

52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council

Adoption – UPR Brazil

Mr. President,

Right Livelihood and Survival International note with appreciation the attention given to the issues faced by Indigenous peoples during Brazil's fourth UPR.

Throughout its 4-year term, Brazil's former administration was complicit in gross human rights violations against Indigenous peoples. Illegal gold mining in Indigenous Lands was encouraged, while Indigenous protections systems were progressively dismantled, and demarcation processes were suspended. As a consequence, illegal mining expanded by over 500% in the Amazon region. With it, violence surged, important parts of the forests were destroyed, and rivers were heavily contaminated with mercury, with very negative consequences on the rights to food and the health of the population. The Yanomami people are in fact currently facing a worrying humanitarian crisis, where malnutrition and infectious diseases are rampant.

Mr. President,

We welcome the commitments undertaken by the new administration, including the acceptance of all UPR recommendations on Indigenous peoples' rights. We call on the authorities to promptly implement them, resuming all demarcation processes and ensuring that the right to free, prior, and informed consent is respected at all times, with special attention to uncontacted Indigenous peoples.

The emergency operation initiated last month to promptly evict *garimpeiros* from the Yanomami Indigenous Land was a first step in this direction. But the existence of Indigenous peoples cannot be dependent on favourable political trends. Invasions and genocide must never be a reality again. We therefore urge Brazil to: First, ensure that all those responsible for committing crimes against Indigenous peoples are held to account. Second, urgently establish a permanent monitoring and protection programme for Indigenous Lands in the Amazon. Third, restructure Indigenous healthcare districts, with a special focus on those most affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Lastly, it is key that indigenous peoples actively participate in all decision-making processes affecting them, in order to reach permanent and adequate solutions.

Thank you.