



International Declaration of Building and Wood Workers' Trade Unions on the Amazon Region

The Amazon forest is the largest tropical forest in the world. It covers 7.5 million square kilometers surface, and has the planet's greatest biodiversity, extended in 9 countries in the southern cone (Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana). This region plays a central role in the environmental balance of its biome, as well as the biomes that surround it, including marine life in the Atlantic Ocean.

Despite being one of the greatest natural resources of Brazil and humanity, in recent years we have seen an increase in its destruction process. Only in 2020, deforestation and fires destroyed 87,762 km² of this region. The drastic increase in affected areas demonstrates the existence of a deliberate policy of prioritizing agribusiness and extractivism, in environmental detriment.

However, the Amazon situation is not just an environmental problem, as its destruction concerns everything that is within it. In this sense, we have also seen in recent years an increase in violence, persecution and death of indigenous populations, peasants and environmentalists. According to the Catholic Church, around 300 people were murdered in the context of conflicts over the use of land and natural resources in the Amazon in Brazil.

Illegal logging of hardwood covers up capital flight through imports missinvoicing. This practice destroys Brazilian heritage and reduces the State's capacity to collect taxes. However, the most degrading phase of this illegal practice includes job insecurity and slavery-analogous jobs, increased by labor reforms that weakened the unions and made labor justice and labor inspection difficult to access.

Considering that the undersigned unions understand the urgency of a regional sustainable development by the promotion of economic activity with environmental balance and decent work, we declare our energetic rejection to all Amazon destruction systematic policies.

We urge the Brazilian authorities to urgently change their environmental policy, reactivating systems for forest surveillance and protection and controlling of sustainable economic activity. We demand due processes against those responsible for deforestation and illegal miners, as well

as the protection of demarcated indigenous reserves, security for threatened indigenous leaders, community, religious and trade unions, resuming the tripartite social dialogue for the implementation of sustainable social policies in economic, social and environmental aspects.

Illegal logging, both for internal consumption in Brazil and for exportation to other countries, is often developed by companies certified by organizations such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Program of Endorsement for Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC). In this sense, we urge these bodies to investigate the complaints already filed and punish these companies in accordance with the internal certification standards.

Finally, we call for the formation of a Trade Union Amazon Solidarity Network, which joins with other civil society initiatives to organize international solidarity actions aimed at environmental protection and decent work protection.

Building and Wood Worker's International - BWI

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers - IAMAW, USA

Swedish Union of Forestry, Wood and Graphical Workers - GS, Sweden

Central Única dos Trabalhadores - CUT, Brazil

Nova Central Sindical de Trabalhadores - NCST, Brazil

União Geral de Trabalhadores - UGT, Brazil

Confederação Nacional dos Sindicatos de Trabalhadores nas Indústrias da Construção e da Madeira – CONTICOM CUT, Brazil

Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores na Indústria – CNTI, Brazil

Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores na Indústria – CNTI, Brazil

Federação dos Trabalhadores nas Indústrias da Construção e do Mobiliário do Estado do Paraná - FETRACONSPAR, Brazil

Sindicato dos Trabalhadores nas Indústrias da Construção Civil de Porto Alegre – STICC POA, Brazil