

Manifesto - Letter for Common Futures*

**This letter is a prototype, a first version, and is open to contributions and signatures.*

We, Brazilian civil society organizations, collectives, laboratories, communicators, artists, activists, educators, researchers, youth, and communities gathered in the community workshops, arrive at the conclusion of the first Future Affairs Forum with a simple conviction: **futures are already being built in the present.**

In the territories, in the peripheries, in schools, in free networks, in indigenous communities, in favelas, in citizen labs, in collective kitchens, in community radios, on the streets, in bodies, in memories, and *escrevivências* (hail Conceição Evaristo) that insist on dreaming, producing, defending, and enchanting life.

Therefore, we speak to the European Union and to authorities not merely as recipients of policies, but as holders and producers of knowledge, technology, democracy, and radical decolonial imagination.

We ask that you look at and understand Brazil—deep and sovereign—not as a testing ground, consumer market, or a reserve for data, energy, and minerals, but as a living territory of solutions that already existed, exist, persist, and can be empowered through recognition, funding, infrastructure, protection, and continuity.

The end of the world approaches when the world accepts and favors monopolies, monocultures, and mono-futures. It approaches when innovation is confused with extraction; when data centers sacrifice territories; when algorithms remain opaque; when artificial intelligence feeds on our labor, cultures, and data without returning value to communities; when democracy is reduced to consultation, and participation becomes mere decoration.

As ideas and concrete proposals to postpone the end of the world (hail Ailton Krenak), we reaffirm technodiversity, the commons, free/libre software, federated networks, public and community communication, citizen data generation, collective memory, and the ancestral, digital, analog, Black, Indigenous, and peripheral technologies that coexist in this country.

We do not lack imagination or innovation. What is lacking are policies worthy of the popular initiatives that already sustain life. What we ask is that international cooperation stop funding merely commercial showcases of the future and start strengthening the roots of what is already under construction by the peoples of Abya Yala.

Gathered here in this surrounding full of history—the Valongo Wharf, Little Africa (*Pequena África*), and the first favela—we call upon the European Union to contribute to

better futures by investing in open, auditable, public, and community solutions; in low-environmental-impact, ecosystem-regenerative technologies; in digital independence and sovereignty; in funds that protect creators, workers, scientists, artists, and communities affected by automation; in infrastructure that does not sacrifice territories in the name of efficiency; in alliances that redistribute power and not just resources.

May public attention and resources strengthen common knowledge. May international cooperation recognize local and collective authorship, autonomy, and leadership. May territories cease to be consulted only after decisions are made and become instead the proponents of our futures.

The futures we want do not fit in the singular. They are plural, diverse, anti-racist, radically democratic, feminist, community-driven, technological, and ancestral. They are engaging convergences with nature (hail Nêgo Bispo).

They are (re)born and strengthened when children, youth, and the elderly participate in the decisions that shape their lives; when peripheries and Indigenous peoples are recognized and funded as centers of technology and knowledge; when communication is treated as a right and not a commodity; when the economy serves to care for the people; when the digital feeds physical encounters; when science, art, culture, and politics walk with their feet on the ground.

We ask that you listen, invest, protect, and walk together with those who are already practicing common futures in the now. Because if there is a global responsibility in the face of the crises of our time, it begins by preventing the technologies of the present from repeating violences of the past. May cooperation between Brazil, Latin America, and the European Union not be a one-way bridge to new extractivisms, but rather affective alliances for common futures.

We, participants of the community workshops, enthusiastically make ourselves available to co-create present and common futures through the following measures:

- **Ensure the active participation of the organized civil society** in curating the official programming of the next Future Affairs Forum.
- **Institutionalize a broad and diverse participatory committee** as a space for deliberation and advocacy within Brazil–European Union international cooperation programs.
- **Allocate specific and non-reimbursable budgets** for technological initiatives led by Indigenous, Black, riverside (*ribeirinhos*), quilombola, peripheral, women, and other vulnerable groups, with simplified access criteria and technical support.

- **Fund and build capacity** for community-based organizations and public research institutions for the ethical use of technology in producing evidence that guarantees the right to life and combats the genocide of Black and peripheral youth.
- **Build continuous and accessible technopolitical strategies and training** for all age groups, focusing on intersectional digital literacy, digital rights, and citizen participation, reducing digital exclusion, and combating disinformation.
- **Create a transparent and multilingual digital platform** to centralize Brazil-EU funding opportunities, with technical support mechanisms for community organizations to access calls and funds.
- **Conduct participatory and systematic assessments** of the impacts of digital infrastructure on the environment, territories, and ways of life, using data to inform public policies and advocacy actions.
- **Fund and empower Black, Indigenous, peripheral, youth, female, and disabled leaders** from the Global South to act as protagonists in international forums, guaranteeing their participation in decision-making spaces.
- **Create a Digital Sovereignty Fund** to finance sustainable, community-owned, open-source infrastructure, along with an Algorithmic Discrimination Observatory to audit AI systems.
- **Promote strategic environmental impact assessments** for data center implementation, reducing emissions and promoting green innovation.

From Pindorama to the world, we affirm: common futures are already planted wherever there is care, community, memory, and courage. It is up to the authorities present to decide whether they will merely watch this blossoming or if they will have the political audacity to engage in maintaining and cultivating this plural and diverse ecosystem.

Record of Signatures:

1. 2050 Laboratório de inovação e tecnologia
2. A Cidade Precisa de Você
3. Agência Lume
4. ARTIGO 19 Brasil e América do Sul
5. autônoma: cidade, territórios e direitos (FAU-UNB)
6. Biodiversas Lab
7. Coalizão de Mídias Periféricas, Faveladas, Quilombolas e Indígenas
8. CTRL+Z
9. Dataprev
10. Enlagent
11. Fabulosa Lab
12. Fala Roça

13. Federação das Associações de Favelas do Estado do Rio de Janeiro
14. Gênero e Número
15. Girl UP
16. Global Innovation Gathering
17. Goethe-Institut Rio de Janeiro
18. i-motirô
19. Iniciativa Direito à Memória e Justiça Racial
20. Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia
21. Instituto Cidade Democrática
22. Instituto Federal do Rio de Janeiro
23. Instituto Fogo Cruzado
24. Instituto Papo Reto
25. Instituto Toriba
26. Instituto Rebrotas
27. LGBT+Movimento
28. Maré de Vida Verde
29. Maré 0800
30. Mídia Tática
31. Mycelium Tecnologia
32. Nem Presa Nem Morta
33. Núcleo de Desenvolvimento da Criatividade (Labjor/Unicamp)
34. Procomum
35. Redes da Maré
36. Silo Arte e Latitude Rural
37. Sleeping Giants Brasil
38. ubatuba.cc
39. Viração Educomunicação
40. WhE play