

Synthesis of Deliberations

Sixth Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

9, 10 and 13 February 2023

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The Sixth Global Meeting was held in Rome on 9, 10 and 13 February 2023. The meeting was the culmination of a wide global process of deliberation through regional and subregional consultation meetings in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The extensive dialogue around the theme of the Forum generated key recommendations summarized herein.

Preamble

We, Indigenous Peoples, are among those who are particularly affected by the impacts of climate change. These: lead to disruptions to agriculture and other livelihood activities and ecosystems; increase threats to the integrity and security of indigenous lands, territories and resources; and exacerbate food insecurity. These effects further result in: the adoption of unsustainable livelihood strategies, including migration; increased tensions and conflicts; and an increased burden on women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

Likewise, we are concerned about some undesirable and unjust climate actions in large renewable energy projects involving energy transitional minerals through mining that are being imposed in our territories without our consent and in violation of our rights.

Indigenous climate leadership faces challenges, including: lack of recognition and understanding of, and respect for, our governance and decision-making institutions as well as our rights, in particular free, prior and informed consent; discriminatory laws and practices; forced displacement and encroachments on indigenous lands and territories; failure to make space for indigenous planning; and exclusion from climate change debates, decision-making and financing.

Despite the daunting challenges that we face, we continue to demonstrate resilience and active leadership in different ways and processes and at all levels.

Indigenous Peoples' community-led adaptation actions are based on traditional technologies, knowledge and capacities and the incorporation of innovations. These include: adjusting agriculture calendars; adopting more resilient varieties of seeds and livestock; diversifying agriculture and livelihood strategies; and conserving water and soil.

Additional actions include mitigation measures such as: reforestation; land use and territorial planning; life plans anchored in our visions of well-being; sustainable agriculture practices; defense of our lands against encroachments; and community-managed renewable energy plans.

We reinforce these actions by strengthening traditional organizational systems and institutions, by building partnerships and solidarity with national and international organizations and other communities, and by conducting advocacy.

Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership is anchored in our ways of knowing and being, characterized by a deep, intimate and reciprocal relationship with the land, our community living, our resilient and creative spirit, and our intercultural and long-term outlook. Our climate leadership is also intimately tied to the integrity, security and health of our lands and territories and custodianship, robust indigenous social institutions that sustain communities, the vitality of our knowledge systems and spiritual dimension, and a supportive social, economic and political ecology.

Indigenous climate action highlights the important role of women as knowledge bearers and transmitters, and as anchors and guardians of community life and well-being. Equally, the indigenous experience points to the important role of young people as leaders.

IFAD has been an important partner to Indigenous Peoples, demonstrating tangible efforts to make space for our participation and incorporating and responding to our perspectives in its plans and policies.

Based on the frank and open deliberations we have had over the last few months during the consultation process and at this global meeting, we recommend the following:

Recommendations to IFAD

IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples

- Allocate adequate financial and human resources to fully implement the updated IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. This includes: the recruitment of dedicated staff at all levels, including a lead technical specialist; the translation and publication of the Policy in indigenous languages; awareness-raising and capacitybuilding of Indigenous Peoples, governments and IFAD staff; and the development of monitoring tools.
- 2. Develop guidelines and protocols for the meaningful participation of the members of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD as observers at the Executive Board of IFAD.

The Indigenous Peoples' Forum process and dialogue

- 3. Enhance communication, dialogue and information-sharing with Indigenous Peoples, including the participants in the Indigenous Peoples' Forum, especially at the regional and national levels. This includes through: the organization of quarterly meetings; the establishment of country coordination groups; and the identification of focal points at the level of both IFAD country teams and Indigenous Peoples' organizations.
- 4. Ensure that recommendations from the Forum are integrated in the regional action plans to be agreed upon with IFAD's regional divisions.

IFAD country programmes

5. Ensure the meaningful and independent participation of Indigenous Peoples in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of IFAD's strategies, projects and programmes at all levels in order to: (i) align them to our needs, priorities and aspirations, taking into account gender, intergenerational specificities, and persons with disabilities;

- (ii) integrate our values, land tenure, governance and knowledge systems, taking into account our territorial planning and visioning cycles; and (iii) ensure that interventions do not disrupt our systems but rather strengthen and build on them.
- 6. Provide the necessary information, resources and capacity-building to enable Indigenous Peoples to effectively engage in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategies, projects and programmes; and ensure the involvement and hiring of Indigenous consultants in these processes.
- 7. IFAD country teams to actively engage and collaborate with other UN agencies to strengthen complementarity and enhance synergies in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the updated IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership

- 8. Enhance IFAD's leadership role in its engagement with Indigenous Peoples to:
 - a. Promote the respect for and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights and wellbeing by governments, including through free, prior and informed consent, especially in countries where no protocols exist, and provide effective grievance mechanisms;
 - b. Foster meaningful dialogue and cooperation between Indigenous Peoples' organizations and traditional institutions and governments and ensure that the latter are aware of the updated IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and of IFAD interventions on the ground;
 - c. Mobilize support, including direct finance, by other international agencies for Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership; and
 - d. Facilitate and support the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples' in climate and biodiversity actions at all levels.
- 9. Invest in building the capacities of Indigenous Peoples, including to access climate finance that is culturally appropriate, including in relation to disaster risk and response mechanisms, and to design and manage projects and programmes. As concrete measures: (i) develop an internship and fellowship programme for Indigenous leaders and professionals at IFAD, prioritizing women and youth; and (ii) facilitate inter-learning exchanges among the partners of the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) in relation to climate leadership.
- 10. Increase direct support to the initiatives of Indigenous Peoples, with a focus on women, girls, persons with disabilities and youth, in climate leadership and resilience, including through the IPAF.

Recommendations to governments

11. Develop legislation, policies and programmes that protect and advance the rights of Indigenous Peoples and promote their effective implementation in coordination with our

peoples, communities and organizations, by ensuring our free prior and informed consent, alignment with the UNDRIP, and the implementation of the updated IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. Recognize and protect the land rights and the integrity of indigenous "territories of life" and promote the implementation of self-determined development with the necessary technical, financial and institutional resources.

- 12. Support Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership through programmes, policies, adequate resources and financing mechanisms that strengthen our self-determined development, with special attention to women, youth and persons with disabilities.
- 13. Ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, including women, youth and persons with disabilities, in discussions, decision-making and planning processes, including those related to climate and conservation actions, at all levels.

Commitments as Indigenous Peoples

As Indigenous Peoples, we commit to:

- 14. Continue to protect and enhance the health and integrity of our lands, territories and resources through sustainable natural resources management practices.
- 15. Revitalize and continue to develop and transmit Indigenous Peoples' values, knowledge and practices, including our forms of government and decision-making, as key institutions in the stewardship of our lands, territories and resources, and in our climate leadership.
- 16. Continue to advocate for Indigenous Peoples' rights and well-being, and meaningful and diverse participation in IFAD decision-making processes related to climate change and biodiversity conservation at all levels.
- 17. Continue to build collaboration and solidarity between Indigenous Peoples in support of our climate leadership, including through the documentation and sharing of our knowledge and experience.
- 18. Build the capacities of indigenous women and youth and strengthen their participation in decision-making processes and organizations, recognizing the immense value of their contribution to climate leadership.
- 19. Strengthen the engagement and improve communication with IFAD at all levels, including by translating the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples in indigenous languages and establishing accessible formats.
- 20. Support the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. We, as the Indigenous Peoples' delegates to this Sixth Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to IFAD management and staff for organizing this important meeting to strengthen the partnership between IFAD and Indigenous Peoples.