society.

We, the people of the Northeast, know that the current climate and humanitarian crisis is the result of capitalist expropriation of traditionally occupied lands and biomes – especially the Caatinga of the semi-arid region, the marine-coastal ecosystems, and the bodies that inhabit and sustain these territories. This has generated countless socio-environmental impacts such as the privatization of common spaces; contamination of land, water and air; persecution and threats against defenders of human and environmental rights; lack of basic sanitation in urban peripheries; gender-based violence; and the invasion of territories by offshore wind companies, which has caused noise pollution, depletion of groundwater and significant mental health impacts on affected populations.

We denounce that the current narrative promoted by the State and large corporations under the banner of “energy transition” represents the commodification of life itself – human and non-human – in the name of an insane model of “development” and “progress”, primarily aimed at supplying energy demands from elsewhere and serving interests that are not ours. We reaffirm that colonialism has not ended – it has only changed shape – now disguised under the cloak of “false solutions” to the climate crisis, using the Northeast, our bodies and our territories as sacrifice zones, which we reject and will continue to resist.

We, the peoples of the Northeast, reaffirm our dual commitment: to continue fighting for life in our region and around the world, and to denounce that corporations and States remain far from achieving a truly just and inclusive energy transition. What we witness is the expansion of projects in the name of renewable energy – wind and solar – that are part of a dynamic of environmental destruction, degradation of the sea and coastal zones, and the dismantling of entire communities, implemented without listening to those who have long cared for and protected these territories.

We emphasize that we are not against renewable energies or the energy transition itself. We are against the capitalist model of expropriation that is being imposed upon us. We fight for a Just, Popular and Decentralized Transition, one that respects and guarantees the rights of peoples, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent, as established in ILO Convention 169. We struggle for true solutions – those long defended by social and human rights movements – such as agrarian reform, urban reform, and the territorial and environmental rights that we have helped to build and that are under daily attack.

For us, systemic reform of the social structures of Brazil and the world must be at the center of real solutions. We must address not only mitigation and adaptation to climate change, but also the processes of land demarcation, titling, regularization and agrarian reform; the recognition of traditional peoples and their ancestral knowledge as guardians of life; and effective environmental education in schools. We also call for Free, Prior and Informed Consultation for rural communities not yet covered by Convention 169; for the total repeal of Law 15.190/2025 (originating from the “Devastation Bill”) and of the law that legalized the aerial spraying of agrochemicals by drones, as in the State of Ceará. We demand climate financing that strengthens community initiatives and their social and ancestral technologies, combats environmental racism, and holds accountable those responsible for violations and violence against our bodies and territories.

We strongly denounce the devastating impacts of large-scale projects in the Northeast and the violence suffered by those who resist in our territories. Projects by wind companies, agribusiness and other exploitative sectors have expelled our peoples, denied access to water, and caused disease and environmental destruction. We have witnessed countless cases of land dispossession and direct threats fostered by these predatory energy models – and this is unacceptable. It is crucial to confront the complicity of the State with corporations and agribusiness in the Northeast. This alliance with capital is the central driver of the climate crisis in Brazil, and COP30 must not become a marketplace, nor a space governed exclusively by governments and corporations.

We warn that the State’s capture by corporations – under the pretext of a “climate transition” – only deepens environmental racism and gender-based violence. These dynamics amplify inequalities and suffering in our communities, showing that the crisis we face is systemic, not merely climatic, and that its effects are felt unequally, affecting poor and Black populations first and most severely. We also warn that the climate debate’s obsession with CO₂ reduction ignores the multidimensional violations and impacts occurring here in the Northeast. What we observe is that the current carbon market privatizes wealth while socializing misery, repression and planetary destruction, producing an ever-growing ecological and moral debt to nature and to peoples.

We call upon Brazilian society as a whole to join us in building a network of protection and in the struggle for a model of development that respects territories, life, knowledge and the dignity of all peoples of the Northeast.

We believe that together we can hold governments and capital accountable, ensuring a future of environmental, social and climate justice for current and future generations. We insist that COP30 must be a fair, popular and decentralized space. In parallel with its official activities, we will organize decentralized actions across the Brazilian Northeast, rooted in our realities, as strategies for the defense of human and environmental rights and for building a just, participatory and sustainable world for all.

Fortaleza, September 2025.



CÚPULA DOS POVOS
RUMO À COP30

