

PUBLIC MANIFESTO ON THE "AGENDA BRAZIL"

Brasilia, August 11, 2015

Arguing that it's seeking solutions to the economic and political crises in which the country's immersed, the federal government has negotiated a package of legislative measures with the Senate that deepens recent setbacks on social and environmental issues, auctioning off the territorial rights of indigenous peoples and environmental regulation while moving backwards in relation to needed responses to the climate crisis.

Surprisingly, the document ignores such events as the water and energy crisis, which demand increased environmental conservation, not its reduction, and it proposes even less control over the activities of large construction companies, whose relations with public officials are being revealed by Operation Lava Jato. Among the nearly 30 points included in the controversial proposal, the following deserve particular attention:

- *"Revision of the legal framework for the mining sector, in order to attract more productive investments;*
- *Revision of legislation for environmental licensing in the coastal zone, protected natural areas and historical cities, as a way to encourage new productive investments;*
- *Revision of legal frameworks that regulate indigenous lands, in order to make them compatible with productive activities;*
- *A proposed constitutional amendment (PEC) to "fast-track" the environmental licensing of mega-projects prioritized by the government that involve both public investments and concessions to the private sector, with deadlines for issuing licenses. Simplify procedures for environmental licensing as part of the consolidation of legislation for these sectors, which is complex and very sparse";*

Given the above, and considering that:

- the demarcation of indigenous lands, the titling of *quilombola*¹ territories and the creation of environmental protection areas are administrative acts of a technical nature that serve to ensure collective rights enshrined in the 1988 Constitution;
- legislative proposals are accumulating in the Brazilian Congress that, if approved, will directly compromise the protection of these rights;
- biodiversity, sustainability and environmental equilibrium are essential for the wellbeing of Brazil's population and the sustainability of economic and social development, and therefore cannot be forfeited to short-term interests, both in Congress and within the federal government;

¹ Communities that are descendants of runaway African slaves.

- Brazil is a signatory to international conventions on Biological Diversity (CDB), Climate Change (UNFCCC), Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), and Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ILO 169), the principles of which should prevail, along with their practical application;
- Protected areas play an undeniable role in the provision of water, both in terms of quantity and quality, and in maintaining climatic balance;
- A relentless pace of deforestation can be observed in all biomes, especially in the Amazon and the Cerrado (tropical savanna);
- Brazil is preparing its intended national contribution to the global fight against climate change (INDC) to be presented at COP 21 in Paris;

the undersigned organizations question the so-called AGENDA BRAZIL; REPUDIATE the fact that, through it, the Executive forfeits its role of ensuring checks and balances to private interests that predominate in the legislative branch; and WARN of risks that its proposals will promote violence and the destruction of indigenous peoples' territories and the worsening of environmental disasters such as water shortages and floods, together with their negative impacts on the economy, including reductions in agricultural and energy production.

Greenpeace Brasil

Instituto Socioambiental

APOINME (Articulação dos Povos e Organizações Indígenas do Nordeste, Minas Gerais e Espírito Santo)

Imaflora

Ipam (Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia)

Imazon (Instituto do Homem e Meio Ambiente da Amazônia)

Fundação SOS Mata Atlântica

RCA (Rede de Cooperação Amazônica)

Iepé (Instituto de Pesquisa e Formação Indígena)

Opan (Operação Amazônia Nativa)

FBOMS (Fórum Brasileiro de ONGs e Movimentos Sociais)

Associação Nativa Terrazul

Instituto Internacional de Educação do Brasil

International Rivers - Brasil

Associação Brasileira de Antropologia

Cimi (Conselho Indigenista Missionário)

Comissão Pró-Índio de São Paulo

Gambá (Grupo Ambientalista da Bahia)

RMA (Rede de ONGs da Mata Atlântica)

Apremavi (Associação de Preservação do Meio Ambiente e da Vida)
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FAOR (Fórum da Amazônia Oriental)
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ICV (Instituto Centro de Vida)
Coordenação do Observatório do Clima
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Portuguese original with updated list of co-signing organizations:
http://www.observatoriodoclima.eco.br/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/agendabrasil_manifesto.pdf