

## DECLARATION OF MANAUS

XXXVI Annual Meeting of the Interciencia Association // Brazilian Association for the Advancement of Sciences (SBPC)

The Amazon is a singular region characterized by environmental, biological and social diversities. The dichotomy of development-deforestation, the effect of climate induced changes, and the lack of robust information to support environmental and social interventions, should be considered in designing the strategies for sustainable development, growth and monitoring of the Amazon. The Amazon is a complex and dynamic region, with much to be understood about its biological richness and its culture. Technologies for the development of new products and processes based on interactions occurring in the heart of the forest are vital to implement strategies for social inclusion and improvement of *per capita* income. The role of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation is fundamental.

Therefore, following the Declaration of Cochabamba, the scientists attending the XXXVI Annual Meeting of Interciencia Association wish to reinforce those previous proposals, and in addition exhort our Governments to take into account the recommendations listed below to make the Amazon region a national and international priority for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, in order to improve the wellbeing of the citizens of the entire world, and in particular those of the eight Amazon countries –Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela– and the French Department of Guiana.

- 1) To adopt customized strategies to improve basic education in order to eradicate illiteracy, which will help in reducing social inequality, allowing better use of information;
- 2) To recognize the absolute necessity of a multinational network of scientists and experts employing a multidisciplinary approach for studies related to the Amazon region;
- 3) To engage the young scientists worldwide in studies involving the Amazon to accelerate the production of robust information for social inclusion and sustainable development;
- 4) To expand the capacity of all Amazonian countries to make inventories of their diversities (environmental, biological and cultural), including training of specialists on Systematics and Taxonomy, in order to support programs for reducing deforestation and promoting conservation;
- 5) To develop and use the new technologies (biotechnology, nanotechnology) for new products and processes to improve social inclusion in a forest based economy; to improve the production of aquatic organisms and recover degraded tropical lands for regular crop production;
- 6) To adopt all strategies necessary for improving communication and socialization of scientific knowledge;
- 7) To recognize the importance of indigenous knowledge to support new environmental interventions and to develop new products and processes, adopting all strategies for benefit sharing with local communities; to gather and protect ancestral knowledge, avoiding that information be illegally appropriated and patented in countries outside the Amazonian region;
- 8) To customize strategies to protect multiculturalism, including documentation of languages, especially those spoken by a reduced number of people, avoiding all conditions that may interfere with local communities;
- 9) To appoint a Multinational Commission to propose a common legal framework to protect the Amazon as regard to its natural resources and socioeconomic needs, including health and education;
- 10) To consolidate a coherent and adequate strategy to build an infrastructure to support the production of information for the Amazon needs, with conservation of the forest, including an improvement of technologies for communication, energy production, distribution, and transportation; to institute a system to ensure the recognition, translation, transmittal, and proper management and sharing of modern scientific results and traditional knowledge, for the expeditious execution in the attainment of the social, commercial and environmental advancement of the Amazon;
- 11) To improve the dialogue and cooperation among the Amazonian countries in order to reduce bureaucracy and asymmetries, and to adopt joint actions among scientific and technological institutions to expedite the social appropriation of unfolding information;
- 12) To recognize and map the occurrence of diseases in the Amazon in order to spread knowledge of these maladies and to take actions for reducing their dissemination and mortality, taking into account their unequal distribution across the region;
- 13) To prepare the region to cope with the consequences of climate induced changes, such as Amazonian diseases, drop in food production, changes in ecosystems, lack of environmental services, and urban challenges;
- 14) To expand general cartography and monitoring systems (water and land use) of the Amazon, including social cartography;
- 15) To build a common data base for the Amazon biome to be administered by all Amazonian countries, under supervision of ACTO (Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization).

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