

DECLARATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
IPMG statement – GOAL 16

I am Mario Nicacio, from the Wapichana indigenous people of the Brazilian Amazonia, I represent 305 indigenous peoples and 274 Brazilian languages. We live in 13% of the Brazilian territory. The current policy of the Bolsonaro government has a clear focus on the violation of our collective rights.

That is why we repudiate the government's actions of extermination that we continue to live and that are based in the colonial time, which seek us to renounce our most sacred right, the original right to lands, territories and natural resources that we have preserved for thousands of years and that form the basis of our existence, our identity and our ways of life. The current example is the political instrumentalization of the institutions and the breaking of the guarantees of governance of our rights by deliberately dismantling the National Foundation of the Indian.

We are experiencing a continuous attack by the State on our dignity and wellbeing as indigenous peoples, through the invasion of our indigenous lands. All these actions undermine the integrity of our territories and our future as indigenous peoples.

It is worrisome, the lack of compliance of the States with its obligations with international human rights instruments. As well as the recommendations made by the specialized procedures of the UN and the Universal Periodic Review, all of them aimed at preventing damages and guaranteeing the defense and promotion of the human rights of the indigenous peoples around the world.

The recurrent violation of the rights of indigenous peoples increases the inequality and discrimination suffered by indigenous peoples. What is happening in Brazil, reflects the experience of millions of indigenous peoples around the world. The defense of our rights is resulting to persecution, criminalization, and assassinations and other gross human rights violations against our leaders and communities.

For Indigenous Peoples, Goal 16 should be translated into concrete actions the ensure the respect and protection of our rights; and our access to justice. This includes the security and peace in our territories and an end to our criminalization. The international community needs to uphold its obligation to ensure the protection of our territories and resources and treat us with respect, dignity and equity to ensure the future of the planet and the people.