

DECLARATION OF THE II PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT OF THE LETICIA PACT FOR THE AMAZON

The Heads of State and Heads of Delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Ecuador, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the Republic of Peru and the Republic of Suriname, gathered virtually on August 11th 2020:

Reaffirming the sovereign rights of the countries of the Amazon region over their territories and natural resources, including the development and sustainable use of those resources, as recognized under international law;

Conscious of the value of the environmental services and functions provided by the Amazon region and the importance of implementing and generating synergies between the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, the process of building a post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other scenarios and international environmental commitments, considering the national provisions of each State;

Highlighting that the Leticia Pact for the Amazon, adopted on September 6th, 2019 in Leticia, Colombia, represents a milestone in the regional cooperation and an opportunity to reaffirm and renew the political commitment of the Amazon countries with the protection of this important biome;

Emphasizing that the Action Plan adopted during the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in December 2019 in Madrid, Spain, that further developed its mandates into specific actions, is a fundamental step towards the implementation of the Leticia Pact;

Considering that the Leticia Pact for the Amazon and its Action Plan provide a framework for action to combat the causes of deforestation and illegal activities that are taking place in the Amazon region, with 52 key actions, organized in five thematic areas, promoting the conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon biome as well as the protection of indigenous and tribal peoples and local communities living in this strategic ecosystem, including their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge;

Recognizing that the Amazon region faces challenges for its conservation and sustainable development that are further intensified by illegal activities, deforestation, and land degradation, events that have different causes in each of our countries, and expressing our commitment to increase national and regional efforts to address these problems in a coordinated, comprehensive and urgent manner with the establishment of actions in the short, medium and long term;

Welcoming the progress that the members of the Leticia Pact for the Amazon have achieved in its implementation, highlighting: the adoption of its Action Plan as the main implementation

instrument; the accomplishment of the agreed follow-up actions including the dissemination of the Leticia Pact and its Action Plan at the national and international level; the establishment of Focal Points to follow up on its implementation; the information exchanges on cooperation and financing opportunities; the progress made in the development of concrete instruments to provide an adequate response to forest fires such as a Protocol for Forest Fires Management in the Amazon; the advancement in the joint elaboration of the financing initiative for sustainable development and bioeconomy for the Amazon, with the collaboration of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the presentation of regional or sub regional projects to different international funding sources to access funding for the implementation of the mandates of the Leticia Pact and its Action Plan;

Emphasizing that the appropriate and prompt implementation of the Leticia Pact and its Action Plan requires the support of the international community, regional organizations, existing financial mechanisms and programs in the environmental field, as well as the international cooperation and financial institutions, in response to the request of the signatory countries, in order to avoid the duplication of efforts and to maximize actions on the ground;

Reiterating the relevance of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, and aware that the Amazon would benefit from greater synergy and joint work between the Leticia Pact for the Amazon and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), to maximize the use of existing resources and avoid duplication of actions, and recognizing that the ACTO constitutes an important intergovernmental body for cooperation and technical work in the region;

Recognizing that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the valuing of its environmental services and functions are critical for the wellbeing of populations and human health and that addressing and preventing zoonotic diseases, such as Covid-19, requires that all countries reaffirm their commitment to the protection and sustainable use of natural resources;

Bearing in mind that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity may directly contribute to the green recovery of the Amazon region as a response to the current situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to the protection of the Amazon and the improvement of the quality of life of the indigenous and tribal peoples and local communities that inhabit the biome;

Encouraging the international community, the civil society and the private sector to cooperate with the countries of the Amazon biome in order to boost the implementation of the Leticia Pact for the Amazon and its Action Plan, guided by the respect for the sovereignty, priorities and national interests of amazon countries:

WE AGREE:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of the countries of the Leticia Pact for the Amazon with the conservation and sustainable development of this strategic biome, taking into account indigenous and tribal peoples and local communities.

- 2.** To advance decisively and make all the necessary efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Leticia Pact for the Amazon and its Action Plan.
- 3.** To Establish an Ad-Hoc Working Group, between the focal points of the Leticia Pact and the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), with a view to promote synergies and identify joint activities, through the prioritization of actions and the elaboration of proposals for the implementation of the Leticia Pact and its Action Plan, as well as by its later reviewal.
- 4.** To work jointly towards the adoption of a Protocol for Forest Fires Management in the Amazon by the second semester of 2020, as a priority issue of the aforementioned Ad Hoc Working Group, in order to provide an adequate response to forest fires in the region.
- 5.** To identify options to work together, both at the bilateral and regional level, to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and define next steps towards the economic recovery through the strengthening of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- 6.** Considering the decision of the Board of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to secure the top level domain “.Amazon” to the private company Amazon Corp. against the recommendations of the own ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee, the Amazon countries reiterate our inconformity with the process, that sets a grave precedent by prioritizing the private commercial interests over the public policy considerations of the States, including the rights of indigenous peoples and the conservation of the Amazon. We urge ICANN to promote a negotiation process that leads to a mutually agreed solution. In addition, we reaffirm the mandate to the ACTO Permanent Secretariat to continue joining all the necessary efforts so that the entity and the company assume formal commitments to respect and guarantee such rights.
- 7.** To welcome the adherence by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the Action Plan of the Pact of Leticia for the Amazon.