

21st Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Statement of the
International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD

Agenda Item 4

Discussion on the theme “Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights), with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Delivered by:
Antonella Cordone,
Senior Technical Specialist, Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues
Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division
Strategy and Knowledge Department

April 2022

Distinguished Members of the Permanent Forum,
Indigenous Peoples' Representatives, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural
Development (IFAD), I wish to thank this Forum for
having acknowledged, during the years, IFAD's progress
in its partnership with indigenous peoples as well as for
pushing our commitment even further by making
recommendations to improve our work.

In 2018, the Forum urged IFAD to "ensure that its high
standards and safeguards are applied to its co-funded
projects initiated by institutions that invest in large
infrastructure".

We are pleased to inform you that in 2021, IFAD updated
its Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment
Procedures.

The Procedures include a specific Standard on indigenous
peoples to ensure that IFAD-funded projects are
designed and implemented with the full and effective
partnership of indigenous peoples.

The safeguards also include other standards that are fundamental to indigenous peoples, such as cultural heritage and biodiversity conservation.

Most of you are familiar with the **Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility**, which is a dedicated fund that finances indigenous peoples' projects in developing countries.

This cycle focuses on climate adaptation, resilience and biodiversity. We take forward our commitment to walk with indigenous peoples and learn from their solutions.

Next week, on 4 May, during a dedicated side-event, IFAD will announce the launching the 6th Call for Proposals of the IPAF, with financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The IPAF is a dedicated fund that finances projects directly to indigenous peoples' communities and their organizations.

Over the past 15 years, the IPAF has proven its capacity to foster self-driven development of indigenous people's communities.

Moreover, thanks to our partnership with Sida we are currently enhancing the design of our climate projects by including indigenous experts on our project design teams.

On 5 May, during a side-event, we will share our experience in applying FPIC in projects that IFAD and Green Climate Fund have funded.

We are confident that the coming year will give us fertile ground to make the partnership between IFAD and indigenous peoples even stronger.

Thank you for your attention.