**Mitigation of Deforestation for Sustainable Development**

*Forum:* GENERAL ASSEMBLY #2

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*Submitter:* ECUADOR

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

1. *Recalling* the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 15 which aims to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems,
2. *Recognising* that all rainforests is one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet and a critical component in the global fight against climate change,
3. *Deeply concerned* with increasing deforestation rate. A stable increase in deforestation has not gone unnoticed in the year 2023 with Ecuador losing 41.0 kha of natural forest, equivalent to 30.3Mt of CO2 emissions,
4. *Alarmed* by the issue of oil drillings that led to conflicts with indigenous communities who oppose such activities in their territories. The government has been criticised for being heavy-handed and violating Indigenous people’s rights.
5. Recommends the implementation of a national land-use plan that balances agricultural needs with forest conservation, including incentives for sustainable farming and agroforestry practices,
6. Urges the protection and recognition of indigenous land rights, ensuring that indigenous communities are active participants in conservation efforts and benefit from sustainable development projects by,
   1. Decreasing conflict,
   2. Bettering quality of food,
7. Encourages educational campaigns and community outreach programs to raise awareness about the importance of forests and the impacts of deforestation among local populations and stakeholders.
8. Recommends international businesses and corporations operating globally to adopt and adhere to sustainable practices, avoiding activities that lead to deforestation.

**Signatories**

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