Paramaribo Declaration

AMAZON CITIES FORUM

OCTOBER 29, 2026 | **PARAMARIBO, SURINAME**

We, the mayors and representatives of the local governments that are members of the Amazon Cities Forum, gathered in Paramaribo, Suriname, reaffirm that the Amazon is a natural, cultural, and economic heritage of fundamental importance to the countries that make up the region and is essential to the planet's climate stability. In a region where approximately 70% of its nearly 59 million inhabitants — around 41 million people — live in urban areas, we reaffirm our commitment to a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Amazon, in which cities are recognized as strategic actors in protecting biodiversity and promoting sustainable socioeconomic and urban development.

We recognize that our cities face challenges specific to the region: urban expansion pressures on forests and ecosystems; increasingly severe impacts of climate change, such as extreme droughts that disrupt river navigation and isolate entire communities, floods, and wildfires; pollution of rivers and water sources, including that associated with illegal mining; inadequate access to drinking water, sanitation, and adequate housing; the expansion of informal settlements; and the presence of illicit economies that undermine the safety of our communities.

We further recognize that these challenges transcend national and administrative boundaries and that addressing them requires coordinated regional governance capable of aligning environmental, economic, and social agendas with our urban and territorial realities.

To move forward in this direction, we consider the following essential:

1. Recognize the strategic role of local governments and Amazonian peoples in regional governance.

We urge national governments to recognize the specific characteristics, needs, and capacities of Amazonian municipalities, taking into account the diversity of their territories and the institutional, financial, and connectivity challenges they face.

We reaffirm the importance of incorporating local perspectives from the outset of public policy design, national plans, and their legal frameworks, through permanent mechanisms for dialogue, coordination, and participation in decision-making. In the Amazon, this process must begin with actively listening to communities, with particular attention to Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities, whose rights and knowledge are fundamental to safeguarding the territory, and must ensure the participation of women and young people.

2. Strengthen local capacities to plan and structure projects that are ready for implementation.

We recognize that preparing urban plans and investment projects involves multiple challenges, which require coordinated efforts across different levels of government and support tailored to the realities and capacities of each territory. In the Amazon, this effort is particularly relevant given the diversity of its urban, environmental, and sociocultural contexts.

We emphasize the importance of strengthening local capacities so that cities can develop in harmony with nature, translating territorial priorities into viable programs and projects with clear objectives, defined costs and benefits, implementation responsibilities, and long-term operation and maintenance mechanisms. We urge national governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, philanthropic organizations, and the private sector to recognize capacity building as an integral part of investment in sustainable urban development, through sustained technical assistance and tools tailored to each city, such as feasibility studies, technical designs, economic assessments, and climate and disaster risk analyses.

We therefore propose that each local government prioritize, with the support of its national government and in accordance with its specific circumstances and capacities, a focused portfolio of technically structured projects that can be developed gradually and scaled up over time.

We recognize that needs are extensive, and we know them firsthand. For this reason, the key lies in focusing efforts and generating more strategic, higher-impact actions, transforming our priorities into structured, bankable, and sustainable projects aligned with our urban development and territorial planning plans, which are designed in accordance with our own realities.

3. Prioritize solutions for urban resilience.

We commit to directing urban planning and investment toward planned and compact urban development models, supported by adequate urban infrastructure, to protect our forests, wetlands, and other sensitive ecosystems.

According to the realities of each of our territories, we will prioritize projects that expand access to drinking water, sanitation, and solid waste management; promote formal housing solutions supported by adequate urban infrastructure and prevent urban expansion into risk-prone areas; strengthen accessibility and river and land mobility; and reduce risks associated with droughts, floods, and wildfires, including through early warning systems and contingency plans.
We will promote economic growth, nature-based solutions, and tourism in harmony with the territory, while creating sustainable value chains that generate local employment and recognize the knowledge of our communities.

4. Expand access to financing for Amazonian cities.

We urge national governments, multilateral and development banks, climate and environmental funds, and philanthropic organizations to establish direct or preferential access mechanisms for local governments, including subnational financing lines, project preparation funds, and arrangements that combine grants with credit.

Recognizing that urban development in the Amazon is a reality, we call for financing mechanisms aimed at forest protection and climate action to recognize cities as key actors in the solution and incorporate investments in sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure, tailored to the region's specific characteristics and the needs of its populations.

5. Promote regional cooperation and learning among cities.

We commit to promoting horizontal cooperation among Amazonian local governments to exchange experiences, share solutions adapted to similar contexts, and develop common urban planning and management tools, with particular attention to cooperation among border cities.
We also invite national governments, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the General Assembly of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI),

and its MINURVI-Amazonian Working Group, multilateral organizations, and the Forum's Technical Advisory Committee to strengthen regional coordination mechanisms that enable the mobilization of knowledge, resources, and technical assistance for the benefit of cities.

6. Consolidate a long-term Amazonian urban agenda.

We reaffirm our commitment to the Amazon Cities Forum as a platform for political coordination, technical cooperation, and the development of a shared vision for the region's urban future, in coordination with existing regional initiatives.

Convinced that sustainable urban development in the Amazon requires stronger cities and effective governance across different levels of government, we call on our national, regional, and international partners to promote coordinated, long-term cooperation that responds to local governments' priorities and contributes to the well-being of Amazonian communities and the protection of the forests on which they depend.

Adopted in Paramaribo, Suriname, on October 29, 2026, by the mayors and representatives of the local governments that are members of the Amazon Cities Forum:

1. **Altamira**
2. **Condorcanqui**
3. **Coronel Portillo**
4. **Georgetown**
5. **Guayaramerín**
6. **Inírida**
7. **Lethem**
8. **Leticia**
9. **Manaus**
10. **Maynas**
11. **Milán**
12. **Nickerie**
13. **Palmas**
14. **Palos Blancos**
15. **Pará**
16. **Paramaribo Noord**
17. **Riberalta**
18. **Santarém**
19. **São Gabriel da Cachoeira**
20. **Trinidad**



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