Declaration by Latin American companies on the Amazon

(For presentation at COP30, November 2025)

The Amazon Basin contains 40% of the world's tropical forests. Covering an area of 7 million km²—5.3 million km² of which are forests—it is home to more than 400 Indigenous peoples and 10% of the planet's terrestrial biodiversity. The water flowing through the Amazon rivers represents about 18% of all freshwater reaching the oceans, discharging roughly 17 trillion tons per day. Furthermore, it is one of the **planet's largest carbon sinks**, essential for maintaining climate balance and regional water security. In addition, it is home to between 40 and 50 million people, "including more than 400 Indigenous peoples of great cultural wealth," according to UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme).

However, the Amazon faces a growing threat from illegal activities that undermine its integrity. Over the past decade, more than **30% of deforestation in the Amazon region has been linked to illegal logging**; **illicit gold mining contaminates rivers and soils with mercury**, affecting the health of thousands of communities; and it is estimated that **60% of the timber circulating in some Amazonian countries comes from illegal sources.** These activities degrade biodiversity, weaken institutions, and violate the rights of local populations.

Illegality also fuels criminal networks that generate **violence, human trafficking, labor exploitation, and social exclusion**. According to the UN, organized crime connected to illicit economies in the Amazon moves **billions of dollars annually,** perpetuating cycles of poverty and insecurity in a territory that should be synonymous with life and opportunity.

This issue transcends national borders. International markets often purchase without due diligence, reinforcing illegal supply chains. By maintaining a constant demand for products of dubious origin, they directly contribute to ongoing deforestation, environmental degradation, and illicit economies. In this context, the fight against organized and environmental crime—both on the supply and demand sides—must always respect national legislation and multilateral institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Latin American companies recognize that this situation is one of the main barriers to sustainable development in the region. Without halting illegality, it is impossible to consolidate a model of inclusive, resilient, and low-carbon prosperity.

Our Commitments

As companies and trade associations in Peru and throughout Latin America, coordinated through **Perú Sostenible and CEBDS, through the Brazilian Business Statement for the Amazon, representatives of the WBCSD in Peru and Brazil, as well as their regional allies**, we commit to:

- **Raise awareness and urgently address illegality in the Amazon**, understanding that protecting this ecosystem is an essential condition for ensuring Latin America's environmental, social, and economic future.
- **Promote sustainable and inclusive development opportunities**, such as bio-businesses, sustainable value chains, and decent employment that offer real alternatives for Amazonian communities.
- **Promote robust, clear, and predictable** regulatory frameworks that prevent environmental damage and provide legal certainty to the population and formal, responsible economic activities.
- **Strengthen controls within our value chains**, preventing illegally sourced products from entering formal markets and ensuring greater traceability and transparency.
- **Foster public-private and multi-stakeholder collaboration**, convinced that the fight against illegality will only be effective if governments, businesses, civil society, and Indigenous peoples work together.
- **Defend the Amazon as a shared heritage of Latin America and the world**, recognizing that its protection is essential to achieving global climate and sustainable development commitments.
- **Call on developed countries and international markets** to ensure clear trade rules, traceability, and responsible consumption, acknowledging that illegality cannot persist without external demand. Protecting the Amazon requires global co-responsibility.

The Amazon cannot wait. Acting now against illegality is the only way to guarantee a future of shared prosperity, security, and sustainability for our region and for the planet.

Powered by: PERÚ SOSTENIBLE cebds

With the support of: GRUPO PRO AMAZONIA, AJE, LA CÁMARA, natura, L+1, EMPRESARIOS POR LA INTEGRIDAD, CEMDES Consejo Empresarial para el Desarrollo Sostenible del Ecuador, ACCA Conservación Amazónica, NOVUM SOLAR, CACC Consejo Amazónico de Cámaras de Comercio, CECODES