PROCEEDINGS
FOURTH GLOBAL MEETING OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ FORUM AT IFAD
12 and 13 February 2019
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PROCEEDINGS

FOURTH GLOBAL MEETING OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ FORUM AT IFAD

In conjunction with the forty-second session of the IFAD Governing Council

Theme: Promoting indigenous peoples’ knowledge and innovations for climate resilience and sustainable development

12 and 13 February 2019
BACKGROUND

About the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD

Indigenous peoples around the world have repeatedly asked for a more systematic dialogue with United Nations (UN) agencies. In response, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has taken a series of initiatives and developed key instruments to engage with them. This includes the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, approved by the Executive Board of IFAD in 2009.

The Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD was established in 2011 as a key instrument for implementation of this policy and as an ongoing process of consultation and dialogue between representatives of indigenous peoples, IFAD and governments. 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’ organizations (IPOs) in IFAD’s activities at the country, regional and international levels. The Forum constitutes a unique process within the UN system, providing an opportunity for indigenous peoples and IFAD to further strengthen their collaboration for rural transformation and to help IFAD to implement its policy and translate its principles into action on the ground.

The global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum convenes every other year, in conjunction with IFAD’s Governing Council, its main decision-making body. In preparation for each global meeting, regional consultation workshops are

Fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD, indigenous peoples’ delegates and resource persons. Photo taken at IFAD HQ, 13 February 2019
organized so as to ensure that the Forum reflects the diversity of perspectives and recommendations gathered from indigenous peoples in the various regions.

The overall process is guided by a steering committee (SC) composed of seven representatives of IPOs from the different regions, and one representative each from the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF), the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and IFAD.

The theme of the fourth global meeting

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development approach – to “leave no one behind” – the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025 further reaffirms IFAD’s commitment to indigenous peoples’ self-driven development, while respecting and enhancing their traditional livelihoods, occupations and knowledge. IFAD places strong emphasis on the restoration and sustainable management and use of ecosystems and their services, through the engagement of indigenous peoples in providing environmental services that are sensitive to their traditional knowledge and culture.

The importance of engaging with indigenous peoples on climate change policies and action was recognized in 2015 by the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The COP decision to adopt the Paris Agreement acknowledged that climate change is a common concern of humankind, and that when acting to address climate change the parties should consider and fulfil their respective obligations on the rights of indigenous peoples. It also recognized the need to strengthen the knowledge, technologies and practices of indigenous peoples in their efforts to address climate change.

The operationalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) established by COP23 in 2017, and the adoption by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) of an Indigenous Peoples Policy in 2018, are two major advances in the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making related to climate action and for the protection of their rights.

These recent developments point to the importance of ensuring that IFAD’s policies and initiatives promote and support indigenous peoples’ knowledge and innovations for climate resilience and sustainable development. The SC of the Forum decided that this should be the overall theme for the fourth global meeting of the Forum.

Indigenous peoples’ livelihoods, identity and culture are closely linked to the land and other natural resources in their territories, while the geographical regions and ecosystems that they inhabit are especially prone to the effects of climate change. Given their dependence on natural assets and their close relationship with the surrounding environment, indigenous peoples are among those most affected by changes in climate.

The challenges indigenous peoples face due to climate change are multiple. In many dryland areas, climate change is leading to more prolonged droughts
or excessive rainfall and floods, causing dramatic damage to vegetation and the livestock of pastoralists and nomadic indigenous peoples, and leading to food insecurity and malnutrition.

Combined with deforestation, climate change is also leading to an increased likelihood of forest fires. Higher temperatures and the loss of groundwater in tropical forests are reducing biodiversity, affecting the livelihoods of many indigenous communities.

Indigenous peoples in the Pacific region are heavily impacted by rising sea levels and increasing erosion from storms, thus affecting their livelihood activities, including fishing and hunting.

The Arctic is experiencing some of the most rapid and severe climate change on earth, leading to thawing of the permafrost and melting of mountain snow, glaciers and sea ice. For indigenous inhabitants, this is resulting in the loss of their hunting and food-sharing culture, as reduced sea ice makes the animals on which they depend less accessible.

These changes in climate exacerbate the difficulties already faced by vulnerable communities – including economic and political marginalization, loss of land and resources, and human rights violations. Such changes can cause serious challenges for indigenous communities in sustaining and adapting their traditional livelihoods, and threaten their cultures and ways of life.

Despite this vulnerability, indigenous peoples are uniquely positioned to address and adapt to climate change, due to their close relationship with the environment. They are crucial agents of change for achieving effective climate action, sustainable development and green growth.

Indigenous peoples live in territories that contain much of the earth’s forests; they are custodians of a large part of the world’s biodiversity. They are repositories of traditional learning, knowledge and cultural approaches that are of high relevance and value for climate change adaptation. Traditional and innovative adaptive practices – such as improved building technologies, rainwater harvesting and community-based disaster risk reduction – enhance resilience. Several indigenous crop varieties and agricultural practices present advantages in terms of their tolerance to drought, pests and floods.

Indigenous peoples’ role is of particular importance in the sustainable management of resources and in environmental and biodiversity conservation, which are essential for combating climate change.

For over two decades, indigenous peoples have advocated for greater protection of their rights and increased participation in climate change negotiations and actions. Successful advocacy efforts have resulted in increased awareness and recognition of the role they can play in addressing global issues such as climate change. The growing appreciation of indigenous peoples’ sociocultural and spiritual values – and the desire to leverage indigenous knowledge and experience to support climate change mitigation and adaptation approaches – constitute a considerable window of opportunity.
PREPARATION OF THE 2019 GLOBAL MEETING OF THE FORUM: THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

Four regional consultation workshops were held in late 2018 – in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific – in preparation for the fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD.

The workshops brought together: representatives of IPOs, institutions and communities; national and regional organizations involved in IFAD-funded projects; IFAD staff; IPAF partners; UNPFII members; and government representatives.

During the workshops, participants assessed progress in implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and reviewed the status of implementation of the recommendations of the third global meeting and the regional action plans, as agreed upon with IFAD regional divisions in 2017.

Participants had the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience on climate resilience and sustainable development. They further identified challenges and opportunities for strengthening good practices as sustainable solutions for the future, as well as key elements for enhancing IFAD’s strategies and supporting their implementation.

Based on the discussions, the regional workshops provided suggestions and action-oriented recommendations in relation to indigenous peoples’ knowledge and innovations on climate resilience and sustainable development, which they brought to the global meeting.¹

Box 1. The regional consultation workshops

**Africa:** Nairobi, Kenya, from 19 to 23 November 2018, organized by the Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO) and the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA).

**Asia:** Bogor, Indonesia, from 12 to 15 November 2018, organized by Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN) and IWGIA.

**Latin America and the Caribbean:** Panama City, Panama, from 10 to 13 December 2018, organized by the Center for Indigenous Peoples’ Autonomy and Development (CADPI) and IWGIA.

**Pacific:** Nadi, Fiji, from 4 to 7 December 2018, organized by the Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network (PIFON) and IWGIA.

¹ The summary and regional consultation workshop reports are available here: https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714174/41098608/Regional+Consultative+Meeting+2018.pdf/586dfe0-a3de-7f9d-05fe-8f89b9fdde1.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOURTH GLOBAL MEETING OF THE FORUM

The fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum took place on 12 and 13 February 2019, in conjunction with the forty-second session of the IFAD Governing Council.

The meeting brought together 38 indigenous peoples’ representatives, of which 45 per cent were women and 24 per cent were young people under 35 years of age. They came from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, to exchange views on developments in the partnership with IFAD. Over 40 representatives from partner organizations such as NGOs, foundations, international organizations, UN agencies, research institutes and universities joined the meeting as observers.

Opening of the Forum

The Forum began with an indigenous ceremony conducted by delegates from the Chakma, Kankanaey and Bunong peoples from Asia.

The global meeting was then officially opened by IFAD President Gilbert Houngbo, who highlighted IFAD’s ambition of helping to create a world without poverty and hunger, and the Fund’s special commitment to indigenous peoples.

The President stated that indigenous peoples are disproportionately represented among the poor, making up only 5 per cent of the world’s population but about

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2 The full list of participants is available in annex 2.
15 per cent of those living in extreme poverty. Based on this, "the global development community absolutely must work hand-in-hand with indigenous peoples to achieve the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of ending poverty in all forms, everywhere". Within that context, he reminded the meeting that partnership with indigenous peoples is "part of IFAD’s DNA".

In relation to the theme of the global meeting, the President of IFAD acknowledged that due to indigenous peoples’ deep connection with and dependence on ecosystems, they perceive the changes related to climate better than others. As custodians of 80 per cent of the world’s remaining biodiversity, indigenous peoples have much to teach about how to respect, protect and conserve natural resources. The President believes that the world needs indigenous peoples’ knowledge and innovations, which can provide valuable lessons on how to adapt to and mitigate climate change and increase resilience.

He further expressed concern in relation to the dramatic increase in attacks and violence directed against indigenous peoples. However, the presence of a large number of partners at the Forum was considered a testament to the shared commitment to working together for a stronger voice on the issues that affect them.

He concluded by emphasizing that ending poverty and hunger will depend on working across sectors and exploring innovative solutions. Many of them “are to be found in the traditional knowledge and capacity for creative problem-solving of indigenous peoples”.

The opening remarks from the members of the SC of the Forum further emphasized the results achieved in the partnership between indigenous peoples and IFAD, and expressed deep appreciation for IFAD’s commitment and support over the past years.

In particular, Mr. Joseph Ole Simel (Executive Director of MPIDO, Kenya) emphasized the added value created by the Forum as a process of dialogue and partnership-building to address issues faced by indigenous communities. At the same time, he stressed how the impacts of climate change continue to undermine the ability of indigenous peoples to feed themselves. Exclusion from policymaking, and limited access to and management of land and natural resources, still affect indigenous peoples and hinder achievement of the SDGs.

In Mr. Simel’s view, a key to reversing this situation will be partnership between stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, UN bodies and organizations, the private sector and foundations. The decentralization of IFAD operations also represents an opportunity to improve partnership and collaboration with IFAD at the country level.

Ms. Mane Yun (Technical Advisor at Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization – CIPO, Cambodia) and Mr. Ulaiiasi Radoke Baya (Consultant at Customary Land Solutions, Fiji) acknowledged IFAD’s leaders for their commitment and for the instruments set up for implementation of the Policy, such as the IPAF and the Forum itself. They underlined how these effectively contributed in many
ways to improving the livelihood and well-being of indigenous peoples. Mr. Jesus Amadeo Martínez Guzmán (Board member of the Indigenous Council of Central America – CICA, El Salvador) echoed the previous speakers and added a reference to the good practices and results achieved in relation to policy engagement at the country level. He raised the example of El Salvador in particular, where policy dialogue conducted by IPOs, the government and the UN Country Team led to the adoption of the National Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in 2018.

Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary (member of UNPFII) underlined the need to respect the human rights of indigenous peoples and to value their ways of living, knowledge and traditions, as well as the importance of fully implementing free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) within projects that affect them.

In her keynote address, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) walked participants through a short history of indigenous peoples within the UN system and shared some highlights from her work as Special Rapporteur. While celebrating the progress and gains achieved at all levels, she emphasized that challenges are still being faced by indigenous peoples. In particular, she underlined how indigenous peoples in many parts of the world still face discrimination and are victims of the worst forms of impunity and criminalization. Leaders and activists sacrifice their lives in their struggles to assert and claim their basic human rights. The Global Witness reports in 2016 and 2017 show the disproportionate representation of indigenous peoples among those who were killed defending their lands and protecting the environment. In 2017 alone, 207 human rights defenders were killed.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz called for adoption of a zero-tolerance approach to the killing and violence against indigenous human rights defenders, and for addressing the root causes of attacks on them and their criminalization, with the recognition of the collective land rights of indigenous peoples.

In relation to the theme of the Forum, she said that indigenous peoples have the experience and knowledge systems to help address climate change. This is why they persist in their actions and advocacy and insist on using, sharing and transmitting their traditional knowledge to protect their ecosystems as crucial for resilience and adaptation. Within that context, it will be key to provide resources to further enhance the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including through the GCF.

Finally, she stressed that the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of indigenous peoples will stand a greater chance of being achieved if real decisions are made by them and through their own governance systems. In that regard, the decentralization of IFAD might provide more opportunities to support these processes.

The remarks by Ms. Tauli-Corpuz were followed by an illustrated video developed with the support of IFAD.

3 Link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YkZjNwX1w&feature=youtu.be.
TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN IFAD’S PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Partnership in progress
As is the practice at the global meetings of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum, IFAD presented a report analysing the trends and developments in IFAD’s partnership with indigenous peoples in the respective biennium and taking stock of IFAD’s various experiences in collaborating with indigenous peoples, while investigating the forms of the ongoing collaboration and highlighting success stories and achievements.

In particular, over the biennium IFAD approved four country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) that specifically integrate the issues of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities (in India, Laos, Philippines and Peru) and approved 32 projects that support them. FPIC provisions were included in the design of all projects. In some cases, indigenous experts – or consultants with expertise on indigenous peoples – were involved in project design (e.g. Colombia and Tanzania).

The report further highlighted that training on indigenous peoples’ culture, identity and self-driven development was increasingly being promoted in IFAD-supported projects and programmes, thus improving the capacity of project staff to engage with indigenous peoples at the country level. Efforts were also being made in the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of projects, with the inclusion of indicators disaggregated by ethnicity or the adoption of specific indicators of relevance for indigenous peoples.

IFAD further reported that a US$3 million grant was approved to finance the fifth cycle of the IPAF, in line with the recommendation of the previous global meeting of the Forum.5

IFAD also produced knowledge documents to capitalize on experiences and good practices, such as a study on indigenous peoples’ collective rights to lands, territories and natural resources, and an assessment of the fourth IPAF cycle.7

Important progress over the biennium was also embodied in: the signing by IFAD of the Accreditation Master Agreement that creates the potential for GCF to

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4 Of these, 22 were loans and country grants, with a direct IFAD contribution benefiting indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities of about US$205 million, and 10 were regional and global grants for an amount of about US$11 million.
5 This included an IFAD investment of US$2 million and the contribution by other partners (the Christensen Fund, the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), IWGIA, the Packard Foundation and the Tamalpais Trust.
finance IFAD climate projects; approval of the Rural Youth Action Plan by the IFAD Executive Board, with specific reference to indigenous youth as a priority subgroup; and approval by the Governing Council of the Consultation on the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources, the report of which highlights the role of indigenous peoples in managing ecosystems and protecting biodiversity as a central pillar of IFAD’s approach to mainstreaming the issues of nutrition, gender, youth and climate.

Notwithstanding the progress made, some priority areas were identified that require additional effort. These include the following: (i) capacity-building at multiple levels (IPOs and IFAD staff); (ii) tracking the participation of indigenous peoples in the preparation of country strategies and project designs; (iii) mobilizing additional funding for the IPAF; (iv) supporting the IPOs to access financial support from the GCF; (iv) collecting disaggregated data and using indicators on the well-being of indigenous peoples; (v) strengthening the engagement by IPOs in policy processes, taking advantage of IFAD’s decentralization; (vi) involving indigenous youth in IFAD’s operations; and (vii) scouting opportunities for horizontal South-South exchanges.

Following the presentation, representatives from IPOs delivered an award to Ms. Antonella Cordone (Senior Technical Specialist on Nutrition) in recognition of her long commitment and endeavours for the rights of the indigenous peoples of the world. They also welcomed Mr. Mattia Prayer Galletti, recently appointed as Lead Technical Specialist for Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues.

**Policy dialogue**

Ms. Lola Garcia-Alix (Senior Advisor, IWGIA) complemented the remarks from IFAD by providing information on the policy engagement by IWGIA conducted at the country level in partnership with IFAD and the IPOs.

She underlined that the policy processes supported so far have resulted in increased dialogue between indigenous peoples and governments for the development of strategies and initiatives to improve the well-being of indigenous peoples, and actions and measures for ensuring that their rights are protected and respected. They have also contributed to strengthening cooperation between indigenous peoples and relevant institutions and stakeholders, including national human rights commissions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and UN Country Teams. Beyond the El Salvador experience already mentioned by other speakers, the successful cases reported included those of Paraguay (with the development of guidelines for public policy on indigenous peoples) and of the Democratic Republic of Congo (with the adoption of an overall framework for action on indigenous peoples).
The IPAF assessment

Key highlights from the assessment of the fourth IPAF call for proposals were shared by Ms. Valeria Galletti (independent consultant). In particular, she presented relevant results achieved in implementation of the Facility in terms of: improved livelihoods and empowerment of indigenous peoples; enhanced access to and management of natural resources; and the preservation of traditional knowledge. She further emphasized the added value of the Facility as a unique instrument for supporting indigenous peoples’ self-driven development, and its comparative advantage in reaching out to communities that are often geographically isolated and do not generally benefit from development initiatives. Nonetheless, she also underlined that there is an untapped potential for sustainable development, since only 5 per cent of eligible proposals are funded, with a mobilization effort being needed to reduce this gap. More needs to be done as well to support the capacity-building of IPOs, peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing and exchanges, and improved synergies with IFAD country projects through a more structured dialogue.

Following her presentation, an announcement was made by IFAD on the 35 projects newly selected for funding under the fifth IPAF cycle.

Ms. Antonella Cordone (IFAD) receives the award from indigenous peoples’ representatives
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND IFAD: THE WAY FORWARD

Short summary presentations on the findings and recommendations of the regional consultation workshops held in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific were made in plenary session by the members of the SC: Mr. Joseph Ole Simel, Ms. Joan Umaming Carling (Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development, Philippines), Ms. Myrna Cunningham (Director of CADPI, Nicaragua) and Mr. Ulaiasi Baya. The presentation on the workshop held in Latin America (Panama) was complemented by the showing of a video.

The presentations served as an introduction for the discussion that took place during the three regional working group sessions (for Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean), conducted with the participation of representatives of IPOs from the different regions and IFAD staff from the regional divisions.

The participation of IFAD staff was substantial, including by directors, subregional hub directors, country programme managers and officers, and country team staff (in some cases connected via video link).

Following intense and constructive dialogue and debates, participants in the sessions jointly agreed upon regional action plans and/or recommendations for the biennium 2019-2020.

Outcomes from the regional discussions were further shared and presented in plenary by: Mr. José Gregorio Díaz Mirabal (Coordinating Body of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin, Venezuela), for Latin America and the Caribbean; Mr. Abera Ogato Onchere (Dere Integrated Development Action, Ethiopia), for Africa; and Mr. Anthony Debbarma (Borok People’s Human Rights Organization, India) and Mr. Liam Chicca (Lead Portfolio Advisor, Asia and the Pacific Division of IFAD), for Asia and the Pacific.

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9 See footnote no.1.
10 Link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccEwvjrOqY.
A large number of interventions and presentations by partners enriched the discussion and enabled participants in the Forum to debate and dialogue on issues of relevance to its theme, strengthen mutual knowledge, and assess opportunities for improving linkages and developing synergies and partnerships.

**Green Climate Fund**

*Mr. Leonardo Paat* (Senior Environment and Social Specialist, GCF) joined the Forum via video link to update participants on progress and activities implemented under the GCF since its launch. He reported that 93 projects were financed with GCF financing of approximately US$4.6 million. Several of these projects directly address issues that are of relevance for indigenous peoples (for example, by supporting instruments for reducing emissions from deforestation in Ecuador or by mobilizing private investment for adaptation in Uganda, Ghana and Nigeria).
In addition to the projects, another key advance was approval of the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy in 2018. This policy recognizes that indigenous peoples often have identities and aspirations that are distinct from mainstream groups in national societies and have important contributions to make to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The policy will assist the GCF in incorporating considerations related to indigenous peoples into its decision-making and in avoiding any adverse impacts its activities may have on indigenous peoples’ rights, interests and well-being. In particular, it describes the FPIC requirement for projects and ensures access to benefits and the management of risks through inclusive planning and implementation.

In addition, the GCF is developing operational guidelines containing technical and administrative references and tools for implementing the policy, and will support the establishment of an indigenous peoples’ advisory group to assist with implementing, developing and raising awareness around it.

Indigenous peoples’ representatives raised several issues and questions for the speaker, particularly in relation to the possibility of IPOs directly accessing GCF funds, the need to interact with the GCF at the regional level and to ensure policy outreach, and the willingness of indigenous peoples to be actors in the process and not only beneficiaries.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Ms. Jennifer Rubis (Senior Indigenous Specialist, UNESCO) focused her remarks on the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, which was established to: strengthen the knowledge, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples to address and respond to climate change; facilitate the exchange of experience and the sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic manner; and enhance the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process.

She highlighted some of the advancements and upcoming steps in relation to operationalization of the platform, such as the expected nomination of seven representatives from IPOs to join the LCIPP Facilitative Working Group in 2019. This group will be responsible for proposing a two-year workplan for the period 2020-2021, for implementation of the functions of the platform and for submitting it for consideration to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). A thematic workshop will also be conducted, in conjunction with the fiftieth session of the SBSTA in June 2019, on enhancing the participation in the platform by local communities – in addition to indigenous peoples.

The Holy See

Msgr. Fernando Chica Arellano (Permanent Observer of the Holy See to IFAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme) expressed sincere gratitude for the opportunity to learn from indigenous peoples’ experience, ancestral knowledge and wisdom at the Forum.
Referring to the encyclical *Laudato Si’*, he emphasized the importance of advocating for the protection of “our Common House” in an integrated and holistic manner, since environmental, human and ethical degradation are intimately linked. He underlined that when it is only profit that moves the world, a spiral of injustices is engendered. If this is not understood, the legacy we leave to future generations will be withered lands, depleted seas, polluted air and wastelands. He reminded the audience of the words of Pope Francis, delivered in Puerto Maldonado in 2018 during a meeting with the Amazonian peoples, emphasizing that the defence of land “has no other purpose than the defence of life”.

He concluded by underlining that the response to current challenges requires the joining of efforts, the complementarity of perspectives and the synergy of measures. That is why collaboration, dialogue and the seeking of consensual solutions are now more urgent than ever.

**Sustainable Development Goals**

The intervention of Ms. Joan Umaming Carling focused on the engagement of indigenous peoples in the SDGs. The speaker reminded the audience that indigenous peoples engaged in the SDGs from the very outset to promote indigenous peoples’ sustainable development, particularly in relation to the promotion of and respect for their rights (to land, territories, resources, self-determination, etc.). Thanks to the strong lobbying and advocacy conducted by indigenous peoples at all levels, the 2030 Agenda contains six references to indigenous peoples (both in the political declaration and within Goal 2 on ending hunger and Goal 4 on education). The Agenda also recognizes that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to and are crucial enablers of sustainable development, and should contribute to reviewing progress in achievement of the SDGs.

However, huge gaps still persist in relation to the inclusion of indigenous peoples in SDG processes and to acknowledgment of their contribution to the SDGs. National plans do not always include measures specific to indigenous peoples in addressing gaps in the achievement of goals. As well, while some countries are tracking progress in relation to indigenous peoples, this is not always the case. The approach is also still largely top-down, with a lack of consultation and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the planning, implementation and review of these plans.

At the same time, partnerships with UN agencies mandated to support the implementation of SDGs offer a window of opportunity for collaboration to address priority issues for indigenous peoples, such as: securing land tenure and sustainable resource management; delivering quality education; empowering youth; peace and security; access to renewable energy sources; and supporting indigenous governance systems and institutions and human rights defenders.
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Dr. Hayat Sindi (Chief Scientific Adviser to the President, IsDB) presented the IsDB vision and objectives, its main activities and initiatives, and the work it does to support the combination of indigenous knowledge with scientific knowledge. She stressed that science, technology and innovation continue to be recognized as strategic drivers of economic growth and can be used to develop innovative solutions to the development issues facing indigenous communities.

Within that framework, she presented some opportunities for partnership and engagement with indigenous peoples, such as Engage, an online platform developed by the IsDB that aims to connect innovations with market opportunities and funding. Through Engage, developing communities can benefit from tailored mentoring services, access to financial resources and expert know-how that can help them develop proposals to an internationally recognized standard. Transform, a US$500 million fund, is providing seed money for innovators, start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop their ideas and compose strong business proposals as innovative solutions to global development challenges. The second round of calls under Transform will open on 1 April 2019.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Ms. Shauna Onley (Chief, Gender, Equality and Diversity, ILO) highlighted the positive contributions of ILO Convention No.169 as a framework for promoting indigenous and tribal peoples’ rights as an integral part of inclusive and sustainable development, 30 years on from its adoption in 1989. Convention No.169 has been ratified by 23 countries and has encouraged numerous other countries to adopt laws, policies, institutions or programmes to address the rights and well-being of indigenous and tribal peoples worldwide.

Nonetheless, many challenges still persist. A 2017 ILO study11 reports that the distinctive combination of issues faced by indigenous peoples – particularly women – exacerbate their climate vulnerability. At the same time, with their traditional knowledge and occupations, they have a unique role to play in climate action. They must be seen as powerful agents of change and accorded the opportunity to participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of sustainable policies and measures aimed at combating climate change.

The speaker presented the example of Indonesia’s Simeulue community. Making use of its traditional knowledge, tens of thousands of lives were saved during the 2004 tsunami as this community of some 80,500 people moved away from the shore to nearby hills.

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Looking forward, the ratification and effective implementation of Convention No. 169 will represent a key step towards ensuring that indigenous peoples’ rights are promoted, respected and protected. Further, the vulnerability of indigenous peoples to social, economic and environmental shocks can be significantly reduced, both by including indigenous peoples in general social protection schemes and by conducting more targeted programmes for the development of sustainable enterprises and the generation of livelihoods. Policy coordination and partnership at all levels are also essential for addressing the magnitude of the threats posed by climate change.

**FAO and Bioversity International**

Mr. Yon Fernández de Larrinoa (Indigenous Peoples Team Leader, FAO) and Ms. Gennifer Meldrum (Research Officer, Bioversity International) highlighted the fact that over the past few years there has been increasing attention given to indigenous food systems and extensive discussions to define sustainable food systems in relation to the Paris Agreement and the 2030 SDGs. The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) further calls for enhancement of sustainable food systems and stresses the importance of diversifying diets, while broadening the existing food base and preserving biodiversity. Many of the existing indigenous food systems have been doing this for hundreds of years.

Within this framework, in 2015 FAO was asked to create an indigenous food systems group, and in December 2017 it entered into an agreement with Bioversity International to contribute to the overall discussion on food systems and climate change adaptation through analytical and field activities on indigenous food systems. Thanks to this agreement – and in partnership with other organizations such as the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty, the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) and local indigenous organizations – 12 indigenous food systems were profiled.

A High-level Expert Seminar on Indigenous Food Systems was held at FAO headquarters in November 2018 to present the initial results from these studies and to identify strategies to safeguard the preservation and transmission of ancestral knowledge to future generations. The event resulted in a strong commitment from a variety of actors to strengthen the understanding, promotion and preservation of indigenous food systems so as to achieve the SDGs. The seminar identified key focus areas in which experts should work together to enhance indigenous food systems, and agreed on the need to continue collaborative efforts through a hub on indigenous food systems.
**Slow Food**

Mr. Francisco Luis Prieto (Indigenous Peoples Focal Point, Slow Food) shared the key elements and initiatives around which the partnership between Slow Food and IFAD is articulated to support indigenous youth – including support to Indigenous Terra Madre, implementation of innovative projects in Africa and Latin America, the Slow Food Presidia initiative and the Ark of Taste.

Indigenous Terra Madre is a network of indigenous communities, partners and organizations led and organized by indigenous peoples’ communities. It was born out of the wider Terra Madre network to bring indigenous peoples’ voices to the forefront of the discussion on food and culture and to institutionalize indigenous peoples’ participation in the Slow Food movement. After a long process of consultations, an advisory board composed of indigenous leaders was created. It will be tasked with contributing to the design and implementation of a road map to the year 2020 for Indigenous Terra Madre, strengthening networking and bridging with new communities, and speaking as a unified voice on behalf of indigenous peoples within the network.

Through the initiative to “Empower indigenous youth and their communities to defend and promote their food heritage”, IFAD and Slow Food will support and strengthen existing and new Slow Food Presidia in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Kenya and Mexico, reaching 300 indigenous youth and more than 500 indigenous producers, while also exploring new ways of labelling indigenous food products and improving their marketing.
SYNTHESIS OF DELIBERATIONS

Based on the discussions and contributions from the debates, the synthesis of deliberations of the 2019 global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD was adopted.

The synthesis was read and discussed during the final plenary session of the Forum by Ms. Lavinia Kaumaitotoya (Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network, Fiji), in the presence of the indigenous peoples’ delegates, IFAD Management and the representatives of a number of IFAD Member States.

Box 2. Synthesis of deliberations of the 2019 Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD

Preamble

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, interculturality, 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 proactively 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 intergenerational 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 of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, International Labour Organization Convention No. 169, and the Outcome 3 Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

• In line with the IFAD Policy of 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 the 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 undertaken 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.

Mr. Donal Brown (Associate Vice-President, IFAD) provided a management’s response saying that the Forum is a real testimony both to the representatives of indigenous peoples who over the years have contributed so actively to making it what it is today, and to the dedication of the IFAD staff that have supported its creation and managed its meetings.

He underlined that IFAD and the community of indigenous peoples have much in common, as many of the issues that IFAD is working on are central to the lives of indigenous communities: tackling social and economic marginalization; ensuring access to land and water; promoting sustainable natural resource management; ensuring that rural communities are resilient to climate change; strengthening the capacity of rural people’s institutions; building the space for...
marginalized groups to participate in real policy dialogue with their governments; and drawing on traditional knowledge.

Mr. Brown declared that IFAD should aim to respond positively to all of the recommendations made at the Forum. In particular, supporting indigenous peoples to secure land and water resources is the most beneficial of all the issues IFAD and indigenous peoples can work on, through projects and policy dialogue, with partners such as the International Land Coalition and with IPOs. IFAD could also play a more active role in terms of policy engagement at the country level. However, he also sounded a word of caution on IFAD’s ability to fully respond to all of the recommendations. He underlined that IFAD is an organization whose members are national governments; it works through them and with them. In some countries, it will be easier for IFAD to bring the indigenous peoples’ agenda to the fore, while in others the room for manoeuvre may be limited.

That being said, he emphasized that IFAD is committed to ensuring that the projects it finances will apply the principle of free, prior and informed consent. He also informed the meeting that IFAD is working on incorporating grievance mechanisms into its project designs.

Mr. Brown said that he will hold managers and staff accountable for implementing what is agreed in the regional action plans for 2019-2020 that are being developed, and hopes that concrete indicators to measure success will also be included and monitored. He also shared his expectations regarding a much closer dialogue between IFAD and indigenous peoples as a result of IFAD’s decentralization, with a view to identifying concrete opportunities for collaboration in individual country programmes.

Lastly, he expressed his personal admiration for the work and advocacy conducted by representatives of indigenous peoples, who often put their lives at risk. He hoped that through their partnership, IFAD and indigenous peoples will contribute “to creating a safe space for you to advocate for the issues that are of critical importance to the survival and well-being of not only your peoples but all the human family”.

Remarks from the floor

Government representatives, IFAD staff and indigenous leaders expressed an appreciation for the work of the Forum and its deliberations.

In particular, Mr. José Gregorio Díaz Mirabal emphasized the importance of IFAD supporting indigenous peoples through concrete actions, within a context of global crisis in which the rights of indigenous peoples are under threat.

Ms. Rayanne Cristine Máximo França (Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Brazil) stressed the importance of supporting youth to participate in the policy process at all levels. Ms. Amina Zioual (Voice of Amazigh Women, Morocco) expressed
her concern that in some countries indigenous peoples are referred to as obstacles for development, rather than as agents of change and enablers. Ms. Mane Yun and Ms. Margaret Lomonyang (Karamoja Women’s Cultural Group, Uganda) urged IFAD to strongly engage with national governments for improved policy dialogue, particularly to address land issues, affirming that there is no agricultural development of indigenous peoples without land tenure security.

Government representatives from Canada, Finland, Libya, Norway, Spain and Sweden expressed strong appreciation for IFAD’s work for dialogue with and empowerment of indigenous peoples, which was considered unique within the UN system.

CLOSING OF THE FORUM

The Forum was closed by Mr. Paul Winters (Associate Vice-President, IFAD). In his closing statement on behalf of Ms. Cornelia Richter (Vice-President of IFAD), he reminded the meeting of the key areas that had been identified to further collaboration with indigenous peoples. He shared the need in particular to allow broader and more active participation by youth and the commitment of IFAD to join efforts to enhance the representation of indigenous peoples within the existing international policy forums. He further emphasized that IFAD recognizes the vast traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, for the management of natural resources and for sustainable development, and that collaboration is needed to further enhance and promote that knowledge and to learn from it.

He concluded by affirming that the Forum is not merely a biennial event, but the basis for an ongoing dialogue. Going forward, “we want to ensure that this dialogue is as regular and effective as possible – and we want you to remain in the driving seat”.

12 Government representatives from Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iran, Libya, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Spain, Sweden and Venezuela participated in the final plenary session of the Forum.
OTHER EVENTS AROUND THE FORUM

Acknowledging the achievements of indigenous women - FAO violet chair advocacy campaign

On 12 February, indigenous peoples’ representatives participating in the Forum were invited by FAO and IFAD to take part in the lunch meeting entitled “Acknowledging the achievements of indigenous women - FAO violet chair advocacy campaign”. The objective of the meeting was to highlight the valuable role played by indigenous women in mitigating the effects of climate change and as active agents in safeguarding the environment and contributing to sustainable development.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Ndaya Beltchika (Lead Technical Specialist in the Gender and Social Inclusion team, IFAD) noted that as the agricultural sector is under a rising threat from climate-change-induced increases in temperature, the knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples - and especially women - on sustainable agriculture and protecting ecosystems for carbon storage are the key for moving forward. The lunch session also highlighted the various ways indigenous communities and especially indigenous women are adapting to the changes in their environment. Indigenous women further reminded the role indigenous women play as custodians of traditional knowledge, biodiversity and natural resources and the need to take more effectively into consideration the perspectives of indigenous youth, including indigenous girls.

Lastly, FAO presented the “Violet Chair” initiative, which is a global campaign for the empowerment of Indigenous Women for Zero Hunger. The campaign was launched by FAO, the International Indigenous Women’s Forum and the News Agency of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Women.

It is a call to the authorities, organizations, international community, academia and civil society to guarantee and make visible the full and effective participation of indigenous women in decision-making processes that affect them and their communities.13

Lunch meeting with partners

On 13 February, a lunch meeting was organized on the IFAD premises with the participation of IPAF board members and implementing organizations (International Indigenous Women’s Forum, the Samburu Women’s Trust and the

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Tebtebba Foundation), staff from IFAD, and public and private partners (EAT Foundation, Forest Peoples Programme, International Funders for Indigenous Peoples, International Land and Forest Tenure Facility, IsDB and representatives from the international cooperation programmes of Finland and Sweden). The lunch aimed to present the results achieved in implementation of the Facility and to explore opportunities for the development of collaboration and synergies.

**Indigenous Peoples’ Forum reception**
On 13 February, IFAD hosted a reception for Forum participants on IFAD premises and a dinner at the restaurant of the Agricoltura Nuova cooperative.

**Indigenous peoples at IFAD’s Governing Council**
On 14 February, the synthesis of deliberations was delivered to the forty-second session of the IFAD Governing Council held at FAO headquarters (in the Sheikh Zayed Centre) by Ms Thin Yu Mon (Chin Human Rights Organization, Myanmar). Ms. Dali Nolasco Cruz also participated as a panellist in a special event on access to finance for young people.

**Showcase of IPAF project photos (IPAF projects in Colombia and Ethiopia)**
A mobile photo showcase on IPAF projects was organized on the premises of IFAD (lobby) and FAO (atrium) to share information on indigenous peoples’ traditions, livelihoods and culture through texts and photos. This mobile exhibition might be replicated at other venues, as well as in IFAD country offices or regional hubs.

**Nutrition food booth**
A nutrition food booth was produced as a contribution to the Forum by Slow Food in collaboration with IFAD, aiming to emphasize the role of indigenous food
systems in achieving climate resilience and sustainable development. The booth was set up in the lobby of IFAD during the Forum.

**Meeting with Pope Francis**

On 14 February, a delegation of representatives from indigenous peoples was received on the FAO premises for a private audience with Pope Francis, on the occasion of the opening of the IFAD Governing Council.

Highlighting the extreme importance of environmental issues, the Pope said that the Forum constituted an invitation to look again at our planet, wounded in many regions by human greed, war, conflicts and natural disasters that leave scarcity and devastation in their wake. Within that context, indigenous peoples are a “living cry for hope” who remind us that human beings have a shared responsibility in the care of their “common house”.

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**Box 3. Speech of Myrna Cunningham, in representation of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD, during the audience with Pope Francis**

Naksa, Lamkula tara maiksina, Miskitu tasba wina. Bakanu wan sinska nani kumi ra mankai, asla laka wil sipsa pawaia, laman laka ba yabalka. (“Receive greetings from our indigenous Miskitu territory. If we put all our thoughts together, we can move forward and reach the path of Good Living.”)

We, women and men of indigenous peoples, are honoured that you receive us. We thank you for your contributions and reflections toward world peace. We thank you for your calls to follow the path of dialogue, over any attempt to use force instead of words, and the search for understanding.

Our peoples have past experiences, and unfortunately current ones, about where the path of violence and disrespect for the rights of others leads. We share and we make our words your words: “To achieve peace, courage is needed, much more than to wage war.”

We appreciate the messages you have given the world in relation to us, Indigenous Peoples. You recognize our strength as authentic interlocutors for any national, regional or global efforts to improve the living conditions of those who inhabit this planet. You recognize our role in sustainable development. And you have emphasized how important it is to establish solid and institutional structures of dialogue and participation.

We fully share what is expressed in your Encyclical “Laudato si”, dedicated to the care of our Common House.

If something characterizes us as Indigenous Peoples, it is our deep relationship with the environment, with our ancestral territories, with the Pachamama, which are part of our identity. We practice a vision in which human beings and nature are in close and harmonious relation, a relation that guarantees the life of all beings.

It is no coincidence that the places on our planet whose natural conditions are better preserved are those places that have been inhabited for millennia by Indigenous Peoples. But our ancestral practices face powerful enemies each and every day.
There is violence, which you highlighted in your Encyclical. We are being expelled from our lands for the sake of extractive, agricultural and even energy projects, projects that seek profit and turn an eye away from the degradation of nature or the aggression against native cultures. Almost every day, sisters and brothers are being killed and criminalized somewhere in the world because they are defending their lands and their waters, because they are defending the Pachamama. These injustices demand attention and action at all levels.

We also face conservationist views, which separate the flora and fauna from their ancestral inhabitants, denying the human beings and the environment the possibility to cohabitate in harmony and with integrity.

These problems take place despite the recognition of our fundamental human rights through international declarations and treaties; human rights which, in practice, are still far from being realized.

Dear Pope Francis,

As you yourself have remarked so eloquently, “the defence of the land has no other purpose than to defend life.”

Indigenous Peoples defend life, we defend the environment, we defend our ancestral territories. We defend the diversity of cultures, of languages, of ways of seeing the world. We protect this planet, which is the only one we have. And we defend humanity, our Common House.

We wish to collaborate with the initiatives that you promote to prevent our home from being destroyed and our communities from being marginalized further. We wish to work together to develop an intercultural dialogue that allows concrete actions to protect the planet and its inhabitants. We wish to do these things. And we are ready.

We invite you to continue accompanying us in the efforts that Indigenous Peoples of the world are making. Efforts such as this, the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD, where we promote actions to apply the traditional knowledge and innovations of our peoples to face climate change, and where we also promote sustainable development initiatives that respect cultural diversity and our vision of Good Living.

We are confident that your commitment, capacity and vision on the great issues of humanity will enable us to find in your person an ally in building a world in peace, with dialogue and without wars, where we can restore our Common House as a place where all peoples and cultures can coexist with respect.

Thank you for joining us and for enlightening us on this path. We continue praying for you.
Box 4. Speech of Pope Francis during the audience with indigenous peoples

Distinguished Friends,

I thank Ms Myrna Cunningham for her kind words, and I am happy to greet those who, coinciding with the sessions of the Governing Council, have held the Fourth Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum, convened by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The theme of its work was “Promoting indigenous peoples’ knowledge and innovations for climate resilience and sustainable development”.

Your presence here shows that environmental issues are extremely important, and invites us once again to look at our planet, harmed in many regions by human greed, by armed conflicts that engender a range of evils and misfortunes, as well as natural catastrophes that leave poverty and devastation in their wake. We cannot continue to ignore these scourges, responding to them with indifference or a lack of solidarity, or postponing the measures that are required to confront them effectively. On the contrary, only a vigorous sense of brotherhood will strengthen our hand today in bringing help to those who need it, and opening the door to tomorrow for the generations that will come after us.

God created the earth for the benefit of all, so that it would be a welcoming place where no one would feel excluded and where everyone could find a home. Our planet is rich in natural resources. And indigenous peoples, with their abundant variety of languages, cultures, traditions, knowledge and ancestral methods, become for all of us a wake-up call that emphasizes that man is not the owner of nature, but only its steward, the one who has the vocation to watch over it with care, so that its biodiversity is not lost and water can remain pure and crystal clear, the air clean, forests leafy and the soil fertile.

Indigenous peoples are a living appeal for hope. They remind us that human beings have a shared responsibility in the care of the “common home”. And if certain decisions taken thus far have ruined it, it is never too late to learn the lesson and adopt a new lifestyle. It is about adopting a way to move forward which, leaving behind superficial approaches and harmful or exploitative habits, overcomes atrocious individualism, convulsive consumerism and cold selfishness. The earth suffers and the native peoples are familiar with the dialogue with the earth; they know what it means to listen to the earth, to see the earth, to touch the earth. They know the art of living well, in harmony with the earth. And we must learn this; perhaps we are tempted by a kind of progressivist illusion at the earth’s expense. Let us never forget our grandparents’ expression: “God always forgives, men sometimes forgive, nature never forgives”. And we are seeing this, due to mistreatment and exploitation. You, who know how to dialogue with the earth, are entrusted with passing on this ancestral wisdom.

If we join forces and, in a constructive spirit, engage in patient and generous dialogue, we will end up becoming more aware that we need each other; that conduct harmful to our surrounding environment also negatively affects the serenity and fluidity of coexistence which, at times, has not been coexistence but rather, destruction; that the poor cannot continue to suffer injustices, and young people have a right to a better world than ours and await convincing responses from us.
Thank you all for the tenacity with which you affirm that the earth does not exist simply to be exploited without consideration, but also to be extolled, cared for, embraced. Thank you for raising your voice to assert that respect for the environment must always be safeguarded over and above exclusively economic and financial interests. IFAD’s experience, its technical competence, as well as the means at its disposal, provide a valuable service in carving out roads that recognize that “a technological and economic development which does not leave in its wake a better world and an integrally higher quality of life cannot be considered progress” (Encyclical Letter Laudato si’, 194).

And, in our collective imagination, there is also a danger: that we so-called civilized peoples are “first class” and the so-called native or indigenous peoples are “second class”. No. This is the great error of an uprooted progress, detached from the earth. It is necessary for both peoples to dialogue. Today urgently calls for “cultural mingling”, in which the wisdom of the indigenous peoples can dialogue at the same level with the wisdom of the most developed peoples, without the one cancelling out the other. “Cultural mingling” would be the goal towards which we must strive with equal dignity.

As I encourage you to move forward, I implore God to continue to accompany with his blessings your communities, and those in IFAD who work to protect those who live in the rural and poorest areas of the world, but who are richer in the wisdom of coexistence with nature.

Thank you.

Learn more on the fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD:

https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/event/asset/40852129
**ANNEXES**

**Agenda of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD**

### Fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD

**Theme:** Promoting Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and innovations for climate resilience and sustainable development

**Tuesday, 12 February 2019**

**IFAD, Italian Conference Room**

- **10.00-11.15 Opening session**
  - Chair: Paul Winters, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD
  - Keynote address by the Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum, former President of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), followed by an illustrated video
  - Presentation and opening of the agenda

- **11.15-11.30 Coffee break**

- **11.30-13.00 Plenary session**
  - Chair: Joan Carling, Member, Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD, Asia and the Pacific
  - Rheempraphat, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, followed by an illustrated video and Executive Dining Room

**Wednesday, 13 February 2019**

**IFAD, Italian Conference Room**

- **09.00-10.30 Plenary session**
  - Chair: Elifbrana Lattaka, Member, UNPFII, Africa
  - Presentation on the progress of FAO’s partnership during 2017-2018, by Senior Advisor, Global Governance, IFAD’s Investment Group for Indigenous Affairs
  - Video of the regional consultative meeting in Panama
  - Presentations on the findings and recommendations of the regional consultative meetings held in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

- **11.00-12.30 Plenary session**
  - Chair: Mima Cunningham, Chairperson, Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD, Latin America and the Caribbean
  - Rapporteur on the Synthesis of Deliberations, and preparation for presentation to the Governing Council

**Thursday, 14 February 2019**

**IFAD, Italian Conference Room**

- **14.00-14.45 Plenary session**
  - Chair: Mirna Cunningham, Chairperson, Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD, Latin America and the Caribbean
  - Rapporteur on Indigenous Youth, Francisco Luis Prieto, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants, FOCAL, Save Food International
  - Presentation on Indigenous Peoples and SDGs, Science, Technology and Innovation to the President, Islamic Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome
  - Discussion

- **14.45-15.45 Plenary session**
  - Chair: Devasahaly Roy, Member, IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) Board, Asia
  - 30th Anniversary of the ILO Convention No. 169, Shauna Olney, Chair, Equality, Diversity & ILO/AIDS Branch, ILO
  - Presentation on the Expert Seminar on Indigenous Food Systems and the Global Hub, Yon Fernandez de Lara, Indigenous Peoples’ Team Leader, FAO
  - Presentation on Indigenous peoples’ closing ceremony, Paul Winters, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD
  - Final plenary session open to IFAD Governors and Executive Board Representatives
  - Chair: Paul Winters, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD
  - Reading of the Synthesis of Deliberations
  - Presentation on Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD by Cornelia Richter, Vice-President of IFAD

**IFAD Governing Council 14-15 February 2019 at FAO**

Delegates to the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum are invited to attend the forty-second session of IFAD’s Governing Council with observer status

**Thursday, 14 February 2019**

- **17.30-18.30** Presentation of the IFAD Projects Showcase

**Friday, 15 February 2019**

- **13.00 The Indigenous Peoples’ Forum Dinner**

**Other events around the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum:**

- IFAD-Slow Food Nutrition, Environment and Indigenous Peoples’ Corner, ground floor
List of participants in the fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD

Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

**Africa**

Ms Zahia Bachir  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Ms Djibrilla Didja  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Ms Delaria Festus  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Mr Elifuraha Isaya Laltaika  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Ms Margaret Lomonyang  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Mr Jean Daniel Mansing Yawe  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Mr Keekabile Mogodu  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Mr Edwin Effiom Ogar  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Mr Abera Ogato Onchere  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Mr Joseph Ole Simel  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Mr Wolde Gossa Tadesse  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Ms Amina Zioual  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions

Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

**Asia and the Pacific**

Ms Devi Anggraini  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Mr Ulaiasi Radoke Baya  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Mr Cam Ba Thu  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Ms Joan Umaming Carling  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Mr Pallab Chakma  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Mr Phoolman Chaudhary  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Mr Anthony Debbarma  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Ms Lavinia Kaumaitotoya  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Mr Robert Leslie Malezer  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Mr Devasish Roy  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Mr Tun Hlaing  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Ms Thin Yu Mon  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Ms Mane Yun  
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and institutions

Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms Mirna Cunningham Chairperson, Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD; Board Member, IPAF; Directora, Centro para la Autonomía y el Desarrollo de los Pueblos indígenas (CADPI), Nicaragua

Mr José Gregorio Díaz Mirabal Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica, Venezuela

Ms Rayanne Cristine Maximo Franca Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Brazil

Ms María Clemencia Herrera Nemerayema Organización nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonia Colombiana, Colombia

H.E. Feliciano Jiménez Viceministro de Asuntos Indígenas de Panamá, Panama

Mr José Rodemiro Lantan López Asociacion Coordinadora de Asociaciones y Comunidades para el Desarrollo Integral del Pueblo Maya Ch’ortí, Guatemala

Ms Dali Nolasco Cruz Mopampa, Mexico

Resource persons


Ms Yohanis Del Carmen Amador Lidueña IPAF Co-manager for Latin America and the Caribbean; International Indigenous Women’s Forum/Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas (IIWF/FIMI), Colombia

Msgr. Fernando Chica Arellano Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome, Italy

Mr Yon Fernandez de Larrinoa Indigenous Peoples Team Leader, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Italy

Ms Ruby Bangilan Española IPAF Co-manager for Asia and the Pacific; Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education), Philippines

Ms Valeria Galletti Consultant, Italy

Ms Jacqueline Macharia IPAF Co-manager for Africa; Samburu Women Trust, Kenya

Ms Gennifer Meldrum Research Officer, Sustainable Food Systems, Bioversity International, Italy

Mr Francisco Luis Prieto Indigenous Peoples Focal Point, Slow Food International, Italy

Ms Shauna Olney Chief, Gender, Equality and Diversity & ILOAIDS Branch, International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland

Mr Leonardo Paat Senior Environment and Social Specialist, Green Climate Fund, Republic of Korea

Ms Jennifer Rubis Programme Specialist, Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), France

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## List of background documents

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<td>Video on criminalization of indigenous peoples based on a report prepared by Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</td>
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<td>Report on IFAD’s progress in its engagement with indigenous peoples in the biennium 2017-2018</td>
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<td>Indigenous peoples: valuing, respecting and supporting diversity</td>
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</table>
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ FORUM AT IFAD
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Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago (AMAN)
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Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe (FILAC)
International Indigenous Women’s Forum (IIWF/FIMI)
Mainyoito Pastoralists Integrated Development Organisation (MPIDO)
Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON)
Samburu Women Trust (SWT)
Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education)