

# ECUADORIAN WOMEN FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Between November 2nd and 4th, 2018, 30 women from all over Ecuador gathered at the meeting "Women's struggles against climate change: extractivism, false solutions and climate justice in Amupakin, Archidona, in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

## WE DENOUNCE

1. That climate change has already impacts on our communities and our bodies. As urban and rural women gathered here we affirm that the productive cycles are changing, that chaotic rains and extreme droughts rot our food, that the preoccupation for solar radiation alters our daily life; all of this increases our care labour.

2. That the extraction of oil, gas and coal continues throughout the world even though we already know that the burning of fossil fuels contributed to approximately 78% of the total increase of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from 1970 to 2011; greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from 1970 to 2011.

**In Ecuador, rural women are responsible for producing 90% of the food for national consumption, despite they own only 25.4% of the agricultural production units. Agricultural work is getting heavier due to climate change.**

3. That open-pit mining that is being implemented throughout Latin America contributes to climate change. The mining and metallurgical industry is responsible for more than 20% of global GHG emissions, since it consumes between 10-20% of fossil fuels during the processes of exploitation, refining and processing and transportation of minerals. Mining causes the deforestation of large areas of forests and paramos, emitting CO<sub>2</sub>.

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5. Guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to continue conserving their forests and protecting them from the real causes of deforestation: extractive industries. Community conservation of forests works, but it is imperative that the UNFCCC:

- To include the demands of the Platform of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities within the UNFCCC.
- To adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- To urge governments to protect the territorial rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including
- To urge governments to recognize the demands of women for REAL forest conservation (for example, recognizing women's rights to land).

6. Adopt the fight against gender-based violence as a matter of climate justice, since violence hinders the ability of women to autonomously preserve their forests and therefore to contribute to the fight against climate change.

To reduce GHG emissions it is not REDD+, it is **keep the oil in the soil.**

To preserve forests, it is not REDD+, it is to **support community conservation.**

## CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW!

### About us

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[www.melcherivera.myportfolio.com](http://www.melcherivera.myportfolio.com)



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4. That the extraction of oil and minerals has serious impacts on women, such as:

- High rates of diseases of women in areas of extraction, such as breast and uterus cancer.
- Deepening of the sexual division of labour by the employment of mainly male workers in the industries.
- Work overload due to male emigration and environmental pollution.
- The "masculinization of the territories" due to the arrival of workers and the militarization that usually accompanies these projects.
- Increase in sexual and domestic violence.
- Criminalization of women defenders: women who have organized to oppose these activities have received physical, verbal and psychological aggressions from the public forces and pro-mining and pro-oil groups.

**In Ecuador there have been cases of harassment against women leaders of processes against the extractive industries (oil and minerals), specifically cases of slander and defamation but also destruction of their homes, death threats, prosecutions and threats of being raped.**

5. That instead of stopping the extraction of oil and minerals, the climate negotiations focus on false solutions, such as REDD +. This mechanism is being implemented even though:

- There is evidence that REDD + mechanisms provoke the territorial dispossession of the local population, such as the "carbonized militarization" that has been reported in Nigeria.
- There is evidence that projects initiated in the framework of REDD+ in Acre, Brazil, have promoted ethnic sexual tourism, affecting indigenous women.
- There are several reports of violations of human rights, collective rights and indigenous rights that have not been seriously investigated.

- There is evidence that REDD + projects continue to be imposed without the prior, free and informed consent of local communities. Women are not informed of the existence of this type of projects in their communities.

**In Peru, CO2 emissions from metal smelters (La Oroya, Ilo and Cajamarquilla) increased by 300% between 1994 and 2000 (CONAMA).**

## **WE DEMAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC):**

1. Adopt real solutions and reject false solutions: that the UNFCCC resume the discussion on the inescapable need to gradually but steadily reduce the extraction and burning of fossil fuels to stop global warming and the destruction of livelihoods of local populations. Stopping open-pit mining, which destroys territories and contributes to GHG emissions.
2. Take conflict of interests very seriously in climate negotiations: the big polluters (fossil fuel, mining and agribusiness companies) must leave the UNFCCC.
3. Fully investigate allegations of human rights violations of REDD+ projects that are already being implemented. That Ecuador carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the Socio Bosque Program and its social impacts with the direct participation of the communities that are part of the Program.
4. Reject REDD+ and similar mitigation mechanism that uses market or "cooperation" instruments, which only allow polluters to evade their commitments to reduce GHG emissions.