

# Newsletter January 2026

Dear fellow campaigners,

First of all, we wish you all a successful and combative new year. This year, the International Environmental Council IEC 2026 will take place, and we want to discuss with as many environmental activists from around the world as possible the strategy for halting the march towards global environmental catastrophe and finding a way out of this social system that is legally destroying the foundations of our lives. We call on you: support the preparation and implementation of IEC 2026, join us!



Our delegation at COP 30 in Belém, Brazil, consisting of members of our IEC 2026 coordination group, the environmental union, the women's association COURAGE, the MLPD and the United Front of people from the environmental and labour movements of Brazil and many other countries,



was welcomed with open arms. In an optimistic, combative atmosphere, there was broad agreement that capitalism is the cause of increasing environmental destruction. Our IEC 2026 project and the necessity of a society-changing environmental struggle met with open ears and a willingness to participate on the part of many!

**The UN Climate Change Conference COP 30 has failed – but it is a strong signal for a mass debate on strategy and an upswing in the environmental struggle!**

It was to be expected: the UN Climate Change Conference COP 30 has also failed. The entire process of global climate conferences is now in open crisis. Nothing more can be expected from them and the governments that set the tone there to save the environment. But in the midst of a situation of global advances by extreme right-wing to fascist governments and movements, preparations for world war and the dismantling of environmental protection, 20,000 people took part in the People's

Summit (Cupola dos Povos) in and 50,000 in the large demonstration in Belém. Clear positive signals came out of Belém.

The **People's Summit (Cupola dos Povos)** was a mass debate on the strategy, path and goals of the environmental struggle. 20,000 people took part in the various events and visited the stands. It took a clear stand against fascism and warmongering. The summit adopted a final declaration. It stated: *"The capitalist mode of production is the main cause of the increasing climate crisis. The most important environmental problems of our time are a consequence of the relations of production, the movement of goods and the disposal of goods under the logic and rule of finance capital and large capitalist corporations."* The declaration contains a whole series of demands discussed there and ends with the words: *"If the organisation is strong, the struggle is also strong. For this reason, our most important political task is to organise the peoples of all countries and continents. ... It is time to move forward in a more organised, independent and united manner in order to increase our awareness, our strength and our willingness to fight. This is the way to resist and win. – Peoples of the world: unite!"*



However, the summit ended without establishing clear future organised structures for cooperation. It was also not self-organised, but financially dependent on and led by government-affiliated NGOs. With the International Environmental Council, however, we want to achieve precisely that: to unite internationally, independently of governments, on a permanent basis. It is not enough to criticise capitalism and make individual demands. We need clarity on what a liberated society must look like and how it can be achieved.

The **large demonstration in Belém** was impressive. It was an expression of a real spirit of optimism after the defeat of the fascist President Bolsonaro. The women's movement was strongly represented with its banners and flags, as were many environmental initiatives, organisations, trade unions, left-wing political parties, indigenous peoples and many more. The indigenous peoples had previously achieved further protected areas in the Amazon region by occupying the COP. The preservation of the Amazon rainforest was a major concern and a matter close to everyone's heart. There was also strong international participation from people from all continents.



The **unity of the environmental and labour movements** is much more advanced in Brazil than in Germany. In some cases, there is already a self-image that trade unions are also part of the environmental movement. We have received about 30 contacts from the Brazilian labour movement who are interested in the IEC. We were able to sit on the podium at the founding of a trade union confederation in Belém. A programme for the Amazon region was adopted there, which includes the unity of the struggle for social issues and environmental demands. An important debate is whether the labour movement or the indigenous peoples should be the leading force in the environmental struggle. The indigenous peoples represent an important fighting force from whom we can learn a great deal for our own lives. However, for the 220 million Brazilians, the production methods of the approximately 900,000 indigenous peoples cannot be a viable basis for life. Capitalism has also laid the foundations for how we can live and produce in harmony with nature at a high level in a future society. Through its social role and position, the labour movement certainly has the potential to become the leading force in the environmental struggle as well. This became particularly clear in Brazil.



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We held a small rally in the **Green Zone** and our stand with books, brochures and leaflets was always well attended. In total, we gained around 180 new interested parties for the International Environmental Council. These included 36 representatives from social and environmental associations in Brazil, as well as international representatives from the World March of Women, the World Social Forum and the eco-socialists from Venezuela.



The UN conferences are in an insoluble crisis. But the International Environmental Council is gaining more and more supporters worldwide. Our movement is on the rise and growing! Get involved, participate!

## What are the next steps in preparing for IEC 2026?

On Saturday, 24 January 2026, we will hold a chat with our new contacts from Brazil to present our project to them in more detail. Anyone who would like to participate is of course welcome to do so and can get in touch with us – we will then send you the link.

We are also looking forward to receiving new mobilisation photos with our banner. These can be taken during a wide variety of activities – we will be happy to post them on our website.

The next big preparatory meeting with chat participation will take place on Saturday, 21 March from 2 to 6 p.m. (UTC+1).

By then, we want to have made significant progress in preparing the forums. This means forming teams to develop concepts for the forums. Or finding additional staff for the forums, depending on the status. You can find a list of the forums on the homepage and are welcome to help.

By then, we would also like to see local preparatory groups formed that will take on tasks with various alliance partners at the Environmental Council, but also work together locally on 1 May (for example, forming a block at the demonstration, taking a photo, setting up a joint stand, etc.). By then, the location where the IEC 2026 will take place and the exact date will also have been determined.

We are also working on quickly producing a flyer to mobilise support. In addition, we are currently putting together a social media team, which now also includes friends from Peru and Brazil. We are still looking for more people to join us in this effort.



We still need many regular donors who can provide a solid financial basis for our work with their monthly contributions. You can easily recruit these in your own circles, including with the previous appeal.

On 21 March, we will then form the teams for the direct organisation of IEC2026: whether catering, medical services, childcare or translation – we want to organise everything ourselves and need volunteers.

**Donations:** Please support our work with a financial contribution. With these QR codes, you can invest in a better future!

#### Bank transfer

- Recipient: Umweltgewerkschaft e.V.
- IBAN: DE65 4306 0967 1199 5031 03
- BIC/SWIFT: GENODEM1GLS
- Bank: GLS Gemeinschaftsbank
- Reference: "IEC 2026" or "Umweltratschlag"



#### GoFundMe

- Recipient: Umweltgewerkschaft e.V.
- Reference: "IEC 2026" or "Umweltratschlag"
- Platform: GoFundMe



#### PayPal

- Recipient: Umweltgewerkschaft e.V.
- Subject: "IEC 2026" or "Umweltratschlag"
- Platform: PayPal



US President Trump's act of piracy in Venezuela, with the coup d'état and kidnapping of President Maduro, tramples on all democratic rights, human rights and international law. The US is not concerned with combating drugs; rather, Trump wants to seize control of Venezuela and its oil reserves for US oil companies in their competition with China and

Russia in particular. Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world, and these are now being stolen from the Venezuelan people. "Drill, baby, drill!" is the slogan of climate denier Trump, and he continues to push for the further extraction and burning of fossil fuels. In doing so, he is

deliberately plunging into a global environmental catastrophe and increasing the risk of a new world war. We protest against this imperialist policy of conquest and call for solidarity with the Venezuelan people. For the immediate release of Maduro! USA – hands off Venezuela! The German and many other "democratic" governments are ignoring Trump's violation of international law . Join the protests!



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## **Hands off Venezuela! United Front webinar on 18 January 2026**

The two co-presidents of the Anti-Imperialist United Front Against Fascism, War and Environmental Destruction (United Front) cordially invite you to an extraordinary webinar of the United Front on 18 January 2026: "Hands off Venezuela!"

- The link to participate: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85999320710?pwd=cowZrYRVfPP0V4ElzDWJb1tp7dCZGV.1>
- Time zones: <https://www.timeanddate.de/zeitzonen/events?msg=United+Front+Webinar&iso=20260118T14&p1=195&ah=3>

## **Genocide and ecocide in Gaza**

"Jerusalem/Berlin, 2 January 2026. The Israeli government's threat to deny registration to Médecins Sans Frontières and other international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) is a cynical and calculated attempt to prevent these organisations from providing aid in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In doing so, Israel is violating its obligations under international humanitarian law."

This is the latest commentary from Médecins Sans Frontières, condemning the criminal attitude of the Netanyahu government towards the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank.

Although the fragile ceasefire has limited the war-like killing and ecocide in Gaza, the current Israeli government continues to attempt to perpetuate its crimes against the Palestinian people by preventing humanitarian aid. There is a lack of food, medical aid, human shelter and any possibility of restoring the built and natural environment.

We demand an immediate end to the obstruction of supplies to the people of Gaza and the creation of a humanitarian corridor!  
Freedom for Palestine! Gaza must live!



### **Our campaign: Crocheting against ecocide!**

Omas For Future Berlin supports the project by ARTagainstECOCIDE with crochet hooks and wool! We are sending a message for the preservation of biodiversity – colourful, peaceful and handmade. Crocheting against ecocide! How does it work? Imagine: in many places across Germany, people are getting together and crocheting colourful flowers. The goal is to make 20,000 of them.



Imagine thousands of flowers spread out in front of the Bundestag. Or on Pariser Platz. Right in the middle of the city. People marvel at and enjoy this work of art, while at the same time reflecting on the destruction of our natural resources. They take up our call to preserve the living diversity of our planet. Want to join in the crocheting? We meet regularly to crochet at the German Museum of Technology, every Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Information: <https://omasforfuture.de/rg-berlin>

<https://artagainstecocide.de/haekeln-gegen-oekozid/>

Scan the QR code



## Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung zum neuen Klimaschutzprogramm der Bundesregierung startet

protection! The German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU) is now launching a "public participation" campaign. We have no hope of winning over German Chancellor Merz and the large German corporations he represents to a positive environmental policy that will stop the march towards global environmental catastrophe.

We are even less likely to be able to convince them of the need for a society-changing environmental struggle. Nevertheless, we are taking the liberty of participating in the survey and making our demands, which we are happy to expand upon, available to the Environment Ministry. (See the **attachment** to the newsletter.)

Oh yes, dear German Federal Environment Ministry, dear Chancellor Merz, we have one more recommendation:



*Mercosur countries*

For about 25 years, the EU has been negotiating an economic agreement with the South American Mercosur countries. So far, the conclusion of this agreement has failed, including last December, due to resistance from European workers and the environmental movement, and numerous European agricultural corporations fear cheaper competition from

South America. But it is not off the table, and South American countries such as Argentina and Brazil, with imperialist ambitions, see advantages for their agricultural sectors. The Mercosur agreement would be a human and ecological disaster. The main subject of the agreement is agricultural products such as cereals (maize, wheat, rice), bioethanol and meat (beef, pork, poultry). The revitalisation of these agricultural sectors will inevitably lead to an increase in cultivated land in South America, which will mean further destruction of rainforests and ecologically valuable areas. For indigenous peoples, this will mean further displacement and extinction. We say no to the planned Mercosur agreement!



**Contact:** [post@iec2026.org](mailto:post@iec2026.org)

**Website:** <https://umweltstrategiekonferenz.org/>