

24 march 2023

MR. MICHAEL W. LODGE
Secretary-General
International Seabed Authority
Kingston, Jamaica

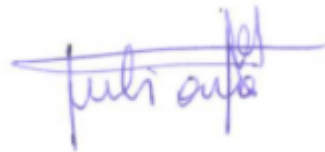
Dear Secretary-General:

On behalf of the Arayara International Institute (Arayara.org), I would like, first of all, to express my congratulations for your commendable work chairing the ISA Secretariat and leading the regulation of mining activity in the Area, for the benefit of all mankind and considering the effective protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects that may arise from seabed activities.

As the mining code rulemaking process is at a crucial stage this year, Arayara.org requests to obtain observer status in accordance with article 169 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority and the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority.

The Arayara.org is a non-profit civil society organization (CSO) that was born out of a partnership between scientists, urban managers, engineers, urban planners and environmentalists. We believe that in order to achieve a safer society that values the quality of life of its citizens, we need to ensure that all resources are used and distributed widely, in a fair and sustainable way. The Arayara International Institute (ARAYARA.org) presents itself as an organizational link to boost this cooperation. And it positions itself as a necessary organization to direct the debate towards a fair energy transition, in defense of life in the main Brazilian hotspots.

ARAYARA.org is a non-governmental organization working on issues related to energy, climate, environment, education, health and social defense. For 30 years, our organization has been promoting positive socio-environmental changes through environmental education, advocacy and litigation, impact activism, the fight for the broad right to land and the preservation of biodiversity and the rights of traditional communities, building public policies for a fair and sustainable energy transition in all regions of Brazil.



Juliana Martellet Job
Technical department coordinator
Arayara International Institute

APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS

A. Information about the organization

1. Name of organization

Arayara International Institute (Arayara.org)

2. Address of headquarters

Gaspar Carrilho Júnior Street, 001 – Gutierrez forest – Memorial Chico Mendes 80810210
Curitiba, Paraná. Brazil.

3. Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters

Atlixco 138, Colonia Condesa, Mexico City, 06140

4. Telephone number

+55 (41) 9 8445 0000

5. Fax number

-

6. Email address

arayara@arayara.org

7. Name, title and contact details of focal point

a. Primary point of contact:

(Mr.) Vinícius figueiredo Nora Bittencourt,
Manager, Climate and ocean department

vinicius.nora@arayara.org

b. Secondary point of contact:

Coordinator, Technical department

juliana.job@arayara.org

8. Background information on the organization

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9. Is the organization a member of, affiliated to or otherwise associated with another organization that has been granted observer status with the Authority?

No

10. Is the organization affiliated to consultants of the Authority, contractors with the Authority, entities in connection with the law of the sea, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, research institutes or the mineral marketing and processing industry?

No.

11. Relationships with intergovernmental organizations

Arayara.org is part of the Oil and Gas Observatory (OPG), Mineral Coal Observatory (OCM), works in partnership with AIDA, WWF, Greenpeace, SFOC, E3G, EarthWorks and Clean Air Task Force (CATF).

12. List of publications and/or other relevant documentation

- “Coal Not Here” Campaign (since 2021), which prevented the construction of the Guaíba Mine, the largest open-pit coal mine in Latin America and a coal-fired plant that would impact 4.5 million people and 3 indigenous communities in the south of the country ;
- Presentation at COP 26 of the publication Legado Tóxico da Engie, a report showing the extensive area impacted by coal exploration and burning activities in southern Brazil;
- More than 10 years of the “No Fracking Brazil” campaign, with at least 427 municipal bills approved in municipal councils with incidence in 17 states,

corroborating to make any installation of fracking wells in Brazil unfeasible and prohibiting the activity in the states of Paraná and Santa Catarina by state bill;

- International recognition by Columbia Law School as an example of innovation with the Direct Action of Unconstitutionality (ADI) filed in 2022 against the Fair Energy Transition Law, pointing to greenwashing and unconstitutionality by encouraging the maintenance of subsidies for coal-fired power generation;
- Presence in more than 20 public auctions promoted by the ANP and CNPE with a counterpoint to the expansion of oil and gas on the Brazilian coast, removing more than 1,354 oil and gas blocks, between onshore and offshore;
- Recent articulation, with 80 subscribing organizations, to seek to stop the advance of the oil frontier at the mouth of the Amazon River;
- Intense mobilization and handling of public civil actions (ACPs) in the face of auctions and environmental licensing of gas thermoelectric plants, ports and LNG terminals, including the advancement of 12 thermoelectric plants and a gas HUB, just on the coast of the state of Rio de Janeiro;
- Presentation at COP 27 (2022) of a Booklet prepared jointly with the Oil Workers Union of RJ and research groups from UFRJ and USP on the guiding principles of the Fair Energy Transition of Petroleum and aims to sensitize and raise awareness of government officials and people in the public sphere who elaborate public policies, press and sector workers and unions.

B. Interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly

13. Briefly outline how your organization intends to demonstrate its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, including by answering questions 14 to 17 and by providing any other relevant information related to the application for observer status.

Brazil, due to its continental size, has an extensive coastal area, in which conflicting economic activities of national and international interest coexist with the region of greatest occupation in the country. The main cities and the highest population density are located on the Brazilian coast, as well as important concentrations of traditional communities such as fishermen's colonies, quilombola and indigenous communities that still live in a traditional way and have artisanal fishing as their main source of nutrition and income.

Also on the Brazilian coast there are different formations with an impressive geo and biodiversity, such as Atol de Rocas, Fernando de Noronha Island, Trindade, the coral reefs of Foz do Amazonas and an immense area of mangroves, all of great importance for the maintaining biodiversity and absorbing atmospheric carbon.

On the other hand, the large extension of the Brazilian coast, added to its geodiversity, also promotes the occurrence of mineral deposits of great interest, which have been prospected with greater intensity in recent years. This intensification has caused Arayara's concern from a socio-environmental point of view.

We are a Brazilian institution that has the capacity to support ISA as an observer and we see the urgency and need for care for the coast of Brazil. We emphasize that we do not have Brazilian institutions that are currently part of the ISA.

14. Briefly outline whether and how the purposes or activities of the organization relate to the work of the Authority.

Traditionally, the Arayara International Institute acts in defense of life and the Brazilian coastal and marine environment, focusing on the preservation of its biodiversity and on the way of life of traditional communities that obey the balance of the riverside region for their subsistence, such as fishermen and shellfish gatherers. collectors. Aiming at a fair and sustainable energy transition, Arayara has been observing closely for 30 years and making an important counterpoint to the oil and gas sector and the expansion of exploratory environments, which in recent years have intensified in sensitive areas such as Atol das Rocas , Fernando de Noronha, Abrolhos, Foz do Amazonas, among several other areas of coral reefs and mangroves of extreme importance for marine conservation, maintenance of biodiversity and offsetting carbon emissions into the atmosphere. It should be noted that these areas have also been the focus of marine mining studies.

We observe with great apprehension the progress of mineral prospecting along the entire Brazilian coast, with important discoveries for the deepwater mining sector, as large and important as the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. One of these is the rise of the Rio Grande in the Pelotas Sedimentary Basin, which is the third largest area of world importance ever discovered for marine mining.

Many of the minerals prospected in the deep waters of the Brazilian coast are being presented as necessary for the construction of high-tech equipment, important for the Just Energy Transition - flag of Arayara.org.

Thus, the Arayara International Institute aims to monitor and observe the progress of research and development in the regulation of mineral exploration in these areas of great importance for marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as for the way of life of Brazilian coastal communities, to guarantee the application of science, sustainability and governance to communities and ecosystems. Because, we have the responsibility to monitor so as not to lose sight of our commitments to socio-environmental justice.

15. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the work of the Authority, for example by providing specialized information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants.

Arayara.org aims to support data collection and research on the Brazilian coast, with the development of regulations to minimize the impacts of mining activity on marine ecosystems and coastal communities in Brazil and Latin America that could be affected by inadequate environmental risk assessment. Our intention is to promote the discussion with the scientific opinion of relevant actors in the region, and with the opinion of our technicians with the support of the current state of science and best available institutional practices.

16. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has the expertise and the capacity to contribute, within its field of competence, to the work of the Authority, in particular in connection with the law of the sea, the protection of the marine environment, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, technology, minerals processing and marketing, activities in the Area and marine scientific research in the Area.

Qualified and multidisciplinary technical staff with a geographer, geologist, engineers and biologists, as well as experts in marine conservation with 20 years of experience in the sector to contribute to the development of research and a legal department with a team of lawyers with great expertise in environmental law. Arayara has extensive experience in litigation and advocacy in Brazil and with international recognition.

With 30 years of activity, Arayara has demonstrated its experience in environmental protection and its commitment to life, science and socio-environmental justice. Our organization combines legal advocacy with education and social mobilization. And it works in partnership with other national and international organizations for the development of its campaigns in connection with the partners. We also work in partnership with the main Brazilian universities, fostering high-level discussion environments between technicians and scientists in the area.

17. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the capacity-building programmes and initiatives of the Authority (e.g., Secretary- General's award, voluntary commitments of the Authority).

Arayara.org intends to contribute in any way the ISA deems necessary.