



Venezuela Participates in Alliance to Reinforce Agenda for the Protection of the Amazon

By Holland & Knight

In order to prevent the Amazon ecosystem from reaching a point of no return, the Venezuelan government, together with the governments of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname, which are part of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), agreed to strengthen their agenda and set common objectives to protect the Amazon ecosystem. This was announced within the framework of the Amazon Summit held on Aug. 8, 2023.

The Venezuelan government, within the framework of this alliance, committed to strengthen its agenda to promote sustainable development in the Amazon rainforest, as well as to mitigate deforestation and organized crime that affect the ecosystem. The countries of the alliance also called on more developed countries to participate in this initiative and to make additional efforts to halt the destruction of the Amazon rainforest.

However, despite the initiatives promoted by the member countries of the alliance, no concrete agreement was reached regarding the protection of indigenous groups and environmental groups. Nor did any commitment materialize for member countries to adopt Brazil's commitment to end deforestation by 2030. Nor were any targets agreed upon with respect to hydrocarbon activities as proposed by the Colombian government.

The Venezuelan government has proposed that the Colombian government should also pursue objectives with respect to hydrocarbon activities in the Amazon.

In general terms, the countries of the alliance failed to materialize their objectives in a binding agreement to regulate and put an end to activities such as illegal mining, organized crime and deforestation in the Amazon. Nevertheless, there is a general sense of urgency regarding a fundamental ecosystem that is home to 10 percent of the earth's biodiversity. So it is expected that, internally, the Venezuelan government will strengthen its environmental legislation to guarantee the protection of the Amazon.

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