

B A C K G R O U N D G U I D E

ICJ: UNFOLDING STRATEGIES AND ENSURING TERRITORIAL SECURITY
AGAINST BIOPIRACY, FOCUSING ON ILLEGAL ACTIVITY IN THE
INTERNATIONAL AMAZON RAINFOREST

ICJ INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE



ALEMUN 2023

CHAIRS: Henrique Barreto and Joana Fischer

I N D E X

1. GREETING WORD

2. ICJ

2.1 Introduction to the Committee

2.2 Structure of the ICJ

3. TOPIC BACKGROUND

3.1 Overview on the topic

3.2 Focus Questions

3.3 Timeline

4. IMPORTANT INFORMATION SOURCES ABOUT THE COUNTRIES

4.1 Russia

4.2 Suriname

4.3 USA

4.4 Peru

4.5 Guyana

4.6 Germany

4.7 Norway

4.8 UK

4.9 Brazil

4.10 Bolivia

4.11 Colombia

4.12 Ecuador

4.13 France

4.14 China

4.15 Venezuela



1. Greeting word

HENRIQUE BARRETO

Dear Delegates of the ICJ Council,

We are thrilled to welcome you to AleMUN 2023 as the Chairs of the International Court of Justice council. This marks our first time in this role, and we are committed to ensuring a great experience for all of you.

Our focus at this year's conference will be on discussing strategies to ensure territorial security against biopiracy, particularly in the international Amazon Rainforest.

AleMUN is not just an event; it's an opportunity to improve your English, develop your debating skills and engage in the most pressing diplomatic issues of our time. We understand that feelings of anxiety and uncertainty may occur, but remember, these are entirely normal and part of the learning process.

As you prepare for AleMUN, we encourage you to embrace this experience wholeheartedly.

If you have any questions, concerns, or simply want to connect with us, please don't hesitate to reach out through the contact information

Joana Fischer [(21) 99686-9118] and Henrique Barreto [(21) 98171-1600]

Yours sincerely,
Chairs of the ICJ Council,
Henrique Barreto and Joana Fischer



JOANA FISCHER

2. ICJ

2.1 Introduction to the Committee

The International Court of Justice was established by the UN Charter in 1945 and serves as the judiciary bench of the UN in the Hague, Netherlands. Its two main functions are settling legal disputes between member states submitted to it; giving advisory opinions on legal matters referred to it by agencies of the United Nations. It can also impose sanctions where appropriate on these member nations as a sentence. These international sanctions are the most powerful and peaceful means to prevent threats to international peace and security or to settle them. It is important to remember that sanctions do not include the use of military force. However, under Article 42 of the UN Charter, if sanctions do not lead to the diplomatic settlement of a conflict, the use of force can be authorized by the Security Council

ICJ sanctions are divided into different categories. There are Economic sanctions (typically a ban on trade, possibly limited to certain sectors such as armaments, with exception of the food and medicine sectors), Diplomatic sanctions (the reduction or removal of diplomatic ties, such as embassies) and Sport sanctions (preventing one country's people and teams from competing in international events).

2.2 Structure of the ICJ

International Court of Justice defines in article 36 and paragraph 2 the following:

"The states parties to the present Statute may at any time declare that they recognize as

compulsory ipso facto and without special agreement, in relation to any other State accepting the same obligation, the jurisdiction of the Court in all legal disputes concerning:

3. Topic Background

3.1 Overview on the topic

The Amazon Rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world, spanning over nine countries in South America: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. Covering 5.5 million square kilometers, this ecosystem plays a vital role in maintaining global environmental equilibrium.

It's known for its unparalleled biodiversity, housing approximately 10% of the world's known species. In the heart of the Amazon, one can find creatures such as jaguars, harpy eagles, and pink river dolphins, alongside an astounding array of plants, many of which remain undiscovered by science. The Amazon River, the second-longest river globally, winds its way through this rainforest, providing a lifeline for countless indigenous communities and an intricate web of aquatic life. The region's diverse ecosystems include flooded forests, savannas, and dense canopies that support a myriad of flora and fauna.

However, this ecological treasure is under constant threat due to deforestation, primarily driven by logging, agriculture, and mining activities, human and animal traffic, which also play a threat to the native communities that inhabit and depend on nature for living. According to the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM), illegal logging accounts for a significant portion of deforestation in the Amazon. In some years, it has been estimated to be responsible for up to 80% of deforestation.

Some of the main issues are: Land Grabbing, illegal gold mining that pollutes the rivers with mercury and Biopiracy, the unauthorized appropriation of knowledge and genetic resources of farming of indigenous communities for profit. According to a survey carried out by MapBiomas, the area occupied by illegal mining activities in Brazil alone has increased by 625% in indigenous lands and 352% in conservation units in the last decade alone, between 2010 and 2021.

The consequences of deforestation extend far beyond the region, as the Amazon plays a crucial role in stabilizing the Earth's climate by absorbing vast amounts of carbon dioxide. Organized crime is today also a menace to the rainforest, as many narco trafficking routes in South America go through the ecosystem and consequently expose the indigenous to violence and armed conflicts. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has periodically reported on drug-related activities in the region.

Efforts to protect the Amazon Rainforest include the establishment of conservation areas and initiatives to support sustainable land use practices. International cooperation and awareness are crucial to ensure the preservation of this invaluable natural wonder, as its health is intimately linked to the health of our planet. Its conservation is a global imperative, as its fate holds the key to the ecological balance of our planet and the well-being of countless species, including human lives.

3.2 Focus Questions

- What is my country's leader ideology? What are my country's geopolitical goals and priorities?
- How do issues in the Amazon affect my country?
- Why does my country support this view?
- How relevant is my country to the resolution and preservation of the Amazon Rainforest?
- How is my country affected by the conflict?
- How can my country benefit while working towards resolutions of illegal activities in the international Rainforest?
- Does the conflict financially impact my country? How?
- Consequences for my country if the conflict is resolved?
- Consequences for my country if the conflict goes on?

3.3 Timeline

The Amazon Rainforest was first encountered by European explorers in the early 16th

century. Its vastness and biodiversity astounded the world. Nevertheless, it was inhabited for many centuries by the native communities and still is. Indigenous communities have played an important role in defending the Amazon.

In the 20th century, deforestation in the Amazon escalated, largely driven by logging, agriculture, and infrastructure development. This process had devastating consequences for both the environment and indigenous communities. Brazil established the Tumuc-Humac Nature Reserve in 1979, showing awareness of the need for conservation. Many more protected areas were established in the following years.

The first Earth Day in 1970 was a highlight for environmental awareness. It raised public consciousness about the topic. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, 1972 was a crucial meeting. This conference was also a milestone for environmental diplomacy. It led to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and increased global awareness of the importance of protecting forests.

In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was initiated. This international treaty aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. And one of the most known: Paris Agreement (2015). The Paris Agreement reaffirmed the importance of forests especially with climate change. It encouraged countries to reduce deforestation, enhance forest restoration and support sustainable forest management.

The election of Jair Bolsonaro as Brazil's president in 2019 raised concerns due to his policies that favored development over environmental protection. This contributed to the rise of deforestation. Besides, there are several funds and initiatives dedicated to supporting the conservation and protection of the Amazon Rainforest. These funds mostly aim to address various environmental and socio-economic challenge.

Two great examples are: The Amazon Fund, which was established in 2008 by the government of Brazil, with contributions from Norway and Germany. It aims to combat deforestation and support sustainable development. And The Green Climate Fund (GCF), the global fund established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to support climate-related projects. It provides financing for initiatives in countries like Brazil and Peru to reduce carbon emissions.

Suggested reading:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/26/humanactivity-and-drought-degrading-more-than-a-third-of-amazon-rainforest>

<https://www.wwf.de/themen-projekte/projektregionen/amazonien>

<https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/geral/noticia/2022-04/study-finds-evidence-biopiracy-indigenous-knowledge-brazil>

<https://revistapesquisa.fapesp.br/en/actions-against-biopiracy/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jun/28/organized-crime-drives-environmental-amazon-devastation>

4. Important Information sources about the Countries

USA:

<https://rainforestfoundation.org/about/mission-history/>

<https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/geral/noticia/2022-04/study-finds-evidence-biopiracy-indigenous-knowledge-brazil>

<https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/new-greenpeace-investigation-illegal-timber-brazilian-amazon-sold-world-legal-paperwork/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna9751292>

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/charting-new-course-u-s-brazil-action-amazon/>

Peru:

<https://rainforestfoundation.org/our-work/where-we-work/peru/>

<https://igarape.org.br/wpcontent/uploads/2022/06/As-raizes-do-crime-ambiental-na-Amazonia-Peruana.pdf>

<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ambiente/2022/09/peru-declara-emergencia-por-vazamento-de-petroleo-em-area-amazonica.shtml>

https://brasil.elpais.com/brasil/2019/09/06/internacional/1567786813_480794.html

<https://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/2023/04/04/rotas-do-traffic-pela-amazonia-como-o-para-e-passagem-obrigatoria-da-cocaina-para-o-resto-do-brasil.ghtml>

Guyana:

<https://rainforestfoundation.org/our-work/where-we-work/guyana/>

<http://www.guyanapnc.org/amazon-rainforest/>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/29/amazon-deforestation-is-rising-guyana-offers-a-rare-bright-spot>

https://brasil.elpais.com/brasil/2019/09/06/internacional/1567786813_480794.html

<https://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/2023/04/04/rotas-do-traffic-pela-amazonia-como-o-para-e-passagem-obrigatoria-da-cocaina-para-o-resto-do-brasil.ghtml>

Germany: <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-wants-to-revive-fund-to-save-amazon-rainforest/a-63626608>

<https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/germany-pledges-funds-help-brazil-defend-amazon-rainforest-2023-01-30/>

<https://www.zdf.de/nachrichten/politik/klima-brasilien-praesident-lula-amazonas-schutzfonds-100.html>

<https://www.dw.com/de/eu-gesetz-zum-schutz-des-amazonas/a-63996440>

<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/internacional/en/world/2020/11/germany-and-france-bought-illegal-wood-from-brazil-according-to-federal-police-bolsonaro-threatens-europeans.shtml>

Norway:

<https://www.wrm.org.uy/pt/outra-informacao/brasil-o-papel-duplo-da-noruega-na-conservacao-e-na-destruicao-da-amazonia>

<https://www.amazonfund.gov.br/en/home/>

UK:

<https://ecokidsecoteens.mpba.mp.br/noticias/quando-nem-se-falava-em-biopirataria-o-brasil-ja-tinha-sido-vitima-dela/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/abs>

Brazil:

<https://www.portaldaindustria.com.br/cni/canais/industria-sustentavel/temas-de-atuacao/biodiversidade/protocolo-de-nagoia/#:~:text=Em%2004%20de%20mar%C3%A7o%20de,se%20tornou%20parte%20do%20Protocolo.>

<https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/geral/noticia/2022-04/study-finds-evidence-biopiracy-indigenous-knowledge-brazil>

<https://www.amazonfund.gov.br/en/home/> [https://oglobo.globo.com/economia/bolsonaro-](https://oglobo.globo.com/economia/bolsonaro-defende-gestao-soberana-dos-recursos-naturais-diz-que-impacto-do-agronegocio-no-meio-ambiente-irrisorio-24669079)

[defende-gestao-soberana-dos-recursos-naturais-diz-que-impacto-do-agronegocio-no-meio-ambiente-irrisorio-24669079](https://oglobo.globo.com/economia/bolsonaro-defende-gestao-soberana-dos-recursos-naturais-diz-que-impacto-do-agronegocio-no-meio-ambiente-irrisorio-24669079)

<https://horadopovo.com.br/vamos-unir-nossos-paises-para-extirpar-a-biopirataria-da-amazonia-defende-lula/>

<https://horadopovo.com.br/vamos-unir-nossos-paises-para-extirpar-a-biopirataria-da-amazonia-defende-lula/>

Bolivia

<https://revistapesquisa.fapesp.br/a-uniao-faz-a-forca/>

<https://climatechangenews.com/2023/08/24/bolivia-venezuela-deforestation-soy-beef-illegal-gold-mining/>

<https://antipode-bolivia.com/en-map-the-bolivian-amazon>

Colombia

<https://revistapesquisa.fapesp.br/a-uniao-faz-a-forca/>

<https://www.bbc.com/portuguese/internacional-62770837>

<https://g1.globo.com/mundo/noticia/2023/08/08/presidente-da-colombia-sobe-o-tom-e-cobra-vizinhos-por-fim-da-exploracao-do-petroleo-na-amazonia.ghtml>

Equador

<https://revistapesquisa.fapesp.br/a-uniao-faz-a-forca/>

<https://vermelho.org.br/2014/07/04/equador-vai-ate-ultimas-consequencias-contrabiopirataria-dos-eua/>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/expeditions/get-inspired/inside-look/ecuadorian-amazon-natural-wonders/>

França

<https://noticias.portaldaindustria.com.br/noticias/sustentabilidade/protocolo-de-nagoia-o-que-e-e-por-que-e-importante-para-o-brasil/>

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/02/france-seeks-eu-okay-to-fund-biomass-plants-burn-amazon-forest-to-power-spaceport/>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/08/how-france-can-help-brazils-amazon-defenders>

China

<https://noticias.portaldaindustria.com.br/noticias/sustentabilidade/protocolo-de-nagoia-o-que-e-e-por-que-e-importante-para-o-brasil/>

<https://ipam.org.br/relacao-comercial-entre-brasil-e-china-e-chave-para-preservacao-da-amazonia/>

<https://brasil.mongabay.com/2023/01/um-negocio-em-rapido-crescimento-o-comercio-de-vida-selvagem-da-amazonia-para-o-sudeste-da-asia/>

Venezuela:

<https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2023/07/13/as-vesperas-de-cupula-ambiental-venezuela-amplia-operacoes-contragarimpo-ilegal-na-amazonia>

<https://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/2023/04/04/rotas-do-trafficopela-amazonia-comoo-para-e-passagem-obrigatoria-da-cocaina-para-o-resto-do-brasil.ghtml>

<https://www.gazetadopovo.com.br/mundo/venezuela-e-o-pais-com-maior-perda-de-florestas-na-regiao-amazonica-diz-ong/>

<https://climatechangenews.com/2023/08/24/bolivia-venezuela-deforestation-soy-beef-illegal-gold-mining/>

Russia:

<https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/geral/noticia/2022-04/study-finds-evidence-biopiracy-indigenous-knowledge-brazil>

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/05/putins-financial-interest-in-brazils-amazon-highways-commentary/>

<https://www.gazetadopovo.com.br/mundo/putin-e-contraa-internacionalizacao-da-amazonia-entenda-essa-historia/>

Suriname:

<https://www.amazonteam.org/suriname/>

https://brasil.elpais.com/brasil/2019/09/06/internacional/1567786813_480794.html

<https://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/2023/04/04/rotas-do-trafficopela-amazonia-comoo-para-e-passagem-obrigatoria-da-cocaina-para-o-resto-do-brasil.ghtml>

**Good luck,
delegates!**

