

## Response from ASR Group

18 July 2019

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited ASR Group to respond to allegations of complicity with environmental and human rights in Brazil.

- [“Complicity in Destruction II: How northern consumers and financiers enable Bolsonaro's assault on the Brazilian Amazon”](#), Amazon Watch, 24 April 2019
- [“China, EU, US trading with Brazilian firms fined for Amazon deforestation: report”](#), Mongabay, 6 May 2019
- [Portuguese] [“Cumplicidade na destruição: como os consumidores e financiadores do norte permitem o ataque do governo Bolsonaro à Amazônia brasileira”](#), Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil-APIB, Maio 2019
- [Portuguese] [“Empresas europeias e norte-americanas estão ligadas à responsáveis pela invasão à terras indígenas e desmatamento na Amazônia”](#), Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil-APIB, 3 de maio de 2019
- [Portuguese] [“Índios propõem boicote a empresas que negociam com invasores de reservas”](#), Época, 29 de abril de 2019

ASR Group sent the following statement:

At ASR Group, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Operational Sustainability are key business platforms that contribute to our global growth and help us manage our actions in a lawful and ethical manner. Just as we pledge to comply with and enforce our own *Code of Ethics and Business Conduct*, we are unwavering in the demand that our suppliers abide by our *Ethical Sourcing Policy (ESP)* and *Supplier Code of Conduct*. Additionally, we support the United Nations’ Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which sets out the expectation that companies like ours have a responsibility to use our influence and best endeavors to ensure human rights are respected throughout our supply chain. We work to ensure that the sugar we buy is produced and delivered under conditions that uphold fundamental human rights, minimize negative impacts on the environment and improve the well-being of farmers, including smallholders and women. We spend a great deal of time understanding the health, safety, environmental, labor, and human rights issues associated with our supply chains, which traverse 40 countries. In order to ensure compliance, we have instituted 3<sup>rd</sup>-party, independent social auditing of our suppliers. Any incident of non-compliance with our policies is unacceptable. Audits help us monitor progress in these areas, identify where non-conformity exists, and work with our stakeholders to rectify them. Our policies are clear. ASR group is responsible for doing business ethically, and this is an expectation we hold of all our suppliers. Regarding your specific inquiry, we have performed verification audits of our suppliers in Brazil, and the independent auditors have not found evidence of the non-compliance being alleged.