



The International Indigenous Peoples Commission

***Strengthening Indigenous People's Participation
and Partnership within the COP30 Process***

Draft report – final version due after the conclusion of COP 30

**COP30
BRASIL
AMAZONIA
NOVEMBRO 2025**

MINISTÉRIO DOS
POVOS INDÍGENAS

GOVERNO DO
BRASIL
DO LADO DO Povo Indígena

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1. Preface

This report was prepared to present the International Indigenous Peoples Commission (IIPC), highlighting its creation, purpose, and contributions to strengthening Indigenous participation in global climate governance. It also brings forward the recommendations and priorities identified through this process, reflecting the collective perspectives and experiences of Indigenous representatives engaged in the Commission's work in the lead-up to COP30.

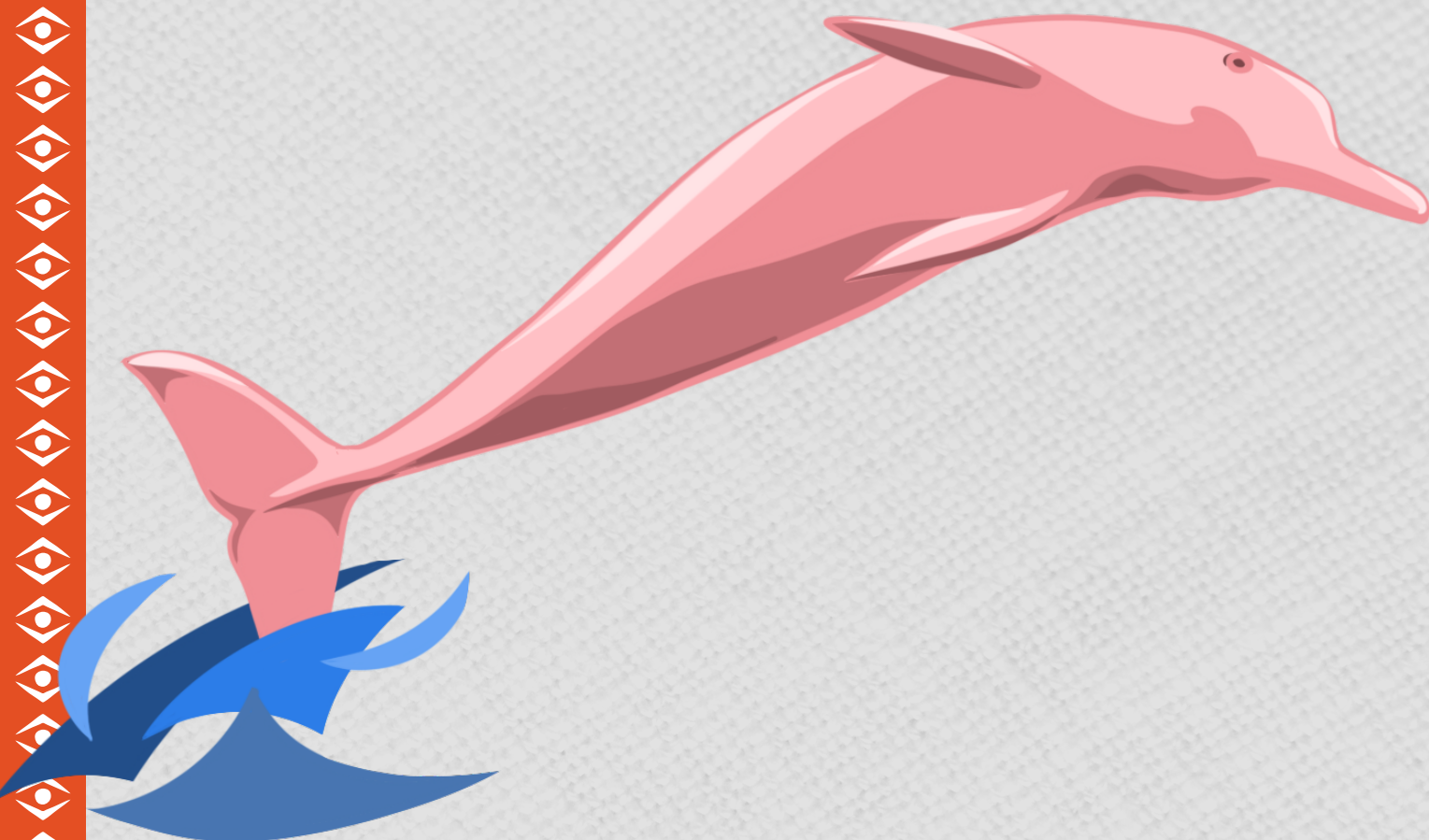
The current version of this report is a draft, the detailed and updated version will be finalized and delivered in 2026, after the conclusion of COP 30.



MINISTÉRIO DOS
POVOS INDÍGENAS



November 2025



2. Introduction

In the face of the growing reality and intensity of the climate crisis, the challenges to confront it have become even greater. With that in mind, the Brazilian Presidency of COP 30 has called for valuing multilateralism and a collective spirit in building a common future. Brazil invites the world to join in a *Mutirão*, a great collective effort for climate action, based on inclusion, local action, and mutual respect.

The COP 30 Presidency recognizes Indigenous Peoples as key actors in this call and aims to make this COP the largest and most meaningful Indigenous participation in the history of the Conferences of the Parties. Expanding the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the climate arena means generating concrete results to confront the crisis we are living in. More than 3,000 Indigenous participants will be in Belém during the COP weeks, actively involved and engaged in discussions across all spaces of the Conference, both inside and outside the Blue Zone.

Since the ratification of the UNFCCC, Indigenous Peoples have self-organized, and in 2008, the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) was created as the representative body of Indigenous Peoples from the seven sociocultural regions recognized by the United Nations. This was a major achievement for the recognition of Indigenous Peoples as a distinct constituency within the UNFCCC, with rights guaranteed under international law.

In 2015, the COP through decision 1/CP.21 established the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) to for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner.

Despite structural changes within the UNFCCC recognizing the role of Indigenous Peoples in climate governance, challenges to the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples persist, including limited access to and participation in negotiations, the absence of a direct channel with the Presidency, and funding gaps.

Seeking ways to expand participation does not mean diminishing or delegitimizing the historical struggle and coordination of the Indigenous Peoples Organizations constituency (IPO) or the IIPFCC. Rather, it reinforces the importance of broadening participation spaces for Indigenous Peoples as protagonists already engaged in solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The International Indigenous Peoples Commission (IIPC) was established under the Circle of Peoples of the COP30 Presidency in Brazil, as part of the Presidency's commitment to ensuring the full, effective, and equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples in global climate governance. **In the words of Minister Sonia Guajajara, COP 30 must be the Indigenous COP, organizing the biggest and best participation of Indigenous Peoples in the UNFCCC to date.**

Serving as a high-level platform for dialogue between Indigenous representatives and the COP30 Presidency, the IIPC aims to strengthen Indigenous leadership, visibility, and influence throughout the COP process. The Commission provides an institutional channel for cooperation with the COP Presidency. Its mandate is to ensure that Indigenous priorities are reflected across the Presidency's agenda, including coordination among regions, recommendations on Indigenous-led initiatives, and enhanced participation in the Blue and Green Zones of COP30.

3. Background and Mandate

The IIPC was created as part of Brazil's effort to make COP30 in Belém a milestone for inclusion, dialogue, and co-leadership between Indigenous Peoples and the Presidency. With the goal of expanding participation in the Blue Zone and an initial target of up to one thousand accredited Indigenous participants, the Commission has served as a space for dialogue and exchange between the COP Presidency and Indigenous representatives, addressing logistical challenges and initiatives in order to ensure transparency in the COP preparation process and to strengthen the flow of information from the global to the regional level. During COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Minister Sonia Guajajara convened a meeting with representatives of the IIPFCC and other Indigenous organizations to exchange ideas for the upcoming COP30, to be held in Brazil in late 2025. It was in this meeting that the concept of establishing an Indigenous Peoples Commission under the COP 30 upcoming Presidency first took root.

In 2024, Minister Guajajara formally presented the proposal to the IIPFCC and held two consultation sessions with representatives during COP29. The following year, in 2025, she submitted the proposal for the creation of the Commission to the COP Presidency, which was subsequently endorsed by COP President André Corrêa do Lago through an official letter in March 2025.

The International Indigenous Peoples Commission was officially launched during the Acampamento Terra Livre (ATL) in April 2025, in Brasília, Brazil, the largest gathering of Indigenous movements in Latin America.

Coordinated by the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, the Commission's mandate is to promote the full, effective, meaningful, and equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples in the UNFCCC process. It works to:

- Strengthen Indigenous representation and coordination across all seven UN-recognized socio-cultural regions;
- Facilitate dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and the COP30 Presidency;
- Ensure visibility of Indigenous priorities and knowledge in official COP processes;
- Support resource mobilization for Indigenous participation in both the Blue and Green Zones.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) were developed in close consultation with the Indigenous Caucus (IIPFCC) through a continued dialogue process, including meetings held on April 19, May 1, May 8, and June 21, 2025. The final version of the ToR, approved in July 2025, incorporated and reflected the contributions and recommendations of Caucus representatives. Based on this framework, the composition of the Commission counted with members and observers, being defined as follows:

Members

- A. Co-Chairs of the IIPFCC: 2 representatives*
- B. Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP): 1 Indigenous Peoples member (+1 alternate)*
- C. UNPFII: 1 Indigenous Peoples member (+1 alternate)
- D. IIPFCC: 1 for each of the 7 social cultural regions (+ 1 alternate per region)*
- E. Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC): 1 representative (+ 1 alternate)
- F. Brazilian Indigenous Movement (Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil, Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira and Articulação Nacional das Mulheres Indígenas Guerreiras da Ancestralidade): 2 representatives (+ 1 alternate for each)
- G. G9 representative: 1 representative (+1 alternate)
- H. Indigenous Peoples Rights International: 1 Indigenous representative (+1 alternate)

*see section 4 (reflections and challenges)

Observers

- I. Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the UNCCD: 1 representative (+1 alternate)
- J. International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB): 1 Indigenous Peoples representative (+1 alternate)
- K. International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change (IIYFCC): 1 representative (+1 alternate)



4. Key Roles and Achievements

4.1. The Commission's Role within the COP Process

Since its creation, the IIPC has served as a dedicated space to identify and communicate key demands, gaps, and opportunities related to Indigenous participation in the COP process. Its primary purpose is to strengthen the connection between Indigenous Peoples and the COP30 Presidency, ensuring that participation goes beyond presence to become meaningful, visible, and effective.

The Commission officially commenced its work in April of this year, following multiple rounds of consultation, with the participation of Indigenous representatives from bodies of significant importance at the international, regional, and national levels. Since then, the Commission has convened one meeting per month leading up to COP, both virtually and in person, totaling eight meetings, thereby establishing a sustained space for dialogue and engagement with the COP Presidency.

The Commission addresses a range of issues raised by Indigenous representatives, including participation barriers, limited spaces for engagement and visibility, and challenges in accreditation and access to official conference venues. By facilitating ongoing dialogue with the Presidency, the IIPC seeks to help overcome these structural gaps and support more equitable conditions for Indigenous involvement across all dimensions of COP30.

4.2. Achievements to Date and points of agenda

The IIPC marked the first formal inclusion of Indigenous leadership within a COP Presidency structure, a legacy that carries special significance as COP30 takes place in the Amazon region. Whereas in previous COPs, dialogues between Indigenous Peoples with the Presidency were in pointed moments, dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and the Presidency occurred only at specific moments, such as the customary annual Indigenous Peoples Dialogue held during the COP weeks. In contrast, the COP30 Presidency established the Commission as a continuous avenue throughout 2025, creating ongoing opportunities for exchange and collaboration among all Indigenous representatives engaged in COP30, without diminishing or infringing upon their autonomous roles.

As a space for dialogue and information sharing, the Commission's meetings served to exchange perspectives and address key points of discussion.

During the Commission's in-person meeting in Bonn, in June 2025, COP30 CEO Ana Toni was invited to engage in dialogue with Commission and Caucus members. She presented the structure of the COP30 Presidency and facilitated an interactive exchange with the representatives.

In the in-person meeting held in Brasília, in August 2025, dialogue among the Circles was actively promoted. Representatives from the Circle of Ethical Balance and the Circle of Finance were invited to present their respective initiatives within COP30, and a dedicated space was provided for discussion and exchange of ideas. During this meeting, other guests also participated in other moments to showcase initiatives and strengthen coordination, including representatives from the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) Secretariat. The meeting also included presentations and discussions on the COP30 Action Agenda, particularly the two focus areas under development, the Forest and Land tenure Pledge, and the developments on the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF).

Additional topics addressed in Commission meetings included:

- Report and reflections from the Africa Climate Week (September 2025) and New York Climate Week (September 2025);

- Multiverse in the Form of an Indigenous Community Lodge (Maloca): The Maloca is designed as a virtual space resembling an Indigenous community lodge, with two distinct environments. It allows real-time access to panels held within the Blue Zone. There is also the possibility to create online panels within the platform. The platform can successfully accommodate over 6,000 participants simultaneously;
- Opportunities for synergy between conventions, including a presentation on the creation of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus within the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), by the UNCCD Secretaria;

4.3. Results

Infrastructure for participation:

The design and development of the Aldeia COP (Indigenous Village), expected to host more than 3,000 Indigenous participants, stands as a major step toward ensuring inclusive and community-based participation during COP30 from Indigenous Peoples from different regions. Through the Commission, information about the Village was made accessible to Indigenous delegates worldwide, including the accreditation process and registration form, which were disseminated through international networks to facilitate accommodation at the Village.

The Village will host its own events, and for those without Blue Zone accreditation, regular updates and reports will be provided by the Kuntari Katu, a group of Indigenous leaders engaged in global diplomacy, throughout the COP weeks to ensure continuous information flow across all spaces (November 12th, 18th and 19th).

Support for Commission members:

Travel and per diem were provided for members to attend in-person Commission meetings throughout the year, and travel to COP30 was guaranteed for all Commission members.

Pavilions and events:

A new pavilion in the Green Zone, the Circle of Peoples Pavilion, was created through collaboration between the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil and partner organizations, expanding the spaces available outside the Blue Zone to amplify the voices and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples. Between 10 and 11 events will be hosted each day at the Pavilion, providing broad opportunities for panels, dialogue, and exchange. The Pavilion was fully funded by the Brazilian government, through the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Racial Equality and the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Agriculture.

Additionally, by deliberation of the Commission, it was initially decided that part of the Commission's funds would be allocated to support the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion in the Blue Zone, organized by the IIPFCC, to assist with its fundraising. However, after the Brazilian government was able to provide subsidies to cover the Pavilion's costs, this financial support from the Commission was no longer necessary.

Diplomatic engagement:

The Commission has also facilitated dialogue with embassies and state delegations to address practical challenges related to accreditation, visas, and representation for Indigenous participants. During the in-person meeting in Brasília in August 2025, 12 embassy representatives were invited to hear directly from Indigenous Peoples, particularly regarding their accreditation needs and concerns.

Accreditation:

COP 30 marked the highest level of Indigenous participation ever recorded in the history of the Blue Zone, surpassing the 350 Indigenous delegates accredited in both Dubai and Paris. The target set by Brazil of one thousand accreditations served as a milestone to encourage countries and the United Nations to expand Indigenous representation. This was



based on the understanding that broader participation strengthens advocacy and ensures that Indigenous voices, historically marginalized, are truly heard at this COP. Of the 500 accreditations initially requested by Brazil, more than 400 were granted. For the remaining 500 from other regions of the world, the Brazilian government reached out to several countries through an official letter and bilateral engagement to advocate for an increase in accreditation allocations by the Parties.

Twenty-five percent of the Brazilian delegation to COP30 is composed of Indigenous Peoples, accredited as Party Overflow. An official letter was sent to other Parties urging them to similarly increase Indigenous representation within their delegations. Additionally, extra accreditation was provided for Commission members, allowing them to participate as Host Country Guests.

Space for Exchange Among Indigenous Movements:

The Commission facilitated a space for sharing experiences and strengthening connections between Indigenous movements. Highlights included:

- Global Campaign “The Answer is Us”: A campaign managed and presented by the Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil (APIB) during the in person Commission meeting in Bonn, in June 2025. It increased engagement between the regional and international Indigenous representatives with the national Indigenous movement in Brazil, sharing information on ongoing initiatives as the host of COP30.
- Reports and updates from Commission representatives, including the presentation of a letter from the G9 representative, and Pacific representative.
- Coverage and call for the Indigenous Women’s March by ANMIGA, which took place in Brasília, in August 2025.
- Participation of Commission members in the regional meetings of the Global Ethical Balance (Balanço Ético Global).
- Contributions from Indigenous organizations to the Baku–Belém pathway: some entities, including G9 and APIB, submitted inputs while the pathway was open, following the presentation of the Circle of Finance during the Commission’s meeting in August 2025.



5. Reflections and Challenges

5.1. Coordination

While the Commission was established to strengthen the visibility and participation of Indigenous Peoples within the COP30 Presidency process, several challenges must still be addressed to ensure the full, effective, and inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples. Access to direct financing mechanisms remains limited, constraining the ability of Indigenous leadership to act independently.

Further clarity on the Commission's specific role will help ensure that it complements, rather than overlaps with, existing Indigenous governance structures. Strengthening coordination with the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) and other established Indigenous mechanisms within the UNFCCC remains essential to maintaining coherence and unity of purpose.

Due to challenges related to coordination and time constraints, representation in the Commission included five (Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, Asia, North America and Pacific) of the seven sociocultural regions, while the co-chairs of the Caucus and the representatives of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the LCIPP were not able to participate, despite their initial inclusion in the Terms of Reference.

5.2. Language

The language barrier also remains a significant obstacle, limiting equal access to information and full participation in debates and decision-making processes across the seven sociocultural regions. There is a need for expanded system of language translation for more accessibility to further sociocultural regions.

5.3. Capacity

Decision-making autonomy remains limited, as the Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the COP Presidency, restricting its direct influence over negotiations and strategic agendas. While the Commission has provided an extended avenue for dialogue, it remains a challenge to ensure that the creation of new spaces can effectively influence the negotiation agenda without undermining the autonomy of the IIPFCC.

Brazil's leadership in creating a space dedicated to Indigenous participation within the COP Presidency structure represents an important milestone. Ensuring that this space continues to foster Indigenous-led decision-making and reinforces the autonomy of existing representative bodies will further enhance its legitimacy and impact. The collaborative approach between the COP30 Presidency and Indigenous institutions has already opened new avenues for dialogue and visibility, and sustained engagement can continue to strengthen shared ownership and representation.

5.4. Accreditation

Despite the increased number of accredited Indigenous participants at COP 30, there was unfortunately a reduction in accreditations for observer organizations registered under the UNFCCC, which consequently limited the number of Indigenous delegates these organizations could register. This development runs counter to Brazil's vision of expanding participation and to the shared understanding that only through collective action can effective solutions to the climate crisis be achieved. It also contradicts the global Indigenous movement's ongoing effort to strengthen participation in decision-making spaces, where Indigenous Peoples remain underrepresented. As long as other sectors gain disproportionate influence at the expense of Indigenous voices, these perspectives will continue to be insufficiently heard and meaningfully consulted.

Although there was continuous dialogue with the UNFCCC Secretariat, it was not possible to overcome the limitation established by a Decision of the Parties, which restricted the size of delegations for both countries and civil society. If it ever becomes necessary to reduce the overall scale of the Conference, this must not come at the expense of Indigenous Peoples' participation, as they are essential actors in advancing climate solutions.

5.5. Timeframe and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

As a new and innovative initiative, the Commission has operated within a short preparatory timeframe. The pace of the overall COP process can sometimes limit the time available for consultation and consensus-building. Strengthening opportunities for dialogue and ensuring that Indigenous Peoples' participation continues to align with the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) remain key priorities for future COPs and presidencies.

5.6. Resources and Access

Ensuring equitable participation continues to require greater attention to logistical and financial conditions. Limited resources, short timeframes, and the absence of consistent interpretation have sometimes constrained meaningful engagement across regions. Strengthening financial support, translation, and coordination mechanisms will be essential to guarantee that all Indigenous representatives can participate fully in both preparatory and COP sessions.



6. Recommendations

It is of most importance to rethinking and rearrange the governance structures of the UNFCCC, to further strengthen its capacity and action. The UNFCCC process is in the correct route but acts in the wrong pace and time frame. The way to change and rethinking these structures is to increase the participation of all levels of civil society so action and implementation can be transported from the negotiation and global level to local action.

Building on the achievements and lessons identified, the following recommendations are proposed for consideration by the COP30 Presidency and future COP hosts to further institutionalize Indigenous participation.

6.1. Participation and Representation

Institutionalize dedicated spaces:

Establish and maintain additional pavilions, such as the Circle of Peoples Pavilion, and create dialogue platforms for Indigenous Peoples within the official COP structure and agenda, ensuring extended opportunities for direct participation in consultations, side events, and knowledge exchanges. Future COP Presidencies should be encouraged to continue supporting the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion in the Blue Zone, fostering ongoing communication with the IIPFCC caucus, from whom the Blue Zone pavilion is an established initiative.

Enhance accessibility:

Provide comprehensive translation, interpretation and logistical support for all sessions, both virtual and in-person, to ensure inclusive participation across languages and regions.

Facilitate accreditation:

The limitation on accreditation imposed by the Decision of the Parties should not come at the expense of Indigenous Peoples. To address this, solutions must be found for the backlog of Indigenous organizations waiting to register in the UNFCCC system. Accreditation processes should be simplified and expanded to enable broader Indigenous participation in the Blue Zone, ensuring that all seven socio-cultural regions are fairly represented in the decision-making spaces.

6.2. Financial and Structural Support

Guarantee predictable funding: Secure stable and transparent financing for Indigenous participation, pavilions, and preparatory meetings as a core element of the COP Presidencies inclusion strategy.

Strengthen technical and institutional capacity: Allocate dedicated resources for communication, coordination, and documentation to support the effective functioning of the Commission and other Indigenous-led structures.

Promote long-term investment: Encourage donor partners, climate funds, and multilateral agencies to commit to multi-year support for Indigenous participation and leadership within global climate governance.

Collective accommodation: Ensure accessible and inclusive lodging arrangements for Indigenous participants, fostering community engagement and facilitating participation across all COP30 events.

7. Looking Ahead: Legacy and Next Steps

The establishment of the IIPC under the COP30 Presidency represents an important milestone in the ongoing effort to institutionalize Indigenous participation within the COP structure. Its creation demonstrates the Presidency's commitment to ensuring that Indigenous voices and leadership are recognized as integral to the success of COP30.

However, the significance of this achievement will ultimately depend on how it is carried forward. Experiences from past COPs have shown that isolated or short-term initiatives, even if successful, risk losing momentum if not integrated into the long-term architecture of the UNFCCC. Ensuring that the IIPC's contributions translate into lasting mechanisms for participation, consultation, and influence will be essential to secure a meaningful legacy.

Looking ahead, the true impact of the IIPC will be measured not only by its creation but by how effectively the Presidency and future COP hosts embed the Commission's spirit of inclusion into ongoing processes. The Presidency is uniquely positioned to reflect these efforts in tangible ways by creating real opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to participate, engage, and shape decisions that affect their territories and futures.

COP30 in Belém offers a historic opportunity to set a new standard for inclusion through co-leadership. Recognizing the IIPC as both an innovation and a responsibility, this moment can define how the global climate process moves from representation to shared governance and from commitment to implementation.

This report was prepared by:

The International Indigenous Peoples Commission, under the Circle of Peoples of the COP30 Presidency, with the support of the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil and with inputs from the commission members.

Representatives from the North American Region of the IIPFCC did not have sufficient time to complete their regional consultations and therefore decided not to endorse this document at this stage.

