



WE ARE WATER, WE ARE LIFE, WE ARE HOPE

DECLARATION FOR THE RIGHT TO WATER

We came to our summit united in the spirit of Jesus, source of living water, and in the light of Beloved Amazonia, Laudato Si and Laudate Deum, with a loud cry of indignation, as one people living in the region that is the largest source of freshwater on the planet, yet without access to safe and healthy drinking water to maintain the sacredness and dignity of all life. Water is a gift from God, and God, having made a covenant with all living beings (Cf. Gen 9:20-21), calls us to join together in caring for creation and defending life.

We are pained by the irreparable consequences of mining, oil exploitation, deforestation, and the excessive increase in waste. Nevertheless, **we are encouraged by the age-old resistance of Indigenous peoples, an example of the defense of life.** We are encouraged by communities of faith that embody the gospel, walking with those who suffer.

Nearly 400 delegates from Indigenous peoples and native communities, peasant communities and quilombos, grassroots organizations and civil society institutions, as well as bishops and pastoral teams from 10 countries and 14 regions of Peru **gathered to celebrate the Amazon Water Summit** from October 1-3, 2025, in Iquitos, Peru. During these days, we have experienced a gathering of waters and peoples from different parts of the Amazon, with an intercultural spirit, sharing our pains and hopes, **from the ancestral memory that challenges us to protect water, the source of life.**

As we listen to the groaning of the water in the rivers that connect us, we recognize a common cry that resonates, and we want to express it prophetically.

WE DENOUNCE

- The death occurring in our territories: formal and illegal mining, oil exploitation and spills, drug trafficking, extractivism, depredation, dumping of waste, deforestation, an increase in false solutions (carbon credits, green hydrogen, energy transitions), and the depredation and commodification of forests by powerful groups that favor particular interests.
- All of these practices exacerbate the impacts of pollution and climate change.
- The indifference and insensitivity of governments that promote and legitimize policies of destruction and annihilation of lands, peoples, and cultures, including illegal economies linked to organized crime.
- The assassination of water defenders by powerful interests that seek to turn water into a commodity and profit.
- The deterioration of human relations and increase in socio-environmental conflicts due to the misuse and misallocation of water, which leave open wounds in communities.



- The lack of and scant support for alternative sustainable economic activities in rural areas.
- The ways in which these abuses disproportionately and unequally affect women, Indigenous and native peoples, peasant communities, and quilombos, and unjustly deprive children of their right to a secure, healthy, and dignified future.

WE ARE FILLED WITH HOPE BY

- The tireless struggles of our brothers and sisters who defend water and forests, whose perseverance, faithfulness, and resistance nourish our belief that another world is possible.
- The recognition of the right of rivers, streams, and lakes to flow, free from pollution, nourishing and being nourished by their ecosystems. Water is a living being, and we walk at its pace.
- The presence and voice of young people in the processes of resistance against abuses and the construction of a new way of relating to the natural world of which we are a part.
- The presence of lay agents committed to caring for creation and ecological justice.
- The diverse transformative experiences and practices in our communities, which can be replicated and expanded.
- That the cosmovisions of Indigenous peoples and Christian spiritualities have in common the belief that water is sacred, healing, and worthy of protection.

WE CALL FOR

- Strengthening coordination between the Andean and Amazonian peoples, as well as those from other regions, including the coasts, Mesoamerica, and the South American plains, in defense of water and our territories, recognizing the interrelationship between both biomes.
- The authorities, in light of their obligation to guarantee the human right to water and the integrity of aquatic ecosystems, to make effective political decisions in favor of the Amazon, to achieve the necessary changes in public policies, programs and budgets to ensure fair management of water and territories, and the implementation of national and international rulings that protect water and ecosystems.
- Building a broad alliance of diverse ecclesial and social actors from the territories to address the impacts on water in our Amazon region.
- Raising awareness and educating different population groups, particularly children and young people, from an integral ecology perspective, to strengthen their roots, awareness and identity in the protection of territories.
- Developing processes for coordination among various political and social actors to manage the commons with an integral ecology approach.



- Promoting, embracing and respecting the wisdom of Indigenous people's concept of buen vivir or "good living" as an alternative to consumerist culture.
- Building and recovering alternative ecological narratives inspired by Amazonian cosmovisions.
- Generating and documenting evidence of impacts on people and the environment to develop and implement actions to address these impact and develop fair and transformative public policies.

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO

- Make faith communities motivating spaces for the articulation of forces in Amazonian countries in defense of water.
- Continue to accompany and strengthen the work of pastoral agents who have embarked on the mission of defending their territory, rights, Identity and culture.
- Strengthen training in political participation and civic ethics to promote the care and defense of our common home.
- Strengthen the ancestral spiritualities of our peoples in the defense of water and the protection of their territories.
- Promote alternative lifestyles that involve reducing water consumption through sustainable livelihoods, opting for "happy sobriety."
- Strengthen and promote territorial bodies so they can monitor the implementation of agreements, policies and court rulings that promote the conservation of water and aquatic ecosystems.

From this Amazonian heart, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that future generations receive a habitable land with clean rivers, healthy forests and communities that live with dignity. We will continue to defend our water and forests, because we are willing to give our lives for the lives of future generations.

Iquitos, 3 October 2025