We, indigenous peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific have unique food systems that are anchored in sustainable livelihood practices, and adapted to the specific ecosystems of our territories. These practices include small-scale farming, pastoralism, shifting cultivation, fishing, hunting and gathering. Over generations, these livelihoods have ensured the food sovereignty and well-being of our communities, and are therefore intimately linked to our identities, cultures, spirituality, education and governance systems.

In spite of the high nutritional value of indigenous foods, and the undeniable contribution of indigenous livelihoods to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, our livelihoods are still not well understood and appreciated. In particular, non-sedentary and non-commercial practices are disregarded and discriminated against.

Moreover, many indigenous peoples' communities lack legal recognition and protection of their lands, territories and resources. Forceful land grabbing and displacement for extractive industries, infrastructure projects, industrial agriculture, speculative land investments and conservation areas continue at an alarming scale. This is aggravated by the devastating effects of climate change, leading to rapid dietary changes, loss of traditional food systems, dependency on imported and industrial food, malnutrition and severe health problems. The responses need to be multifaceted, trans-disciplinary and holistic.

In this context, we reiterate our deep appreciation of the ongoing and mutually beneficial partnership with IFAD. IFAD’s policy of targeting rural people living in extreme poverty and food insecurity inevitably leads IFAD to our communities. From our side, we complement this partnership with our traditional knowledge, food systems and sustainable livelihoods as the basis for building constructive solutions.

The Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD has helped set the strategic direction for our partnership, which is progressively being translated into action on the ground. IFAD is increasing its capacity to work on indigenous issues: it has conducted a synthesis evaluation of its work with indigenous peoples and has included the requirement for free, prior and informed consent in its updated Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures. Likewise, our needs and priorities are increasingly reflected in country strategies, programmes and projects. The Indigenous Peoples
Assistance Facility supports a growing number of projects in direct response to the needs and priorities of our communities.

At the global level, IFAD’s support has contributed to the positive outcomes of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, where States committed “to acknowledge, advance and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to lands, territories and resources”, and “to develop policies, programmes and resources to support indigenous peoples’ occupations, traditional subsistence activities, economies, livelihoods, food security and nutrition”. We expect to see these commitments reaffirmed and reflected in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and in IFAD’s new Strategic Framework.

These advances motivate us to further strengthen impact on the ground. We reaffirm our commitment to work with IFAD to address remaining implementation challenges, and we put forward the following recommendations and commitments:

**Joint recommendations to IFAD, governments and indigenous peoples**

- Take a holistic approach to support and strengthen indigenous peoples’ food systems, sustainable livelihood practices, governance systems, and cultural and spiritual values.
- Raise awareness of the values of indigenous peoples’ food systems, including through consumer awareness campaigns, food fairs and educational curricula.
- Facilitate dialogue with the private sector to respect indigenous peoples’ food systems and sustainable livelihoods.

**Recommendations to IFAD:**

- Support initiatives to recognize and protect indigenous peoples’ rights to lands, territories and resources, and disengage from projects that negatively affect these rights.
- Provide capacity-building and facilitate dialogue between indigenous peoples and governments on sustainable livelihoods, including pastoralism and other mobile practices.
- Strengthen indigenous peoples’ participation throughout the programme and project cycles, including in country programme management teams, project design and supervision.
- Ensure that free, prior and informed consent is systematically and properly obtained in the context of IFAD-funded projects targeting or affecting indigenous peoples, including through procedural guidelines and capacity-building of staff and implementing partners.
- Support research, documentation, training, exchange of experiences and scaling-up of successful practices related to indigenous food systems and livelihoods, including across regions.
- Design targeted initiatives for indigenous women and youth, including skills development, intergenerational dialogue, leadership training, participation in decision-making and increased access to appropriate technology.
- Disaggregate data and include indicators specifically relevant to the situation of indigenous peoples in IFAD’s Results and Impact Management System and country strategic opportunities programmes, as well as in other monitoring systems and tools.
- Actively contribute to the realization of the outcomes of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in particular the System-Wide Action Plan, with a particular focus on
definition, application and monitoring of indigenous-specific indicators, including in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Strengthen coordination and collaboration with the other Rome-based United Nations agencies (FAO and WFP) and other institutions, such as the International Land Coalition, on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Lands, Fisheries and Forests; nutrition and other topics.
- Build capacity of IFAD staff, including at the country level, to fully implement IFAD’s Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.
- Submit the present synthesis of deliberations to IFAD’s Executive Board for discussion.

Recommendations to governments:
- Recognize and protect indigenous peoples’ inalienable rights to lands, territories and resources.
- Recognize the value of indigenous peoples’ diverse food systems as a key element of national policies and frameworks for sustainable development, food security and climate change resilience.
- Prepare national action plans, strategies and other measures, in partnership with indigenous peoples, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to implement the commitments made in the Outcome Document of the 2014 World Conference of Indigenous Peoples.
- Support and facilitate participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives in project steering committees, technical coordination units and in monitoring and evaluation.

As indigenous peoples, we commit to:
- Work with IFAD to document and scale up sustainable livelihood practices.
- Build alliances with partners that are working on issues related to sustainable livelihoods and food systems, including producer and consumer associations, the fair trade community, the Slow Food movement and others.
- Continue to work together, across countries and regions, to share good practices for strengthening our resilience and ensure intergenerational continuity of our food systems and sustainable practices.