

## **THE INTERNATIONAL ROLE OF BRAZILIAN YOUTH AGAINST THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

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**ABSTRACT:** This article aims to discuss the movements of Brazilian youth to face the climate crisis and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national and international level, putting globalization into perspective, the context of the Global South, the barriers faced by Brazilian youth and the impacts of the environmental dismantling that took place in Brazil during the years of the Bolsonaro government (2018-2022). The analysis focuses on how youth organizations and mobilizations are gaining prominence in the mainstream media and implementing communication tools, such as social networks, to guide decision-making, influence organizations, companies and governments and, above all, act on the international stage in international UN conferences, such as the Conference of the Parties (COP). This article is not intended to make a scientific assessment of the climate emergency we are experiencing, but to focus on the social and political role that Brazilian youth are playing in raising awareness about the climate crisis and with national and international pressure from governments, companies, and institutions.

**KEYWORDS:** Brazilian youth – climate crisis – globalization – international climate agenda – youth organizations

### **I. Introduction**

Globalization has brought about many changes in economics, politics and the environment, and the challenges of sustainable development have been one of the most pressing issues of our time. Bauman's perspective (2001) shows how globalization has unequal effects on societies, creating a new form of social exclusion. However, youth leaders have been an important force in promoting climate change and justice. This article addresses the international role of Brazilian youth in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on climate justice

The young generation of the Global South faces significant challenges in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They often experience social exclusion, poverty, lack of education and political representation. These challenges are compounded by the adverse effects of climate change, which disproportionately affect Southern communities. In this context, leaders in Europe and the Global North must recognize the importance of listening to the voices and experiences of indigenous youth and activists from the South. Young activists from the Global South are able and willing to provide insights and solutions to the challenges they face, including strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change and promote sustainable development.

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Brazilian youth is organizing itself to occupy more decision-making spaces in a different way, since it has become clear that it is not enough to be in spaces being represented by European leaders, as we saw with the rise of Greta Thunberg in 2018, the Scottish which intensified the reach of the climate crisis to the mainstream media and youth with its global movement Fridays for Future, of strikes on Fridays that took on a worldwide proportion, as a wave of historic world activism.

However, something symptomatic happened, in practice, Brazilian, black and indigenous activists, leaders of their communities began to be referred to by the media as Brazilian “Gretas”. For those who are on the front line, acting in the climate crisis, this creates a nuisance, because many activists were acting even before Greta's rise and fame, which began to erase history and the local Brazilian struggle as if we had mattered a fight that, in fact, is ours historically and that the Brazilian people are among the most affected.

In theory, according to Professor Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., who identified the discrepancy in the situation that racial and ethnic communities experience in relation to the environment as the institutionalization of racism, naming it ‘environmental racism’<sup>1</sup>, is identified and historical the matter of racial justice and the need to claim spaces.

In fact, the peripheral communities, indigenous peoples, black women and children, are the ones that pay the most for the climate crisis, being the first directly affected by disasters, landslides, rains and floods, even though they are the people who contribute least to the cause. That is why this article was written, due to the need to shed light on the climate movements of Brazilian youth and how they are acting to see more black, indigenous, quilombola and peripheral people acting in the climate debate.

Therefore, this article aims to bring together practice and theory, as a game of cause and effect in which one is able to explain or show the gaps of the other, with a view to empirical participation in climate movements, the analysis of the repercussions that these movements are causing in the national and international media and Zygmunt Bauman's theoretical view of Postmodernism, presented in 'Liquid Modernity' to clarify the society that we are inserted in the context of globalization, in addition to 'In Search of Politics' to discuss the relationship between liquid society and politics and the Dialogues 'On Education and Youth' which presents the role of young people for adults and the current system we are part of.

## **II. Youth and the climate crisis**

The current global context is marked by the process of globalization, which generates profound changes in the social, economic and cultural aspects of society. The world is facing a critical environmental crisis, and climate change is at the forefront of this challenge. As the impacts of climate change continue to worsen, the younger generation has emerged as a powerful voice in the fight for environmental justice.

Globalization has had a significant impact on the world, with the spread of technology, ideas and information creating new opportunities for social and economic development. At the same time, globalization has also contributed to environmental degradation, inequality and other

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<sup>1</sup> "Ben Chavis Charges 'Environmental Racism'", 23 de abril de 1987; The Charlotte Post, Charlotte, NC. Available on <https://exhibits.lib.unc.edu/items/show/7443> .

global challenges. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>2</sup> represent a framework for meeting these challenges, and youth movements have emerged as a driving force in advancing these goals.

In this scenario, youth became an agent of social change, especially in the fight against climate change, with their strikes and mobilizations, which stood out globally. Based on Bauman, I understand youth as a representation of a fluid and dynamic force that can challenge the established order and transform social and political reality. In his book, 'In Search of Politics', he points out

There are noble exceptions like Amnesty International or Greenpeace, but on the whole the few idealistic efforts to break through the wall of indifference get at best a signal or superficial support from a few governments (but covert or overt hostility from many others) and virtually no movement. popular support the attitude they altruistically promote and exemplify.<sup>3</sup>

Bauman's vision brings us clarity on the level of youth challenges in today's society, particularly in relation to the policy and decision-making spaces that are needed to tackle the climate crisis. This even brutal vision of the reality presented, shows us in theory how to understand what happens in practice, because, with the same speed that the movement manages to occupy the world in a few weeks, it is as if we were going back to square one.

Therefore, while The Guardian addressed that during the climate strikes, the youth had responses from the UN, Oxfam International, and education ministers, thus the objective of giving visibility to the agenda and listening to youth, began to be achieved, now the challenge is to transform this into real actions to stop the climate crisis<sup>4</sup>.

The concept of liquid modernity emphasizes the fluidity and unpredictability of contemporary society<sup>5</sup>, and the young generation represents a force that is not tied to traditional structures and institutions and that can challenge the established order. In this sense, this analysis understands youth as a dynamic and transformative force that can drive social and political changes.

The role of youth has become relevant to the current climate crisis, as it emphasizes the need for transformative action and challenge to the established order. Many young people are taking up climate activism, demanding that society take urgent action to address the environmental crisis. Their activism is driven by a sense of urgency and the belief that the current order is unsustainable and must be transformed<sup>6</sup>.

In this study, young people between 15 and 29 years old are considered as youths, according to the research methodology used in the Youth 2030 of Latin America and the Caribbean carried out by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)<sup>7</sup> to develop cooperation to advance the

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<sup>2</sup> UN. Sustainable Development Goals. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> (visited 10 February 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Zygmunt Bauman, *Em busca da Política*. (Rio de Janeiro: Zahar, 2000) 216. p. 163-256 (ebook version).

<sup>4</sup> Damian Carrington, The Guardian, School climate strikes: 1.4 million people took part, say campaigners. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/19/school-climate-strikes-more-than-1-million-took-part-say-campaigners-greta-thunberg> (visited 10 February 2023)

<sup>5</sup> Zygmunt Bauman, *Modernidade Líquida* (Rio de Janeiro: Zahar, 2001) 280. p. 114-215 (ebook version).

<sup>6</sup> Laura Monteiro; Mauro Guilherme Maidana Capelari. Contextualizing Youth Climate Activism in Brazil: knowledge, motivations, and policy actions, In: International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP 5), Barcelona, 2021. <https://www.ippapublicpolicy.org/file/paper/60cbea355ba1d.pdf> (visited 12 February 2023 ).

<sup>7</sup> UNFPA. Juventudes 2030 de América Latina y Caribe. <https://lac.unfpa.org/es/juventudes-2030-de-am%C3%A9rica-latina-y-el-caribe> . (visited 12 February 2023).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. Aiming to understand the international role of youth in advancing the SDGs with a focus on climate justice. We will also discuss the challenges faced by the young generation from the Global South and how leaders from the Global North / Europe can learn from and collaborate with young activists in Brazil.

The “Greta” movement, as some approach the phenomenon of youth acting for the climate struggle, Eurocentricizes the theme and devalues the ancestral struggle of the youth of the Global South, led in Brazil for decades by revolutionary youth, who grew up having great leaders as examples who started young people as environmental activists and internationally recognized leaders such as Marina Silva<sup>8</sup> and Ailton Krenak<sup>9</sup>.

In any case, it is undeniable that globalization and technology have enabled young people to reach surprising levels of organization at the political level. Through strikes, initiated by Greta in 2018 against climate change, youth have gained strength in the fight for environmental justice. Her activism has taken many forms, from participating in protests and marches to advocating for political change and engaging on social media. Youth have been particularly influential in raising awareness of the impacts of climate change and challenging the established order that has failed to adequately deal with the crisis.

The youth strike against climate change has been a global phenomenon, with young people around the world demanding that action be taken to address the environmental crisis. One of the most significant examples of Fridays for Future activism was the mobilization for the Global Climate Strike, which took place in September 2019 and mobilized 7.6 million young people around the world<sup>10</sup>. This strike demonstrated the power and influence of youth coming together to demand social and political change.

### **III. The challenges of Brazilian youth in the fight against the climate crisis**

Brazil plays an extremely important role in the fight against the climate crisis, due to ‘the importance of the Amazon for maintaining the world’s climate and the environmental problems played out in the biomes, such as fires and deforestation’<sup>11</sup>. And also its continental extension is full of biodiversity, which 'results in 23% of the world's freshwater fish, 16% of the planet's birds, 12% of mammals and 15% of all species of animals and plants',<sup>12</sup> placing Brazil as a central country in the discussion. In addition to the Brazilian role in the historical context of international conferences, for having hosted Eco +92 and Rio +20.

The growth of the international role of Brazilian youth in the climate struggle in Brazil is led by Engajamundo, due to its performance since 2012 in the international spaces of the United

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<sup>8</sup> Marina Silva, was elected state deputy at the age of 32 and the youngest senator elected in Brazil (36 years), received the Champions of the Earth award from the United Nations (2007), was Minister of the Environment in Brazil (2003 - 2008 ), founded the REDE Sustentabilidade party (2013) and is currently Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (2023).

<sup>9</sup> Ailton Krenak adapted two lectures and an interview held in Portugal between 2017 and 2019 for the book ‘Ideias para postponing the end of the world’, a Brazilian bestseller that shows the urgency of listening and fighting for indigenous rights.

<sup>10</sup> 350.org Team. 7.6 million people demand action after week of climate strikes. 350.orgTeam. ( September 2019) <https://350.org/7-million-people-demand-action-after-week-of-climate-strikes/> (visited 12 February 2023)

<sup>11</sup> UNICEF. Cop da Juventude. <https://www.unicef.org/brazil/blog/cop-da-juventude> (Visited 05 February 2023)

<sup>12</sup> Camila Costa, BBC, Importância do Brasil na biodiversidade mundial é maior do que se pensava, dizem cientistas <https://www.bbc.com/portuguese/brasil-45203830> (visited 05 February 2023).

Nations (UN).<sup>13</sup> Other organizations that have played relevant roles in the global protagonism of Brazilian youth since 2010 and I am honored to be part of history is Instituto Limpa Brasil<sup>14</sup>, representing the international movement of the Let's Do It Foundation<sup>15</sup> and Instituto Ecosurf, founded in 2000, partner of the All at Once initiative<sup>16</sup> in 2017 and 2019 official institutional partner of the UN Clean Seas Beach Cleaning methodology<sup>17</sup>.

Being part of the Ecosurf Institute led me to be the 1st woman in South America to be part of the Youth Advisory Council of the World Oceans Day in 2018, when I was studying for a Masters in International Law and also worked in the organization of the World Economic Forum on Latin America, which took place in São Paulo/SP. As previously mentioned, this article navigates between the practical and theoretical issues of youth activism and the episode of São Paulo hosting the regional Economic Forum in the same year that Brasilia hosted the 8th World Water Forum, warmed up youth to participate more in international spaces and I was able to closely follow these movements.

It is important to highlight these initiatives because when Greta Thunberg's movement, Fridays for Future, emerges, Brazilian youth manages to organize themselves around a proposal that has a clear call to action, which are strikes on Fridays and facilitate mobilization along the way, around the country, in view of the climate agenda, at a time when young people are engaging in different groups to act for the environment.

That same year, elections took place in Brazil, with the rise of the extreme right and the election of former President Jair Bolsonaro, who denied and denied science during his term, as well as acting to intensify the climate crisis with the dismantling of Brazilian environmental departments<sup>18</sup>, with budget cuts, layoffs and lack of assistance for indigenous communities, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the deaths of more than 700,000 Brazilians<sup>19</sup>, scandals such as one of the employees of the National Foundation of Indigenous Peoples (FUNAI) being arrested for selling indigenous lands and embezzlement and receiving support from the President of the body after arrest<sup>20</sup>. Four years of horror for any activist who has lived or been to Brazil, a period in which the country became the country that most killed environmental activists and community leaders in the last decade.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Engajamundo. Quem somos. <https://engajamundo.org/sobre/#quem-somos> (visited 05 February 2023).

<sup>14</sup> Instituto Limpa Brasil. Quem somos <https://limpabrasil.org/quem-somos/> (visited 05 February 2023).

<sup>15</sup> Let's do it Foundation. <https://letsdoitfoundation.org/> (visited 05 February 2023).

<sup>16</sup> All at Once. <https://allatonce.org/> (visited 05 February 2023).

<sup>17</sup> UNIC Rio de Janeiro. ONU Meio Ambiente mobiliza escoteiros em campanha Mares Limpos. <https://unicrio.org.br/onu-meio-ambiente-mobiliza-escoteiros-em-campanha-mares-limpos/> (visited 05 February 2023).

<sup>18</sup> André Scantimburgo, O Desmonte da Agenda Ambiental no Governo Bolsonaro, UNESP 2020, <https://periodicos.fclar.unesp.br/perspectivas/article/view/13235/8721> (visited 05 February 2023).

<sup>19</sup> CNN. Brasil ultrapassa a marca de 600 mil mortes pela COVID 19. <https://www.cnnbrasil.com.br/saude/brasil-ultrapassa-a-marca-de-600-mil-mortes-pela-covid-19-segundo-dados-da-cnn/> (visited 05 February 2023).

<sup>20</sup> Carta Capital. PF obtém áudio em que o presidente da FUNAI oferece apoio a servidor preso por arrendar terras indígenas. <https://www.cartacapital.com.br/politica/pf-obtem-audio-em-que-o-presidente-da-funai-oferece-apoio-a-servidor-presos-por-arrendar-terras-indigenas/> (visited 05 February 2023).

<sup>21</sup> Correio Braziliense. Brasil lidera ranking de países com mais mortes de ambientalistas. <https://www.correiobraziliense.com.br/brasil/2022/09/5040505-brasil-lidera-ranking-de-paises-com-mais-mortes-de-ambientalistas.html> (visited 05 February 2023).

The climate crisis affects the peripheries more<sup>22</sup>, with rains that cause floods, landslides, leaving people injured, who lose all their belongings and who have been submerged in the lack of policies for the climate crisis in the last four years. Indigenous communities, who are the true protectors of the forest, have suffered from helplessness during COVID-19 and illegal miners approaching to infect people and illegally occupy land.

Brazilian youth acted on four fronts to address these challenges: climate movements, advocacy, political parties and international conferences, thus seeking to face these four years with a president in power who did not act on environmental disasters and allowed the increase in deforestation with impunity. . Taking the country to the extreme in several regions during COVID-19 with scientific denialism and exempting itself from responsibility in the midst of environmental disasters and the lack of budget for cities to act in cases of flooding. Thus, the victory of President Lula and the return of Marina Silva as Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, a change in the name of the ministry that points to the government's responsibility for the climate crisis, demonstrates the possible return of the country as a defender of the cause environmental.

However, changing the President will not be enough for the Brazilian youth to act and seek improvements, because our fight is for survival. What becomes evident during the 2023 carnival, in which all of Brazil followed the sad environmental disaster on the North Coast of the State of São Paulo, which affected over 4,000 people who are displaced, and which could have been avoided<sup>23</sup>, either by the notification of the rain that was not unexpected to empty the place or by actually more effective housing policies.

Another serious fact in the face of this situation was the issue of the low volume of resources for environmental disasters, more precisely R\$25,000 provided by the Bolsonaro Government (around U\$5,000), which has been denounced by parliamentarians from REDE Sustentabilidade since November 2022 in Brazil, in addition to de in the country, there is already a survey of 14 thousand points of very high risk of landslides, with approximately 4 million people who live in risk regions already mapped by the government.<sup>24</sup>

The increase in access to the internet and information reaching the mainstream media can support the raise of awareness among young people who are organizing themselves to change this scenario, but it takes collaboration with governments, institutions, and decision-makers to obtain effective results. This is part of the struggle of Brazilian youth against the climate crisis, a struggle for survival, especially for the majority of youth living in risk areas.

#### **A. Climate movements**

In Brazil, there are a number of climate movements that stand out, such as the Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB), the Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST) and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB). These movements have been working to

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<sup>22</sup> Metropolis, Mudanças climáticas: periferias são as mais afetadas em épocas de chuva. <https://www.metropoles.com/brasil/meio-ambiente-brasil/mudancas-climaticas-periferias-sao-as-mais-afetadas-em-epocas-de-chuva> (visited 20 February 2023)

<sup>23</sup> USP Journal. Tragédia no litoral norte de São Paulo não foi inesperada e poderia ter sido evitada. <https://jornal.usp.br/radio-usp/tragedia-no-litoral-norte-de-sao-paulo-nao-foi-inesperada-e-poderia-ter-sido-evitada/> (visited 24 February 2023).

<sup>24</sup> Carta Capital, Governo Bolsonaro deixou só R\$25 mil para atender desastres em 2023, diz ministro. <https://www.cartacapital.com.br/politica/governo-bolsonaro-deixou-so-r-25-mil-para-atender-desastres-em-2023-diz-ministro/> (visited 21 February 2023).

promote climate justice and human rights even before the climate crisis was so publicized. Among the achievements, we can mention the creation of indigenous reserves, the fight against the destruction of tropical forests, access to food free of pesticides, agroforests and safeguarded for families protected by rains resulting from the environmental crisis.

Among the youth climate movements, the NGO Engajamundo, the NGO Youth Climate Leaders<sup>25</sup> and the Fridays for Future Brasil<sup>26</sup> who are working on climate education, mobilization and the international role of Brazilian youth in the climate struggle, with participation in the Conferences of the Parties and engagement campaigns so that the message reaches as many people as possible.

## **B. Advocacy**

In addition to producing content on social networks, climate activists are mobilizing to exert pressure through online petitions, popular actions and actively participating in popular law initiatives, a legal instrument in Brazil that allows presenting laws to the National Congress coming from the civil society, an example is the Amazônia de Pé Popular Law Initiative, whose mobilization coordinator is the young activist Karina Penha and has more than 134,000 signatures<sup>27</sup>.

A case that had national repercussions during the Bolsonaro government was the popular action against the government for 'climate pedaling' in which six young people went to court to denounce the actions of the Bolsonaro government to undermine the fight against global warming, with the support of eight former environment ministers<sup>28</sup>.

Other coordinated youth actions included denouncing the positions of the Minister of the Environment Ricardo Salles (2019-2021) with actions on social networks using the hashtag #ForaSalles, arguing for the departure of the Minister appointed by former President Jair Bolsonaro, mainly after the Government meeting disclosed in which the minister claimed to use the moment of COVID-19 to "pass the cattle"<sup>29</sup>. He asked for his resignation from office and was the target of a criminal investigation for allegedly illegally acting in favor of loggers.<sup>30</sup>

Even if in most cases, youth do not see immediate results from their actions, it is relevant to identify that in a moment of disinformation, lack of interest in politics by a large part of the population, there is a youth studying, developing, claiming and willing to question those who threaten their future and that of future generations.

## **C. Political parties**

Youth engaged in the climate crisis are also organized in partisan political movements, i.e. movements of political parties. Mainly, with the rise of the agenda, in which more parties began to position themselves and open spaces for youth willing to dialogue about sustainable development, ecosocialism, progressive sustainability, among other aspects.

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<sup>25</sup> Youth Climate Leaders. Sobre a YCL. <https://www.redeycl.org/sobre-a-ycl> (visited 10 February 2023).

<sup>26</sup> Fridays for Future Brasil. <https://www.instagram.com/fridaysforfuturebrasil/>. (visited 10 February 2023).

<sup>27</sup> Amazônia de Pé. <https://amazoniadepe.org.br/#block-39884> (visited 10 February 2023).

<sup>28</sup> G1. Jovens entram com ação popular contra o governo por 'pedalada climática'. <https://g1.globo.com/jornal-nacional/noticia/2021/04/14/jovens-entram-com-acao-popular-contra-o-governo-por-pedalada-climatica.ghtml> (visited 10 February 2023).

<sup>29</sup> G1. Ministro do Meio Ambiente defende passar a boiada e mudar regras enquanto atenção da mídia está voltada para a Covid-19. <https://g1.globo.com/politica/noticia/2020/05/22/ministro-do-meio-ambiente-defende-passar-a-boiada-e-mudar-regramento-e-simplificar-normas.ghtml> (visited 10 February 2023).

<sup>30</sup> BBC, Ricardo Salles deixa o Ministério do Meio Ambiente, 23 Jun 2021 <https://www.bbc.com/portuguese/brasil-57590198> (visited 10 February 2023).

I emphasize that the current Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Marina Silva, founded her political party in 2015<sup>31</sup>, which is relevant for Brazilian youth, since the emergence of REDE Sustentabilidade creates, at the statutory level, a political party in the country with the obligation to have young people in decision-making spaces of the party, from the presidency (called ‘spokesperson’), party coordination and leadership, following the principle of intergenerationality.

At the same time, the rise of ecosocialist movements takes place in the Psol party, with the organization of the Subverta group and candidacies in the form of collective mandates that increase the participation of young people in party political spaces in an innovative way, demonstrating yet another path for youth who want to act on the climate agenda, do it in the party and elective environment.

#### **D. International conferences**

The Engajamundo youth climate movement with the aim of actively participating in international spaces became known for its actions during the COPS (Conferences of the Parties):

The group is recognized for its activism actions at COPS, such as the action in Paris, [...] in 2015, when the group delivered the "face of wood" Award to the then Minister Isabela Teixeira. Our action had repercussions on social networks and in the press when she presented a proposal for illegal deforestation, which already existed in the Brazilian forestry code.<sup>32</sup>

Leaders emerge from the movement, and I want to highlight two women who stood out in the COPs and who have an essential job for Brazilian youth in the fight against the climate crisis. The first is Leader Amanda Costa, a black woman and young climate activist, from Brasilândia, a peripheral neighborhood in the city of São Paulo, Amanda holds a degree in International Relations, founder and Executive Director of the Sustainable Perifa Institute<sup>33</sup> which aims to democratize the debate on the climate crisis. As a leader, she represents Brazil participating in COPs, she was UN Youth Ambassador in Brazil and participates in conferences with a clear objective:

“My job is to take young people from the hood to these spaces, I do this with the Sustainable Perifa and other volunteer programs. At COP26 I will reinforce the importance of the presence of black, indigenous, quilombola and peripheral people in climate debates”, says Amanda.<sup>34</sup>

The second leader is Txaí Suruí, indigenous leader of the Paiter Suruí people, creator of the Indigenous Youth of Rondônia movement and activist who, during the pandemic, was one of the executive producers of the documentary “O Território”<sup>35</sup> in partnership with National

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<sup>31</sup>TSE. Plenário do TSE aprova pedido de registro da Rede Sustentabilidade. [www.tse.jus.br/comunicacao/noticias/2015/Setembro/plenario-do-tse-aprova-pedido-de-registro-da-rede-sustentabilidade](http://www.tse.jus.br/comunicacao/noticias/2015/Setembro/plenario-do-tse-aprova-pedido-de-registro-da-rede-sustentabilidade)(visited 10 February 2023).

<sup>32</sup>Marina Filippe, EXAME, "O que querem os jovens brasileiros na Conferência do Clima, a COP 26", <https://exame.com/negocios/o-que-querem-os-jovens-brasileiros-na-conferencia-do-clima-a-cop26/> (visited 10 February 2023).

<sup>33</sup>Instituto Perifa Sustentável. <https://www.instagram.com/perifasustentavel/> (visited 10 February 2023).

<sup>34</sup>Marina Filippe, EXAME, "O que querem os jovens brasileiros na Conferência do Clima, a COP 26", <https://exame.com/negocios/o-que-querem-os-jovens-brasileiros-na-conferencia-do-clima-a-cop26/> (visited 10 February 2023).

<sup>35</sup>National Geographic. The Territory. <https://films.nationalgeographic.com/the-territory> (visited 20 February 2023).



Geographic, which shows the reality of indigenous peoples who are on the front lines of defending the Amazon.

Txaí was the only Brazilian to speak at COP 26 in Glasgow<sup>36</sup>, speaking about indigenous peoples being the front line in the climate emergency and therefore, they must be at the center of decisions at international conferences, because they have the ancestral knowledge to preserve the forests and fight for a future that is the future of the earth.

These initiatives are not mentioned and happen simultaneously by coincidence, but because they represent the numerous initiatives led by women climate activists who are willing to act on different national and international fronts to guarantee the future we deserve. I say we, because as an activist, affiliated with the same party as Txaí and resident of the same region of São Paulo as Amanda Costa, I am immersed in this group of women willing to change this scenario.

This is the beginning of a chain of leaders who represent the ancestral force necessary for the climate crisis to be fought, with data, evidence, but something much deeper that is knowledge of the territory, community and local leadership, creating a leadership model that deserves to be celebrated and disseminated in international studies to serve as an example.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the international role of Brazilian youth in the fight against the climate crisis is significant, since the challenges faced by young people in the Global South require survival strategies, which include building daily climate movements, being alert to advocate in defense of the environment, gain access to partisan political spaces and participate in international conferences.

Brazilian youth has actively participated in international climate conferences, such as the Conference of the Parties (COP), organized by the United Nations. At these conferences, youth delegations advocate for climate justice and environmental sustainability, sharing their experiences and perspectives with other delegates. At COP 26, we had the indigenous leader Txaí Suruí as the only Brazilian to speak on the main stage of the Conference, this participation highlights the relevance of youth leadership in climate action and sustainable development.

However, it is clear that even with the protagonism of Brazilian youth, leaders from Europe and the Global North stand out and have more decision-making spaces, therefore, a collective effort is necessary for the youth of the Global North to learn from young people indigenous, peripheral, quilombola and activists from the South.

Climate movements in Brazil and youth participation in international climate conferences demonstrate the relevance of youth leadership in promoting sustainable development. For the construction of a fair and sustainable world, it is essential to recognize the importance of youth protagonism, enabling them to participate in decision-making processes and disseminate their ideas and proposals. Only then can we achieve the SDGs and face the challenges of climate change in a fair and sustainable way.

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<sup>36</sup> Instituto Socioambiental. Txaí Suruí: juventude indígena contra a emergência climática. <https://site-antigo.socioambiental.org/pt-br/noticias-socioambientais/txai-suruui-juventude-indigena-contra-a-emergencia-climatica> . (visited 10 February 2023)

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