

Fifth Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

2, 3, 4 and 15 February 2021

Synthesis of Deliberations

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- a) The fifth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD took place on 2, 3, 4 and 15 February 2021. It was preceded by 14 consultation meetings conducted at the regional and subregional levels in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The consultation meetings saw the involvement of over 540 participants, including representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations, institutions and communities, representatives from IFAD and IFAD-funded projects, members of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and development partners.
- b) The extensive, inclusive and rich dialogue held in the lead up to and during the global meeting is summarized herein.

Preamble

- c) We, Indigenous Peoples of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the fifth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, whose theme is "the value of indigenous food systems: resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic", recall that our peoples, who retain connection to long-evolved cultures and patterns of living in local ecosystems, have unique traditional food systems that are biodiverse, nutritious, climate resilient and equitable, and anchored in sustainable livelihood practices.
- d) Indigenous Peoples' farming, pastoralism, shifting cultivation, rotational agriculture, fishing, hunting and gathering have ensured the food sovereignty, health and well-being of indigenous communities over generations. These have also contributed to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all humankind.
- e) Nonetheless, our livelihoods and traditional food systems are still not well understood, valued and supported, and our traditional knowledge is fast disappearing.
- f) Our holistic approach to resource management, including sustainable food systems, is directly linked to the exercise and protection of the rights to our lands, territories and resources and to self-determination. It is imperative that development actors fully respect and protect these collective rights in order for Indigenous Peoples to continue playing their invaluable role in, and contributing to, sustainable food systems and the protection of the planet.
- g) We, Indigenous Peoples around the globe, remain highly marginalized and discriminated. Our collective survival is being threatened by: the widespread grabbing of our lands, territories and resources; forced displacement resulting from extensive extractive industries, infrastructure projects, industrial agriculture and agribusiness; development schemes without indigenous' vision; criminalization; increasing poverty and hunger; loss of livelihood and cultural heritage; increased violence against indigenous women and girls; and rising inequality, among others. Imposing the conversion to modern food systems is leading to health problems among Indigenous Peoples, and to malnutrition, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. This is aggravated by the adverse impacts of climate change, which is contributing to the depletion of resources and the loss of our traditional food systems.
- h) As a result, despite five years of working towards the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs, we, Indigenous Peoples across the globe, have not just been left behind but we have been pushed further behind and we are affected by major losses in terms of lives and cultures.
- i) The COVID-19 pandemic has increased existing vulnerabilities and exacerbated underlying structural inequalities, socio-economic marginalization and pervasive discrimination. The pandemic is disproportionately affecting and impacting indigenous communities and posing enormous risks to our physical and cultural existence. However, we, Indigenous Peoples and governments, have a common challenge: to establish strategies and plans that integrate the concept of development from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples.

- j) Among the factors reducing our ability to sustain ourselves and fuelling the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on our communities are: lack or limited access to land and natural resources including clean and safe water; restrictions on the exercise of our sustainable practices; loss of livelihoods and the disruption of local economies; limited access to adequate health and social services; lack of access to information in local languages on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- k) The situation of indigenous women, who are often the main providers of food and nutrition to our families, is even more serious.
- I) It is against this backdrop that we call on IFAD, governments, development partners and the private sector including investors to help change the narrative, and to recognize that indigenous food systems hold a treasure of knowledge, experience, values, traditions and development concepts that if adequately supported can contribute to the well-being and health of all humankind.
- m) In September 2021 a United Nations Food Systems Summit will be convened, providing a unique opportunity for global public mobilization and commitments to make food systems inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable.
- n) Within this context, we urge IFAD, United Nations agencies, governments and development partners to look at us, Indigenous Peoples, as game changers for more inclusive, sustainable, healthier and equitable food systems that offer sustainable solutions for developing a more caring and equitable post-pandemic world, while preserving and safeguarding the health of our planet.

Recommendations

Indigenous peoples' food and production systems and the United Nations Food Systems Summit

- 1. To recognize the value of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, traditional practices and food systems in ensuring the food and nutrition security and food sovereignty of our communities.
- 2. To promote the systematization and dissemination of our knowledge and practices, with a focus on women and youth and inter-generational transfer, through the: creation of knowledge platforms and the use of ICT; research; exchange of knowledge and experience between Indigenous Peoples' organizations including food/culinary fairs; documentation of indigenous recipes and traditional medicine; engagement of partners with the needed capacities to support these processes.
- 3. To support Indigenous Peoples' full, meaningful and effective participation in the planning and organization of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, including in Member State, Independent and Global Summit Dialogues. To ensure that our voice, views, solutions and recommendations towards the sustainable transformation of food systems are taken to the Summit and integrated in action-oriented global commitments.
- 4. To support the full recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights to our lands, territories and resources. This will include support to land demarcation and titling, water management and irrigation of productive lands of indigenous communities, and community-based forest protection and management systems.
- 5. To promote agroecology and organic farming and to recover and strengthen the production of traditional medicines, seeds, crops, livestock, wild food sources and indigenous food with high nutritional potential. These will strengthen the food and nutrition sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples based on our knowledge, traditional practices and expertise.
- 6. **To rescue native seeds** resistant to diseases and climate change, and to support seed-exchange programmes among Indigenous Peoples and the creation of local community-based indigenous seed banks.
- 7. To facilitate the marketing of indigenous products by supporting indigenous community-based enterprises, economic initiatives of Indigenous Peoples (including sustainable and community-centred ecotourism) and the formal recognition of Participatory Guarantee Systems, and by improving access to market information, infrastructure facilities and post-harvest technology.

We request IFAD to convey the above-mentioned recommendations to the Secretariat of the Food Systems Summit.

Recommendations to IFAD:

IFAD country programmes

- 8. To ensure the involvement and meaningful, full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, including indigenous women and youth and indigenous peoples' organisations, in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of IFAD strategies and operations, through:
 - Full and effective consultation with Indigenous Peoples;
 - Systematic engagement with indigenous experts in project design, supervision and evaluation through structured mechanisms for consultation and participation;
 - Effective targeting of Indigenous Peoples based on our own identified needs and priorities;
 - Capacity-building of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and of our governance structures;
 - Translation of relevant IFAD documents into national and local indigenous languages; and
 - Promoting and facilitating women and youths for social sustainable enterprises.
- 9. To ensure that specific indicators on the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and disaggregated data on Indigenous Peoples are systematically collected and monitored in the M&E systems of IFAD-supported projects and programmes and that the participation of Indigenous Peoples in IFAD's initiatives is assessed through community and evidence-based information at the national and regional level.
- 10. **To ensure that the principle of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** is fully understood and systematically applied in IFAD-supported interventions, taking into account Indigenous Peoples' visions, needs, practices and self-determined development. The FPIC process should also be properly documented.
- 11. To improve the collaboration between IFAD and Indigenous Peoples' representatives at the country level through regular **communication** and exchange of information, including the regional action plans, with IFAD **Country Offices**, as this is not happening in the majority of countries.

Knowledge generation and sharing on IFAD's operations

- 12. **To continuously document best practices and experiences** within IFAD- and the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility- supported interventions, with the objective of replicating and scaling up results and impact.
- 13. To promote knowledge exchanges among Indigenous Peoples.
- 14. **To update IFAD's toolkit on** "Engaging with pastoralists a holistic development approach" in order to better reflect the current situation and take into account the present challenges and key issues faced by Indigenous Peoples in pastoral areas.
- 15. To prepare a toolkit on the engagement with hunter-gatherer indigenous communities.

IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples

- 16. **To further disseminate the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples** among IFAD staff, especially newly recruited staff in country offices, and implementing partners to ensure that it is well known, understood and fully applied in IFAD operations.
- 17. **To ensure that the updated IFAD policy,** to be submitted to IFAD's Executive Board in 2022, is prepared in consultation and partnership with Indigenous Peoples and focuses on the operationalization of the existing policy.
- 18. **To translate and disseminate the policy** in national and local indigenous languages as a precondition to enable the effective understanding and participation of Indigenous Peoples in IFAD's operations.

Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

19. In line with the decisions taken during the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, to reaffirm IFAD's commitment to Indigenous Peoples including by: (i) replenishing and mobilizing additional resources for (IPAF); (ii) ensuring the presence of representatives from Indigenous Peoples' organizations in the advisory committee of the enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+) and facilitating access to resources for Indigenous Peoples under this instrument; (iii) ensuring that Indigenous Peoples can benefit from the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility to support our resilience and recovery in the context of the COVID-19 crisis; (iv) promoting Indigenous Peoples' participation in projects involving financial intermediaries and the private sector.

The Indigenous Peoples' Forum process and the dialogue with Indigenous Peoples

- 20. To ensure that recommendations from the regional consultations held in 2020 are integrated and reflected in the **regional action plans** agreed upon with IFAD's regional divisions. The plans should be finalized and submitted to the Steering Committee by 15 March 2021, with financial resources earmarked by IFAD to support their implementation.
- 21. To organize within the 2-year period between the Forum's global meetings at least two consultation meetings in each region, with the participation of representatives from Indigenous Peoples' organizations and IFAD, in order to monitor the implementation of the action plan, assess progress, identify obstacles and solutions, and revise priorities as needed. The first consultation meeting should also focus on the preparation of the updated IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

Joint recommendation to IFAD and governments:

- 22. To advocate for enhanced engagement and full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in IFAD funded projects and programmes, particularly in those countries where Indigenous Peoples are not recognized by national governments.
- 23. **To support and facilitate policy dialogue** at all levels between Indigenous Peoples, governments and the United Nations system on issues of relevance to Indigenous Peoples including:
 - · Access to land, territories and natural resources;
 - Access to markets for indigenous products;
 - Sustainable production systems;
 - · Conservation and safeguarding of indigenous seeds;
 - Technology transfer on agricultural production, transformation and conservation; and
 - Promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Recommendations to governments:

- 24. **To meaningfully engage in the preparatory activities** of the Food Systems Summit and facilitate and ensure the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in Member States Dialogues held in preparation for the Summit.
- 25. **To ensure the access to and use of ICT** for Indigenous Peoples to promote our economic activities including farming, artisanal fisheries and harvesting as key to strengthening the resilience of indigenous food systems.

As Indigenous Peoples, we commit to:

- 26. **Promoting the coordination of indigenous peoples' organizations** so as to effectively engage at the country and regional levels with IFAD, governments, the United Nations Country Teams and other relevant development actors in order to promote and defend our rights, well-being and self-determined development with a unified voice.
- 27. **Ensuring stronger networking and communication** among Indigenous Peoples at all levels in order to propose, promote and advocate for sustainable solutions to food insecurity.
- 28. **Strengthening partnership with organizations of afro-descendants**, and to support the inclusion of afro-descendants in the LAC regional action plan.
- 29. Promoting and facilitating the participation, engagement and representation of indigenous youth, women and persons with disabilities at all levels, including in the decision-making and steering bodies and structures that are relevant for our organizations.