

Indigenous Peoples Engagement in IFAD13

Statement at the 2nd IFAD13 Consultation Session, 20 June 2023, Rome

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Distinguished representatives of IFAD, President, the senior management and staff of IFAD and the leaders present here today – I greet you all.

As the representative of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD I express my gratitude for the opportunity to address the team and Members of the replenishment consultations. I am here to give feedback on the engagement of the Steering Committee of the Farmers' Forum, the Steering Committee of Indigenous Peoples' Forum and Youth regarding the informal consultation on IFAD13 that was held recently.

From my own point of view, I see that IFAD recognizes the food systems of Indigenous Peoples and respect our frameworks. Likewise, we must continue strengthening our agricultural practices and recognize the important role that women play in indigenous practices. The recognition of the role of the youth in development is commendable and they play a critical role in the continuity of development. Mechanisms must be sought that allow IFAD through its programme, to make greater economic contribution to indigenous organizational structures.

Also on behalf of the Slowfood indigenous network which I am part of, I want to appreciate the relationship that we have had over the years and the fruits that it has yielded. This process also have been very impactful to me as a young indigenous women from the Maasai community and beneficiary also in my growth in leadership, and our current grant on the capacity building and training of new leaders on agroecology, which is meant also to empower the new leaders project writing and implementation, is a training that will see more indigenous young women, indigenous leaders grow in the network. And as we do this, our aim is to make sure that the work does not stop on the training but that there will be continuous support for these young leaders to actualize or translate the trainings into actions through provision of resources to support the replication process.

We also look at ways to diversify in the indigenous communities in the face of global warming effects that have increasingly affected indigenous communities and other pastoralists. We need to continue to look at alternative ways of survival, given that we need to diversify our diets as we continue still to practise our culture. And therefore, with the limited land and restrictions of movement that we now experience as a pastoralist community, we need to then think outside the box of how we can continue to survive as we continue to keep our culture.

We emphasize the importance of implementing the revised policy of the engagement with Indigenous Peoples during IFAD13 replenishment, respecting our rights and engaging our traditional institutions. We are very grateful that you have expressed your commitment to this and our priorities for IFAD13 are very clear:

- 1) Recognize the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD as a key process by committing to allocate predictable resources.
- 2) Also agree on modalities for silent observer status in IFAD Executive Board and collaborate on guidelines.

- 3) Increase investments, prioritizing indigenous people, aligned with the IFAD policy target and reach 11 million Indigenous Peoples by 2032. We emphasize the importance of including indigenous experts in project design as well as local led consultation process – of which also on this one we are very grateful that IFAD has taken that initiative and we are actually in the process of appointing indigenous leaders who are going to be in contact with the country directors of IFAD national offices, and I really appreciate this.
- 4) Define the operationalization and operationalize direct financing to Indigenous Peoples organizations from ASAP to support our initiatives and foster a knowledge sharing.
- 5) Nominate Indigenous Peoples' Forum Representative to the Advisory Committee of Private Sector Financing Programming once operational, and leverage on Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) and replenish it regularly with IFAD's own resources and external funds for greater impact.
- 6) Lastly, we call for support in promoting people-centred land governance for sustainable food production.

In conclusion, we want to appreciate the opportunity to address the team and the replenishment consultation and thank management for the fruitful relationship between IFAD and the Indigenous Peoples. We hold high expectations for IFAD's ongoing commitment, working hand in hand to enhance inclusivity and sustainability, valuing and respecting the contribution and voices of the Indigenous Peoples. Thank you very much.