



Pronouncement of the Avá Guaraní Paranaense People towards COP30

We, representatives of the Avá Guaraní Paranaense People living in Paraguay and Brazil, gathered in Asunción on October 30, 2025, during the preparatory meeting «**The Avá Guaraní Paranaense Peoples towards COP30: participation, advocacy, and territorial defense**», raise our collective voice to the peoples of the world and to the authorities who will participate in COP30 in Belém do Pará, in the Brazilian Amazon.

We are an ancient people of the Alto Paraná–Atlantic Forest, of the river and of the word. We were uprooted from our ancestral lands by the construction of the **Itaipú Binational hydroelectric dam**, which between 1979 and 1982 flooded our forests, our homes, our cemeteries, and our memories. Through forced removals, the burning of homes, and a series of other forms of violence, we were torn from at least 55 communities where we lived along the banks of the Paraná River—36 in Paraguay and 19 in Brazil—forcing us to live in places foreign to our way of life, among other peoples, far from the forest and the river that sustain our culture, spirituality, and livelihood.

Since then, we have lived through dispossession, dispersion, and imposed silence. **The loss of territory broke our community bonds, interrupted our fishing, hunting, and ceremonial practices, and left us without reparation.** Decades later, we continue to face ongoing displacement, precarious conditions, trauma, desecrated cemeteries, and lands occupied by agribusiness companies. Despite everything, we resist. We keep our communities and organizations alive, and we continue rebuilding our lives around the territory and the nature that sustains us.

In recent years, our voices have begun to be heard by institutions of the Brazilian State, which, by judicial determination (ACO 3555), initiated territorial justice processes in which our claim covers 50,000 hectares. So far, there is only a commitment to purchase 3,000 hectares. This process has not yet been accompanied by the Paraguayan State, even though we have persistently asserted our rights in accordance with national and international legal frameworks. We have not accepted, nor can we accept, that only 2,000 hectares be repaired on the Paraguayan side, when approximately 78,000 hectares were flooded by the Itaipú dam reservoir.

Today, we reaffirm **that territorial restitution and historical reparation are not favors or symbolic gestures: they are collective rights** that must be fulfilled with justice, dignity, and full participation.

Climate change did not begin for us with droughts or fires; it began when we were expelled from our lands and our river, when our forests were destroyed and our rivers diverted. The same companies and governments that now speak of energy transition and sustainable development continue to repeat patterns of dispossession under new names. We denounce the «**greenwashing**» of projects like Itaipú, which are presented as clean energy while continuing to violate human rights and destroy territories.

From our worldview and spirituality, the solution lies in returning to live in balance with the land. **We are defenders of the forest, guardians of water, climate, and life.** Our knowledge and ways of managing the territory are essential to responding to the climate crisis.

For these reasons, we demand that COP30 recognize Indigenous Peoples not as guests, **but as protagonists and guardians of the planet.**

WE DEMAND:

1. Territorial restitution and comprehensive reparation for the Avá Guaraní Paranaense People. As the foundation of all climate justice and historical reparation, we demand the restitution of ancestral territories on both banks of the Paraná River, along with comprehensive reparation that acknowledges the historical, cultural, and environmental damages suffered.



2. Recognition of territorial rights as global climate policy. We urge that the territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples be recognized as pillars of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, in line with the Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

3. Indigenous participation in climate and energy governance. We claim the right to decide on projects that affect our territories, with full and binding participation in all stages of planning and implementation.

4. Effective protection of environmental and territorial defenders. We demand binding international mechanisms to protect those who defend life and territory against threats, criminalization, and violence, especially in the context of energy megaprojects and agro-extractive industries.

5. A just energy transition without hydroelectric dams or extractivism in Indigenous territories. We reject false climate solutions that reproduce dispossession. We demand an energy transition that respects Indigenous rights, excludes hydroelectric dams, monocultures, and extractive projects in Indigenous communities and territories, and prioritizes community-based and decentralized models.

6. Inclusion of the Itaipú case as an ecological and energy debt in official COP30 reports. The Itaipú case must be highlighted as an emblematic example of climate injustice, forced displacement, and historical debt to Indigenous Peoples.

7. Comprehensive reparation fund for peoples and communities displaced by hydroelectric dams. We propose the creation of a binational fund, with Indigenous administration, to repair the damages caused by dams like Itaipú.

8. Independent audit of Itaipú's impacts on Avá Guaraní Paranaense territory. We demand a rigorous evaluation of social, environmental, and cultural impacts, with participation of Indigenous experts and international organizations.

9. Technical and financial support for Indigenous initiatives in ecological restoration and territorial sovereignty. We request direct resources to strengthen local capacities in restoration, agroecology, environmental monitoring, and self-governance.

10. Recognition of the Atlantic Forest and Indigenous territories as zones of climate, spiritual, and biodiversity protection. We demand that the Atlantic Forest and the Upper Paraná—sacred territories of the Avá Guaraní Paranaense People—be recognized as living barriers against climate collapse. These ecosystems are vital sources of life, hydrological balance, and regional biodiversity, and must receive special protection status as key spaces for climate justice, cultural survival, and Indigenous territorial sovereignty.

Climate justice will not be possible without justice for Indigenous Peoples. Reparation for the past is a prerequisite for ensuring a shared future.

We reaffirm our commitment to continue walking together as the Avá Guaraní Paranaense People, from both sides of the river, bringing our voice and our memory to the People's Summit and COP30.

Our word is resistance and hope. **We are sons and daughters of the forest. To defend the land and its children is to defend life itself.**

«Yvy oiko va'erã ñande reheve — The Earth must continue to exist with us»

BINATIONAL ETHNIC MANAGEMENT COMMISSION OF THE AVA GUARANÍ PARANAENSE PEOPLE

Asunción, Paraguay, October 30, 2025