



REPAM STATEMENT ON THE SERIOUS SITUATION IN AMAZONIA

Sao Paulo, Lima and Quito on August 25, 2019

In the last few days, the fires in the Pan-Amazon region have taken on scales of extreme gravity. This event has provoked reactions from diverse countries around the world, that through their governments have expressed their concern and demanded a reaction from local governments.

The Church has also raised its voice for the Amazon through its different branches. There were many notes published in recent days by different Episcopal Conferences and by the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) itself - which includes all the bishops of the region, as well as Religious Life, through the Latin American Confederation of the Religious - CLAR, Cáritas America Latina, Adveniat, CIDSE, La Civiltà Cattolica, Vatican News, Global Catholic Climate Movement and many more.

The Pan Amazon Ecclesial Network (REPAM), is aware that "at the present time, climate change and the increase in human intervention (deforestation, fires, and changes in land use) are driving the Amazon to a point of no return." (IL 16) For this reason, we are deeply grateful to those showing their affinity for the critical situation in the entire Amazon - especially with huge fires in Brazil and Bolivia during the last few days - and the whole process towards the Amazonian Synod, and we join with the diverse statements that, in line with the Magisterium of Pope Francis, call upon the whole of humanity to be aware of the serious threats of this situation and to commit ourselves to the care of the common house by raising our voices and finding concrete ways to take peaceful, but firm, action, demanding that this situation be brought to an end.

"Mary, the mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as he wept with a pierced heart over the death of Jesus, now she has compassion for the suffering of the poor crucified and the creatures of this world devastated by human power." (Laudato Si, 241)

In synodal communion,

Cardinal Claudio Hummes, OFM

President

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