



Dear colleagues,

I would like to share a concern that has been growing stronger as preparations for COP30 continue.

Flying thousands of climate activists, NGOs, and civil society representatives across the world to Belém feels increasingly at odds with the very principles we defend. These large global conferences now *normalize* long-distance travel, high energy consumption, and resource-intensive gatherings. In doing so, they unintentionally force many of us into complicity with the same carbon-intensive systems we are trying to transform.

To reach Belém specifically, most participants must first fly to major hubs like São Paulo or Rio de Janeiro and then take additional flights into the Amazon region. The carbon footprint of this event is enormous — and largely avoidable.

If we are serious about climate action, then our movement must begin to model the ecological values we promote. That means:

- using less energy,
- consuming fewer resources,
- travelling less, and
- resisting the culture of constant stimulation and spectacle.

We already have the tools to collaborate effectively without massive high-carbon gatherings: hybrid events, regional hubs linked digitally, distributed negotiations, and limited in-person representation. These approaches could dramatically reduce emissions while increasing accessibility.

I know COPs rotate by country and every host has the right to organize. But we should not ignore the contradiction we are participating in. It is important — and honest — to question whether our presence at such events is helping the planet or reinforcing the systems we aim to change.

I share these thoughts not to criticise individuals, but to challenge the structure and culture of international climate politics. If we want meaningful transformation, we must begin living the change we are advocating for.

Warm regards,

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