

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FORUM

In conjunction with the Forty-second Session of IFAD's Governing Council
12-13 February 2019



Fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD Synthesis of Deliberations

We, Indigenous Peoples from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific, participating in the fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, whose theme is **“Promoting Indigenous Peoples’ Knowledge and Innovations for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development”**, recall that our peoples have implemented self-governed, culturally appropriate development models or life plans which ensure the protection and sustainable management of some of our lands, territories and resources. This explains why we continue to host and protect 80 per cent of the world’s biological diversity and to maintain the majority of diverse cultures and languages. These are important contributions to enhancing the resilience of Mother Earth in the face of the grave climate change crisis. While we continue to suffer from racism, discrimination and serious human rights violations, we persist in asserting our rights to our lands, territories and resources (Articles 25-29, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), our right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising our right to development (Article 23), and our right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of our lands or territories and other resources (Article 32).

We emphasize that our cultures, worldviews, values, spiritualities, indigenous knowledge systems and customary governance systems – which include living in harmony with nature, reciprocity, inter-culturality, peace and community solidarity – are key factors which have ensured the protection of the ecosystems and biodiversity in our territories. We reiterate that the protection of and respect for our rights to our culture, indigenous knowledge and indigenous governance systems will guarantee that we will be able to contribute to making our world more sustainable, healthy and secure.

We recognize this Forum at IFAD as a unique process within the United Nations system. The Forum enables participants to assess IFAD’s engagement with Indigenous Peoples, consult on rural development and poverty reduction, and promote the participation of Indigenous Peoples’ institutions and organizations in IFAD’s activities at the country, regional and international levels. Overall, these activities help IFAD to implement its policy and translate its principles into action on the ground, contributing to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We value progress in the implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and the strengthening of partnerships between Indigenous Peoples and IFAD. The increased participation of Indigenous Peoples in IFAD operations has resulted in improved targeting and enhanced quality in the design and implementation of IFAD’s country strategies and several projects.

The new IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025, in line with the 2030 Agenda, reaffirms IFAD's commitment to Indigenous Peoples' self-driven development and to pro-actively supporting Indigenous Peoples, as part of its target group, in developing their skills and assets to benefit from emerging economic opportunities, while respecting and enhancing their traditional livelihoods and knowledge. With regard to climate change, the IFAD Policy states that the Fund will support Indigenous Peoples in enhancing the resilience of the ecosystems in which they live and in developing innovative adaptation measures. IFAD will also not fund mitigation measures that adversely affect the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples.

Joint recommendations to IFAD, governments and Indigenous Peoples:

- Acknowledge, promote and support Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, intellectual property, technologies and innovations as well as sustainable resource management systems, which are critical in strengthening community resilience for climate change and sustainable development.
- Promote the design and implementation of instruments and initiatives that foster full respect for the identity, dignity, human rights, livelihoods and cultural uniqueness of Indigenous Peoples and that build on their knowledge and vision of development.
- Intensify and support the active participation of Indigenous Peoples in policy processes, spaces and mechanisms at all levels. These include the identification and implementation of programme strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Indigenous Peoples.
- Ensure access to funds and resources that support the initiatives of Indigenous Peoples for climate mitigation and adaptation, starting from the Green Climate Fund.

Recommendations to IFAD:

We thank IFAD Senior Management for its renewed corporate commitment to Indigenous Peoples and we look forward to a strengthened partnership in IFAD's decentralized structure.

- Promote and facilitate knowledge-sharing among Indigenous Peoples, particularly indigenous women and youth, with a special focus on the inter-generational transfer of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and good practices for addressing climate change and building or strengthening community resilience; through the "learning route" methodology, foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing between IFAD and Indigenous Peoples' communities and organizations.
- Support the documentation of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, customary laws and innovations related to climate change adaptation and mitigation as a direct contribution to the work of local communities and the Indigenous Peoples Platform on Traditional Knowledge, focusing on the roles and contributions of indigenous women and youth.
- Increase investments, including through grants, to support capacity-building initiatives of indigenous organizations, institutions and communities, with a focus on youth and women,

that build on their knowledge and innovations, to strengthen their climate resilience and self-determined development.

- Replicate and scale up successful experiences and good practices within projects funded by IFAD and the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility based on indicators defined by Indigenous Peoples.
- Prioritize support to Indigenous Peoples in securing their lands, territories and resources through demarcation, mapping, legal security, respect for indigenous governance systems and registration of customary land as collectively owned, including the right to land by indigenous women and youth; likewise, support the protection of the defenders of land and the environment.
- In line with the principle of “leaving no one behind”, include specific targets and activities in the country strategic opportunities programmes and investment projects focusing on Indigenous Peoples to address the gaps in achieving the SDG targets for Indigenous Peoples under categories such as reducing poverty and hunger, access to renewable energy, women’s empowerment, forest and biodiversity conservation, equality and non-discrimination, among others.
- Facilitate policy processes and dialogues at the national and regional levels between Indigenous Peoples, governments and the United Nations system to develop action plans or other measures that ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the International Labour Organization Convention 169, and the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.
- In line with the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, including the principle of free, prior and informed consent, guarantee the full, systematic and effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of IFAD-funded projects and strategies, including through: (i) the creation of a directory of indigenous experts to be hired within IFAD-supported initiatives at country level; (ii) the establishment of consultative bodies or participatory mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples in each country as part of IFAD’s decentralization process; (iii) participatory monitoring and evaluation; (iv) access to grievance/complaint mechanisms; (v) data disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples in line with the revised Results and Impact Management System policy, and the inclusion of monitoring indicators on social, economic, cultural and institutional aspects, including the identity and well-being of Indigenous Peoples; (vi) the promotion and funding of internships for indigenous professionals and youth in IFAD; and (vii) the organization of an annual regional interface meeting between Indigenous Peoples and IFAD during regional portfolio review workshops.

Recommendations to governments:

- Respect and protect Indigenous Peoples’ customary lands laws, territories and resources and traditional governance systems and adopt and/or implement policies in line with international instruments and standards. Support the demarcation, mapping, legal security, respect for indigenous governance systems and registration of customary land as collectively owned, including the right to land by indigenous women and youth.

- Ensure that projects or initiatives affecting Indigenous Peoples, their territories and resources cannot be taken without free, prior and informed consent.
- Increase investments to initiate, improve and promote the marketing of Indigenous Peoples' products (including indigenous traditional seeds, crops, fruits, vegetables and non-farming products) and protect intellectual property rights in order to improve livelihoods and access to markets for Indigenous Peoples, including women and youth.
- Build partnerships with Indigenous Peoples to design and implement specific targets and measures to ensure their inclusion in the achievement of the SDGs.

As Indigenous Peoples, we commit to:

- Strengthen initiatives to systematize Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, innovations and technologies as a strategy for the design of climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes and policies.
- Enhance and revive traditional indigenous knowledge and values and promote collaboration, research, horizontal knowledge-sharing and networking among Indigenous Peoples to address climate dynamics and global policies.
- Engage in and intensify advocacy actions to include a gender perspective in climate change policies and promote gender equality and women's empowerment, recognizing the differences between men and women in terms of their needs and access to resources, as well as the needs of the most vulnerable among us, including displaced persons and migrants, persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, youth and children.
- Strengthen our unity, solidarity and capacities to engage with IFAD at all levels and with governments, the United Nations system and other relevant development actors in promoting and defending our rights, well-being, aspirations and self-determined development.