



PROCEEDINGS
FIRST GLOBAL
MEETING OF THE
INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES' FORUM
AT IFAD

11-12 February 2013



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty



Canadian International
Development Agency Agence canadienne de
développement international



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS





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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD. This brief text cannot provide a verbatim account of the Forum deliberations or do justice to the wealth of comments and insights, experiences and stories that were shared. Rather, the report provides an overview of the main messages conveyed, the key topics discussed, the recommendations put forward by indigenous peoples' representatives and the regional action plans jointly agreed upon by IFAD and indigenous participants. For those interested in learning more, the report provides links to background documents, case studies, videos, photos, interviews and further reading.

Opening ceremony of the first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum



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Ms Juana Segura Indigenous Communicator, Federación de Mujeres Indígenas de Anta (FEMCA); Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas, Perú

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THE PATH TO ROME

When the first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD convened in Rome in February 2013, it was the culmination of four years of progress.

Establishment of the Forum was first proposed in 2009, in the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. The Forum was seen as a concrete way to institutionalize consultation and dialogue with indigenous peoples' representatives at national, regional and international levels.

In 2011, IFAD convened a workshop at which participants came to agreement on the organization, scope, objectives and operations of the Forum. They also elaborated the Road Map 2011-2013 as a guide for the first global meeting. The objectives agreed to at the workshop were:

- Monitor and evaluate implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, including its contribution to realizing the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Share and discuss the results of this evaluation with IFAD staff, Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples for the benefit of indigenous peoples.
- Build and strengthen partnerships between IFAD and indigenous peoples to address poverty and sustainable development in the context of culture and identity, taking into account the perspectives and aspirations of indigenous peoples.
- Promote the participation of indigenous peoples' organizations in IFAD activities at country, regional and international levels, at all stages of project and programme cycles.
- Support the capacity-building processes of indigenous peoples' organizations.

In accordance with the road map, case studies were prepared to document experiences, good practices and lessons learned from IFAD-funded projects with indigenous peoples. These were discussed at regional meetings in Africa, Asia and Latin America in late 2012. Participants at these meetings developed regional recommendations aimed at further strengthening the partnership between IFAD and indigenous peoples.

These recommendations were essential input for the discussions at the global meeting of the Forum in Rome. It took place in connection with the annual meeting of the Governing Council of IFAD and was attended by 31 indigenous peoples' representatives from 25 countries (see annex A for the list of participants).

See the video from the establishment of the Forum in 2011, at:
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xj6nks_indigenous-peoples-and-ifad-trailer_creation#.USu6f7Q1YII



Mr Abou Intchirwak, Tidawt Organization, Niger
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OPENING OF THE FIRST GLOBAL MEETING OF THE FORUM

Opening Statement of IFAD President Kanayo F. Nwanze

“Indigenous peoples are valued partners for IFAD”

The purpose of the Forum is to improve how IFAD works with indigenous peoples in global partnerships for advocacy, in formulating country strategies and in designing, implementing and evaluating projects. The global Forum meeting is an opportunity for IFAD to hear directly from indigenous peoples and for them to observe the workings of the IFAD Governing Council.

Unfortunately, indigenous peoples are often victims of marginalization and discrimination. Often they lack rights to land, territories and resources, which results in poverty. This is why indigenous peoples account for 5 per cent of the world’s population but 15 per cent of those living in poverty. IFAD, whose work is to reduce rural poverty and hunger, must make a special effort to reach out to indigenous peoples.

IFAD supports projects that help poor rural people grow more food, learn new skills, build strong organizations and gain a voice in making the decisions that affect their lives. IFAD aims to reach 90 million people by 2015, helping to move 80 million out of poverty. To do this, we will need to be more effective in reaching and engaging the indigenous peoples who live in the areas where IFAD works.

Indigenous peoples are valued partners for IFAD too, with much to share about how to live, how to work and how to cultivate in a manner that provides for future generations.

In 2009, IFAD adopted a Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. The Forum provides an opportunity to assess progress and to improve implementation of the policy. IFAD funds about 240 ongoing projects. About 30 per cent of these support indigenous peoples’ communities in 38 countries, for a total investment of about \$800 million.

There has also been good progress with the Indigenous Peoples’ Assistance Facility, which provides grants for indigenous peoples-focused development projects. Since 2007, the Facility has approved more than 100 projects designed and implemented by indigenous peoples’ communities. We hope the Forum will produce tangible results in the form of higher participation of indigenous peoples in IFAD’s operations. And we hope it will be useful in developing strategies ahead of next year’s World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. We are looking at ways to further support you in this important process.

Development and change cannot be imposed from the outside. Every tree, every plant, must be fully rooted in its own soil to flourish. The traditions and the knowledge of indigenous peoples are precisely what must be cultivated if we are to achieve real and lasting improvements in the rural areas of the developing world.

For the full statement of IFAD President Kanayo F. Nwanze see annex D.

Opening Statement of IFAD President Kanayo F. Nwanze



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Opening remarks by members of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum

Myrna Cunningham, member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Nicaragua

“Now we are talking to the highest authorities”

In the not-too-distant past, the United Nations system did not open its doors to indigenous peoples, but now we are talking to the highest authorities. The Forum is a concrete example of this change. It is a mechanism for application of UNDRIP and a

response to indigenous peoples' demands for systematic and institutionalized mechanisms for participation. Indigenous peoples are ready to participate and to help improve IFAD's operations in our countries. We want to participate throughout the project cycle and to promote this collaboration as an example of good practice within the United Nations system. We also appreciate IFAD's support to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and hope we can work together to shape the post-2015 development agenda.

Myrna Cunningham, member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Nicaragua



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Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines



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Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines
“We must work together to bring about self-determined sustained development”

The Forum brings the partnership with indigenous peoples to a higher ground. In 2002, we had our first encounter, when IFAD supported the Indigenous Peoples International Summit on Sustainable Development, prior to the World Conference on Sustainable Development. Since then, IFAD has provided consistent technical and financial support, including to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This is a relationship characterized by reciprocity, which helps IFAD gain more visibility.

The world is changing and facing multiple financial and economic crises, leading to social disintegration. The rich world is bailing out banks and not citizens; extractive industries are grabbing land in the name of growth in Asia, Africa and Latin

America. UNDRIP establishes a universal minimum standard to ensure the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples. Article 42 calls upon United Nations agencies to contribute to the full realization of UNDRIP, including by providing financial support.

We are here to explore and agree what to do further to implement UNDRIP and bring about self-determined, sustained development. Neither indigenous peoples nor IFAD can do it alone, but together we can achieve so much more, building on gains and experiences. One positive example is the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights and traditional knowledge in the context of the negotiations concerning climate change and biodiversity. Another is the growing recognition of culture as a fourth pillar of sustainable development, in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

The sad story is that violations of basic human rights and land grabbing continue. But even at the cost of lives, indigenous peoples' activists continue to forge unity among themselves and to make governments, corporations and international society respect our rights.

Adolphine Muley, National Coordinator, Union pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone, Democratic Republic of Congo
"We must continue dialogue and build capacity of local IFAD staff"

The goal of the Forum is to assess implementation of IFAD's Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. This will contribute to implementation of UNDRIP by identifying sustainable solutions in accordance with indigenous peoples' cultures and aspirations, at local, national, regional and international levels.

IFAD has generated many positive experiences, including adoption of the policy itself and establishment of financial mechanisms focusing on indigenous peoples. These ensure support for projects to protect indigenous peoples' traditional lands and knowledge, consistent with environmental protection. Also, the principle of free, prior and informed consent is increasingly being applied.

However, challenges remain. Certain country offices and staff do not fully understand the details of the policy. Some IFAD Member States do not recognize the rights of indigenous peoples, precluding them from fully participating or contributing to country programmes. Indigenous peoples are not sufficiently considered in IFAD country programmes, although they are sometimes mentioned in the documents. African indigenous peoples therefore urge IFAD to enhance its influence on land policies; encourage use of free, prior and informed consent in implementing projects; and engage in continuous dialogue and capacity-building of local IFAD staff so they will better understand and be able to implement UNDRIP and the IFAD Policy.

**Adolphine Muley, National Coordinator,
Union pour l'Emancipation de la Femme
Autochtone, Democratic Republic of Congo**



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Ms Otilia Inés Lux de Coti, Executive Director, Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas (FIMI)

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROAD MAP 2011-13

Major steps and achievements

Antonella Cordone, Coordinator for Indigenous and Tribal Issues, IFAD

The timeline of major events in the ongoing collaboration between IFAD and indigenous peoples began in 2002 at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, followed in 2003 by our first official encounter at IFAD. Today, 10 years later, we have many collaborative instruments in place: the Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, updated IFAD operational guidelines, mechanisms for quality enhancement, the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) and 31 country technical notes on indigenous peoples' issues. IFAD has had two indigenous Fellows and we have established the Indigenous Peoples' Forum. IFAD projects generally acknowledge cultural heritage and identity as assets. IPAF has been decentralized to be co-managed by indigenous peoples' organizations at regional level and has supported 102 small projects in 43 countries, with a total budget of \$2.6 million. As we look back at what we have accomplished together over the past decade, we have much to be proud of.

In 2011, upon establishment of the Forum, the further concrete steps to be taken before this meeting were summarized in the road map. Over the past two years, many activities have taken place to implement it, including:

- A campaign to disseminate information about the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.
- Two meetings of the interim Steering Committee, at which Committee members were informed about ongoing IFAD-funded projects.
- Development of an agreed-upon framework for monitoring and evaluating IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples.
- A baseline survey on indigenous peoples' participation in IFAD projects, undertaken in 2012.¹
- Eight case studies on IFAD-funded projects.
- Three regional workshops, which took place in late 2012 in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in preparation of the first global meeting of the Forum.

These results are the collective achievements generated in partnerships involving the Steering Committee, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Foro Internacional de Mujeres

Antonella Cordone, Coordinator for Indigenous and Tribal Issues, IFAD



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¹ The survey covered 39 projects that addressed or included indigenous peoples. In 82 per cent of the projects, indigenous peoples participated in the design and/or implementation; in 18 per cent, indigenous peoples had specific responsibilities in the implementation process; and in 17 per cent they participated in monitoring and evaluation. Thus, the baseline showed good results but also a need to further improve.

Indígenas, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, Mainyuito Pastoralist Integrated Development, Tebtebba Foundation and the Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas, as well as IFAD staff at regional and project levels.

Results of the Asia-Pacific regional workshop

Joan Carling, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

The regional workshop in the Asia-Pacific region took place 10-11 November 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand, with the aim of discussing the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and how to strengthen its implementation. Four case studies on IFAD-funded projects were presented and are still undergoing review.

Workshop participants identified some of the key positive outcomes of IFAD's engagement: IFAD makes indigenous peoples more visible and thus provides an opportunity to promote their rights; IFAD policy is relatively strong in terms of language that is consistent with UNDRIP; and IFAD helps to link indigenous peoples with governments, although there is still room for improvement.

Two major challenges were identified: (1) How to jointly adopt a development paradigm that reflects indigenous peoples' self-determined development and avoid separating sustainable development from recognition of our collective rights; and (2) how to ensure participation by indigenous peoples at all levels of development cooperation.

The case studies documented good practices such as strengthening of community-based governance institutions; inclusion of gender concerns and attention to the needs of women; facilitation of empowerment by self-help groups; and increased access to education as a measure to overcome discrimination.

The case studies also revealed some challenges, such as the fact that indigenous peoples and project staff were not fully aware of the policy. (However, it must be kept in mind that most of the projects assessed were operational before the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples was approved in 2009.) This indicates the need for more customized dissemination to staff, governments and indigenous peoples as the starting point for reaching common understanding. Moreover, the studies showed that huge gaps remain in recognition of indigenous peoples' rights at national level in Asia.

Joan Carling, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact



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Jacqueline Wanjiru Macharia, Mainyuito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization



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Results of the Africa regional workshop

Jacqueline Wanjiru Macharia, Mainyuito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization

The Africa regional workshop was held 22-23 November 2012, in Nairobi, Kenya. It took place in connection with two other events, one on climate change adaptation and one on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (taking place in September 2014 at United Nations headquarters). IFAD thus contributed to maximizing the use of resources. There were difficulties in finding indigenous experts to undertake the case studies; one is ongoing in the Republic of the Congo, and another will be conducted

possibly in Burundi, where a small project financed through the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility is ongoing.

The workshop found that only a few of the workshop participants knew about the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. It is thus considered crucial that governments, IFAD staff and indigenous peoples familiarize themselves with the policy. It should be made available to people everywhere, even at grass-roots level. If the Forum is to monitor implementation of the policy, it will require mechanisms for interaction, not only internationally but also at regional, national and local levels. Other key challenges are lack of recognition of indigenous peoples by Member States and lack of genuine participation by indigenous peoples in projects funded through IFAD loans or grants and implemented by governments.

Workshop participants unanimously expressed appreciation of IPAF and the IFAD Policy, and they praised the establishment of the Forum as a unique initiative to be followed by other United Nations agencies. Other elements of good practice were:

- Applying the requirement for free, prior and informed consent in projects.
- Combining environmental conservation and development.
- Gender mainstreaming in projects.

The participants put forward the following key recommendations:

- Systematically apply the principle of free, prior and informed consent.
- Influence land tenure reforms, taking indigenous peoples' concerns into account.
- Facilitate dialogue between governments, IFAD and indigenous peoples.
- Provide capacity-building for indigenous peoples, such as by establishing a regional training institute.
- Have indigenous specialists monitor IFAD-funded projects.
- Find creative ways to share experiences and lessons learned from IFAD-funded projects.

Results of the Latin America and the Caribbean regional workshop

Myrna Cunningham, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Latin America and Caribbean workshop was held in Nicaragua on 3-5 December 2012. One third of the participants were from areas where IFAD is funding projects, one third were from indigenous peoples' organizations in the region and one third were beneficiaries of IPAF projects. The workshop was organized by a committee consisting of representatives from governmental institutions, local and autonomous governments, the United Nations system and seven indigenous territorial governments in Nicaragua. The workshop had broad media coverage.

The objectives of the workshop were to (1) disseminate information about IFAD's Policy, which is not well known; (2) consolidate common positions to be conveyed at the Forum; and (3) clarify aspirations related to the Forum. In preparation for the workshop, three case studies were conducted, in Ecuador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Representative from Latin America and the Caribbean



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The workshop identified the following key aspects emerging from IFAD-funded projects:

- Good practices in IFAD-funded projects in support of indigenous peoples.
- Consideration of gender aspects and empowerment of indigenous women.
- Balance between traditional and new knowledge.
- Respect for the governance institutions of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.
- Participation of indigenous peoples' organizations.

Lessons learned:

- Major results are achieved by the application of a gender focus with cultural identity.
- Project-implementing entities should have autonomy to operate.
- Co-funding should be defined with due regard to context, e.g. acceptance of in-kind contributions where indigenous organizations have little possibility to contribute cash.
- Local technical staff should be used to the extent possible.

Challenges:

- The principle of free, prior and informed consent is not yet mainstreamed.
- There should be broader community control over project funds.
- Tenure security over territories is a major challenge in most countries; even where indigenous peoples have title to the land, territorial regulation and conflict resolution with intruding third parties are still pending.
- There should be a balance between production for food security and for the market.
- Indigenous issues should be incorporated in country strategies.
- Sometimes governments put up obstacles to the transfer of funds in cases where indigenous peoples' organizations should have administrative responsibility.

Main recommendations:

- Strengthen the differentiated identities of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants instead of lumping them together.
- Make indigenous peoples the protagonists of their own development.
- Support training and capacity-building, exchange of experiences and learning routes.
- Identify indicators of well-being.
- Expand the scope of IPAF.
- Strengthen the capacities of government institutions to address indigenous peoples' issues.
- Ensure that the Forum remains active in the periods between the global meetings and provide opportunities for regional discussion and mechanisms for communication.

Discussion of main issues emerging from regional presentations

Following the presentations, the participants discussed issues that were shared across the regions. Key issues highlighted:

- For indigenous peoples, poverty is synonymous with losing access and control over land, territories and resources, but many development projects promote agricultural expansion on indigenous peoples' territories. This loss is being aggravated by the effects of climate change. Land and resources are related to food security and sovereignty; these are crucial issues. As IFAD is concerned with poverty reduction, it should promote recognition of indigenous peoples' rights to land, territories and resources. It also should promote inclusion of non-monetary aspects of poverty and well-being in discussions of the post-2015 development agenda.
- It is important to work with and get commitment from governments, particularly in Africa and Asia, where recognition of indigenous peoples' rights is weak. Such commitments should be reflected in IFAD's agreements with governments. There should be mechanisms at national and project level for effective tripartite engagement of government, indigenous peoples and IFAD.
- Governments are responsible for respecting and protecting indigenous peoples' rights, and IFAD's Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples clearly upholds respect for those rights. As a United Nations agency, IFAD has an obligation to encourage governments to abide by their international human rights obligations. When indigenous peoples speak the same language it underlines the relationship between sustainable development and human rights. United Nations agencies such as IFAD can play an independent role in enhancing policy dialogue at national and regional levels and in pushing for universal recognition of rights, including UNDRIP. United Nations agencies are specifically mandated to do so by UNDRIP articles 41 and 42.
- In the African region, United Nations agencies should follow the approach to indigenous peoples suggested by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, which is endorsed by the highest body of the African Union. Agencies need to strengthen their knowledge and capacity to understand and work on these provisions. IFAD should seek partnership with other United Nations agencies to establish joint platforms that promote indigenous peoples' rights. IFAD should also develop a protocol for application of the principle of free, prior and informed consent, to overcome the current ad hoc approach.
- IFAD can facilitate employment of indigenous experts, based not on their ethnicity but on their skills. It will enhance the quality of projects if indigenous knowledge and skills can be tapped, as they know their geographic areas and food systems.



Ms Jacqueline Wanjiru Macharia, Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO);
Mr Moses Khumub, Tsintsabis Trust, Namibia
Ms Agnes Leina, Executive Director, Il'laramatak Community Concerns (ICC - Kenya)

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REGIONAL WORKING GROUP SESSIONS: ENHANCING IFAD'S ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The participants divided into regional working groups, chaired by the IFAD regional directors. These groups brought together indigenous peoples' representatives and IFAD staff to jointly define regional action plans for 2013-2014.

Asia and the Pacific working group session

The Asia and the Pacific working group session was attended by 30 participants representing indigenous peoples' organizations, resource persons and IFAD staff. It deliberated on the recommendations of the preparatory Asia-Pacific regional workshop held in November 2012 and arrived at an action plan for 2013-2014 to implement these recommendations. The meeting affirmed that the Indigenous Peoples' Forum is a space for more profound dialogues and action planning between indigenous peoples and IFAD.

Action plan 2013-2014

- It was reiterated that indigenous issues are important for IFAD at all stages of country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) and project cycles, and that IFAD will improve its consultation mechanism to include indigenous peoples, especially in projects that directly affect them.
- Capacity-building is needed at all levels in IFAD, governments and indigenous peoples' organizations. In this context, peer learning, mentoring and South-South cooperation will be supported.
- IFAD will translate a summary of the Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and other important IFAD policies into the five most commonly understood languages of the region for wider dissemination.
- It was agreed that work done to develop specific indicators for indigenous peoples by indigenous peoples' organizations (e.g. Tebtebba Foundation) and IFAD will be shared with the Asia and Pacific Division for possible piloting in selected projects from the current pipeline of investment projects.
- The Asia and Pacific Division is developing a resource book on good practices in monitoring and evaluation. Indigenous peoples' organizations are encouraged to share examples of good practices to be included in it.
- Indigenous peoples' organizations are encouraged to use and enhance IFADAsia as a vehicle to share information and good practices. The website link is <http://asia.ifad.org>. Indigenous peoples' representatives will be invited to regional

Statement by Rufina Peter, Senior Research Officer, PNG Institute of National Affairs

As Pacific representatives, we wish to voice the region's request for visibility in the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, which in our view should commence with IFAD recognizing the need to host separate subregional workshops in the future. Pacific subregional workshops are critical for sharing learning and collating experiences and issues specific to the Pacific Region, given the recent crowding out experienced in the Asia Pacific preparatory workshop in Bangkok. The issue is one of visibility for the Pacific Region in light of its completely unique and rich cultures and traditions; being the home of the largest biodiversities in the world; its differing definition of 'indigenous peoples' than that of the Asia perspective; and the significant size of land and sea area covered by the region.

knowledge-sharing events organized by IFAD, and IFAD staff will participate in similar events organized by indigenous peoples' organizations.

- IFAD has grant resources to fund capacity-building initiatives, including cofinancing for the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility, which is managed by the Policy and Technical Advisory Division. These resources can be accessed on a competitive basis. IFAD will also make efforts to generate additional resources for capacity-building of indigenous peoples.
- IFAD will promote the indigenous peoples' agenda in forums organized by governments involving all development partners at country level.
- In baseline surveys conducted at the beginning of investment projects, IFAD will include some questions related to indigenous peoples to allow monitoring of results and impact.
- It was agreed that information about the grievance mechanism of the IFAD Office of Oversight and Audit will be disseminated widely. Indigenous peoples' organizations and other stakeholders are encouraged to use this mechanism to address their concerns about IFAD projects.

Africa working group session

The Africa working group session began with a presentation by Commissioner Soyata Maiga, Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The presentation was followed by a discussion on indigenous peoples' development in the African context. Participants then developed the regional action plan for 2013-2014.

The situation of indigenous peoples in Africa

- The Chair of the Africa Commission Working Group of Experts on Indigenous Populations highlighted the work done by the group. A notable aspect was the group's 2005 report, which listed indigenous peoples in Africa. Challenges were identified in the definition of indigenous peoples. The criteria used include self-identification as indigenous peoples, isolation and infringement of rights.
- The presentation also highlighted the reluctance of many African governments to recognize indigenous peoples. It noted improvements in the Republic of the Congo, but indigenous peoples face serious challenges in Central Africa and the Sahel region. The major issues appeared to be rights, access to resources, participation and consultation in matters affecting them.
- The African Commission called on IFAD to strengthen partnerships with other United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to better address indigenous peoples' issues.
- A presentation on the synthesis of recommendations from the preparatory regional workshop was intensively discussed. Participants agreed to the following action plan for a more effective partnership between IFAD and indigenous peoples.

Action Plan 2013-14

IFAD-funded programmes and projects

- IFAD will continue to ensure participation of indigenous peoples in its projects through the design process and a more rigorous review process.
- IFAD cannot apply free, prior and informed consent in all projects everywhere; the application of the principle of free, prior and informed consent must be specific to indigenous peoples' territories and must refer to the wording in the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.
- Indigenous peoples of Africa commit to engage with their governments to ensure equitable representation in staffing of projects in indigenous peoples' areas and in dialogue on land tenure issues.
- Collaboration with indigenous peoples in Africa needs to take into account other vulnerable groups that may feel excluded, by providing support to inter-community dialogue.
- IFAD to encourage more funds for indigenous peoples' organizations through IPAF and by building the capacity of indigenous peoples to apply successfully for IFAD grants.
- IFAD can further the employment prospects of indigenous peoples by helping them to overcome discrimination, such as through capacity-building and education,² and also by acknowledging the skills and knowledge they can bring to IFAD.
- IFAD will ensure consideration of gender issues in its interventions with indigenous peoples.

Policy dialogue at country level

- IFAD should play a role in enhancing policy dialogue at national and regional levels. IFAD and other United Nations agencies can play an independent role in pushing for realization of universally recognized rights, including UNDRIP (which is the purpose of articles 41 and 42 of the declaration). IFAD can also act as a knowledge broker by providing lessons, experience and opportunities for interaction including through learning routes and other exchange tours among indigenous peoples' organizations. This applies also to reforms around land tenure and land use planning.
- Indigenous peoples' representatives are asking United Nations agencies to help them strengthen their knowledge and capacity to understand and work on the provisions regarding indigenous peoples of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.
- IFAD should seek partnership with other United Nations agencies and establish joint platforms to promote indigenous peoples' rights.
- IFAD will continue with its bottom-up approaches in the design and implementation of projects, with a focus on inclusion.
- IFAD will continue to support capacity-building among all its target groups, including indigenous peoples, to enhance their capacity to engage in more meaningful policy dialogue. Where an indigenous peoples' group is identified near an ongoing project, capacity-building for that group can link to the project. IFAD will also support capacity-building of indigenous peoples' organizations to reach their groups more effectively.

² Response from IFAD Management on this specific issue: *IFAD has no mandate for education to make any target group more competitive, but for capacity-building mainly related to livelihoods.*

Communication and knowledge management

- Indigenous peoples of Africa and IFAD will continue to support information sharing among IFAD projects and stakeholders.
- The staffing capacity of IFAD country offices is limited by the directive of the Executive Board. IFAD country offices are not in a position to recruit focal points for indigenous peoples' issues, but during project design IFAD will encourage governments to include such a focal point in any project with the potential for impact on indigenous peoples.
- It is important to ensure that consultations with indigenous peoples are undertaken in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way and that key documents are translated into languages understood by indigenous peoples.

Latin America and the Caribbean working group session

The meeting began with a summary presentation on the preparatory workshop held in December 2012. The discussion focused on the following key issues:

- IFAD-funded projects and programmes.
- Policy dialogue at the national level.
- Communication and knowledge management.

Recommendations/commitments of IFAD's Latin America and Caribbean Division

- Broaden the range of consultation beyond municipalities to include indigenous leaders in areas where IFAD is designing and supervising projects and programmes.
- Ensure that COSOP exercises include more systematic participation by indigenous leaders. This will commence in countries where COSOP exercises are currently taking place: Guatemala, Mexico and Peru.
- Ensure participation by indigenous leaders in round-table meetings organized in the context of country programme evaluations, such as in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Ecuador.
- Consult with Forum members to ensure participation by indigenous representatives.
- Recognizing the need for ethnically disaggregated statistics and cultural indicators in IFAD's monitoring and evaluation systems, undertake documentation and analysis to (1) determine what data are available in the countries, starting with national statistics and census offices; (2) identify well-being indicators to measure progress on poverty reduction based on the visions of different indigenous peoples; and (3) promote the use of disaggregated information in monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Coordinate within IFAD to standardize a global protocol for application of the free, prior and informed consent principle.
- Recognizing that diversity is important, use the instruments available to IFAD (COSOPs, evaluation round tables, etc.) to promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities and other historically excluded sectors in government projects.
- Promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples in operations cofinanced with the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua.

- Make learning routes available to indigenous peoples, such as the ones being organized by PROCASUR Regional Corporation on IFAD-funded projects.
- Cultivate dialogue between organizations participating in the Forum and the IFAD regional division in the framework of organizing the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The IFAD regional division could play an instrumental role in the preparatory meeting to be held in Mexico.
- Work to strengthen indigenous peoples' partnerships and relationships with international non-governmental organizations and other development cooperation agencies to consolidate their capacity for dialogue and participation.
- Propose participation by indigenous peoples in developing the post-2015 development agenda, particularly in view of the need to promote the use of rural development indicators responsive to different visions.
- Monitor and follow up on commitments through the subregions (Brazil for the Southern Cone, Guatemala for Mesoamerica and Peru for the Andean region), taking into account the ongoing decentralization process at IFAD.



Mr Sochea Pheap, President, Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA), Cambodia
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INFORMATION SHARING ON THEMATIC ISSUES

World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and post-2015 agenda

**Joan Carling, Secretary General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
and Member of the Global Committee of the World Conference on
Indigenous Peoples**

The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) will take place 22-23 September 2014, at United Nations headquarters, just before the meeting of the General Assembly. The objective of the Conference is to share perspectives and best practices relating to indigenous peoples. Governments will be the primary participants in this high-level meeting, but experts from United Nations bodies will participate as well as a limited number of indigenous peoples. The President of the General Assembly has appointed two co-facilitators, one from government and one representing indigenous peoples. This is unprecedented in the United Nations system and constitutes a participation milestone.

The Conference will consist of two plenary sessions, three interactive round-table meetings and one informal panel discussion. An informal interactive hearing will take place no later than June 2014 to discuss the draft outcome document, which should be action-oriented.

Preparations for WCIP are already under way. A global Coordination Committee has been established, regional preparatory meetings have been held and a global meeting will be held in June 2013 in Alta, Norway.

Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director, Tebtebba Foundation and Member of the Global Committee of the WCIP

The key objective of WCIP is to enhance implementation of UNDRIP. The meeting in Alta is expected to involve 800 participants, 400 indigenous peoples and 400 observers from non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and other entities. The meeting should consolidate results of the regional meetings and come up with one globally agreed document that summarizes indigenous peoples' priorities and issues, to feed into the WCIP outcome document.

Indigenous peoples' concerns relating to the post-2015 development agenda arise from their critique of the Millennium Development Goals as not responding to their priorities, rights and aspirations for development. The United Nations Secretary-General has organized a series of high-level panels to develop a report on aspirations for the post-2015 agenda in four major areas, including equality and environmental sustainability. Ensuring participation by indigenous peoples in this process is a big

challenge and there is much work to be done. Some of the emerging features of the post-2015 agenda are:

- Development should be seen as freedom; it should be equitable and reduce disparities and human insecurity, and it should address key global issues such as climate change and market instability.
- It should address macro and meso policy levels and be applicable to both North and South.
- It should draw on human rights commitments and should be determined in participatory ways.
- It should strengthen international strategic partnerships.

Indigenous peoples have to convince our governments to include our issues in this agenda. If we are not able to influence them, we will not succeed globally.

Increasing opportunities for indigenous women as key actors for indigenous peoples' well-being

Agnes Leina, Il'laramatak Community Concerns, Kenya

The Maasai in Kenya and in northern parts of the United Republic of Tanzania are semi-nomadic pastoralists who have so far resisted the urging of their governments to adopt a more sedentary lifestyle. The Maasai in Kenya lost 60 per cent of their lands when the British evicted them to make room for settlers' ranches, and subsequently more land was taken to create wildlife reserves and national parks.

Persistent gender discrimination against indigenous peoples in Africa has been exacerbated by natural disasters, poverty, illiteracy, female genital mutilation/cutting and forced and early marriages, among other factors. Climate change is increasing droughts, floods and storms, putting food security at risk. Land is increasingly being privatized, but within a patriarchal society in which women do not own land or livestock. Lack of property ownership is a violation of women's rights, and human rights activists are fighting these violations.

Societal change affects women and children most. Women and girls are the first to go hungry when food is scarce. As climate change depletes water and wood, they have to walk longer distances to fetch them. In the process they are at risk of attack by wild animals and other dangers in the forests, from minor accidents to sexual violence. This work also forces young girls to miss hours and even days of school. During severe drought, men travel long distances in search of green pastures, leaving women to care for the children and elderly people left behind.

Despite being the most affected by poverty and climate change, women are not involved in policy decisions on these issues. Therefore, a study is needed in Maasai areas to find means of including women in key policy decisions on issues of livelihoods, food security and climate change. Kenya's new constitution spells out a number of women's

Agnes Leina, Il'laramatak Community Concerns, Kenya



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rights, including inheritance rights and access to and control of assets such as land, livestock and water. Advocacy around these rights should be increased and the capacity of indigenous women to demand these rights should be strengthened.

Anima Pushpa Toppo, Convener, Jharkhand Jangal Bachao Andolan, India

Traditionally the spiritual, cultural and economic life of forest-based tribal communities depends on the forest. The notion of 'mother earth' is at the centre of the value system. The forest has always been a source of empowerment for women in tribal society, and forest resources are strongly associated with women.

The tribal concept of economy comprises both monetary and non-monetary aspects, and women are involved in both. The non-monetary aspects include communal work, family support, sharing, learning and the functioning of traditional institutions. Women have deep knowledge of food varieties, availability, techniques and practices, which they have learned and shared within their families and societies over the years.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has recognized indigenous knowledge as an "invaluable basis for developing adaptation and natural resource management strategies in response to environmental and other forms of change."³

Some of the actions necessary to strengthen traditional economy and knowledge are:

- Strengthen local institutions and women's, youth and cultural groups, which sustain community knowledge.
- Promote community-owned resource management, as it is usually governed by rules and sanctions that protect and manage resources and ensure continuous access to them.
- Promote intellectual property rights so that indigenous communities can feel proud of their knowledge and safeguard it as part of their culture and identity.
- Increase women's participation as holders of knowledge, in order to strengthen learning and sharing within society.
- Strengthen the bottom-up approach, working with youth and children so they can further strengthen and protect the traditional economy and knowledge.
- Implement government policies, acts and schemes that support traditional knowledge. In India, the Forest Right Act of 2006 and the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act of 1996 are among the few laws that provide for protection of the traditional economy.

Anima Pushpa Toppo, Convener, Jharkhand Jangal Bachao Andolan, India



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3 IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007, http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_and_data_reports.shtml.

Myrna Cunningham, Member, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Nicaragua

There are considerable socio-economic gaps between indigenous men and women, but also between indigenous women and non-indigenous women. These gaps reflect the intersection of racial discrimination, social stratification and gender inequalities. To make these hidden gaps visible, there is a need to disaggregate data with regard to ethnicity and gender.

Indigenous women contribute substantially to economic pluralism through a diversity of productive activities, including gathering fruits, fishing, protecting seeds, cultivating crops, producing handicrafts and fetching water. These contributions should be considered in policies and programmes to support traditional productive practices and secure land tenure. In particular, female inheritance of land and the situation of widows should be addressed.

Indigenous women also play a crucial role in the functioning of traditional economic institutions in their communities, through their roles in ceremonies and communal practices. Practices such as reciprocity, complementarity, solidarity and redistribution of resources need to be supported and strengthened. Further, the role of women in the collective environmental services of indigenous communities must be considered.

Some of the good practices for increasing opportunities for indigenous women identified in the context of IFAD-funded projects are:

- International human rights instruments are used as reference points.
- Projects are based on gender duality and complementarity in accordance with indigenous world views.
- Local economic development is conceptualized on the basis of local knowledge and skills.
- Projects strengthen traditional production and women's organizations; women assume administrative responsibilities and are economically empowered.
- Projects foster inter-generational dialogue, capacity-building and leadership training of women.
- Women's networks are used to facilitate participation of women in activities.

Resolution 56/4 of the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (February-March 2012) recognizes indigenous women as "key actors in poverty and hunger eradication." Some of its recommendations to strengthen the role of indigenous women are:

- Train indigenous women in the use of information and communication technologies.
- Strengthen capacities and leadership and adopt measures to guarantee the full and effective participation of indigenous women in decision-making processes at all levels.
- Provide equal access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health, and to water.

- Respect and promote traditional medicine.
- Promote equal access to justice and to ownership of land and property.
- Take action to eliminate all forms of violence against indigenous women.
- Collect and disaggregate data on indigenous women.

See annex E for the blog report on gender and the indigenous peoples' forum.



Ms Saudata Walet Aboubacrine Coordinator, Association Tin Hinan, Burkina Faso
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SYNTHESIS OF DELIBERATIONS

The Synthesis of Deliberations, agreed to by all Forum participants, draws on the concerns, experiences, lessons and recommendations put forward by the regions and the deliberations by participants and IFAD staff. Thus, it is a synthesis in the true meaning of the word – a combination of many varied elements that together form a whole. In this case, it is a synthesis that constitutes the framework for new models of partnership between IFAD and indigenous peoples.

Synthesis of Deliberations: First global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, 11-12 February 2013

We, the indigenous peoples of Asia, Africa, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, still conserve our diverse identities, cultures and spiritual traditions. The ecosystems within our territories are still relatively intact, and we continue to be the custodians of biodiversity. Our diverse knowledge systems and livelihood practices have the potential to contribute to and inspire new models of sustainable development, building on culture and identity, firmly anchored in respect for our individual and collective rights.

In the midst of economic, environmental and cultural crisis, it appears to us that current development processes have not delivered the promised goals of poverty reduction and sustainable development. Evidence shows that indigenous peoples are overrepresented among the poor, are often excluded from poverty reduction efforts and still suffer from discrimination. We are ready to continue contributing and participating, to work in a mutually beneficial partnership with IFAD to reach the ambitious goal of reducing rural poverty, recalling that there can be no sustainable rural development without – or at the expense of – indigenous peoples.

We sincerely appreciate the serious efforts of IFAD to establish a strategic partnership with indigenous peoples. It has reached a higher ground with the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum. We see this as a good practice for intergovernmental institutions and a key step in the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which establishes a universal minimum standard for survival, dignity and well-being of our peoples. The Forum institutionalizes our relationship with IFAD and establishes a shared learning environment, based on the principles of consultation, participation and dialogue. It will also help in facilitating implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. The dedicated funds of the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility have increased IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples as a specific target group.

Our collaboration so far has generated valuable experiences, lessons learned and good practices, but also revealed challenges. Some states still do not adequately recognize indigenous peoples in national legislation and policies. IFAD's policy and the provisions on free, prior and informed consent have not been systematically applied. These are identified as major obstacles to having our issues adequately reflected in IFAD country strategies and programmes. At the project level, a survey has shown an encouraging number of projects involving indigenous peoples during design, but significantly weaker participation in implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

We therefore put forward the following recommendations to consolidate our partnership and strengthen the systematic implementation of IFAD's Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples:

For governments, IFAD and indigenous peoples jointly agree to:

- Firmly link the global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum with follow-up mechanisms at regional, national and project levels, for effective tripartite dialogue on the inclusion of indigenous peoples' needs and priorities in country strategies and IFAD-funded projects.
- Document, exchange, share, replicate and scale up good practices with regard to indigenous peoples' self-determined sustainable development.

Particularly, we call upon governments to:

- Recognize indigenous peoples' rights to land, territories and resources, including rangelands and corridors, and the contributions of traditional knowledge systems, technologies and livelihoods for ecosystem resilience and sustainable development.
- Build the capacity of government institutions to address indigenous peoples' needs and priorities, by providing training to staff and employing indigenous experts within their institutions.
- Respect, protect and fulfil the rights of indigenous peoples as stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and acknowledge the role of indigenous traditional institutions, authorities and organizations.

We call upon IFAD to:

- Increase its capacity on indigenous peoples' issues, including by providing training to staff, furthering the employment of indigenous experts and, when possible, appointing focal points at country level.
- Ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, including in the formulation of country strategies and throughout the project cycle.
- Implement effectively its Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples in working with projects targeting or affecting indigenous peoples, including by systematically encouraging borrowing governments to consult with indigenous peoples to obtain their free, prior and informed consent. IFAD should consider this consultation and consent as a criterion for project approval, as stated in the policy.
- Increase direct funding to indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions, including to the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility.

- Acknowledge and value indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge, technologies and environmental services in conservation and sustainable use of their ecosystems, as in-kind contributions to projects.
- Inform and involve indigenous peoples in supervision missions and evaluation.
- Identify and operationalize, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, specific indicators on the well-being of indigenous peoples.
- Devise measures for affirmative action targeting indigenous peoples, particularly women and youth.
- Use the Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples as a platform for policy dialogue at country level with governments and other development partners.
- Ensure that during project formulation in-country, and within the design of projects, communication and information provisions for indigenous peoples are appropriately provided.
- Continue support to the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.
- Support and undertake joint advocacy with indigenous peoples on their issues and concerns in the post-2015 development agenda.

Our commitment as indigenous peoples' organizations is to:

- Continue to defend and sustain our land, territories and resources as the basis for our sustainable livelihoods and development, and as our contribution towards global environmental sustainability.
- Report back to our communities and organizations on the outcomes of this first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum and continue the dialogue and our partnership at all levels.
- Work jointly with IFAD and governments to design and elaborate economically viable, culturally appropriate and ecologically sound sustainable development models for our peoples.
- Advise and influence governments to adopt and implement public policies oriented towards promoting indigenous peoples' self-determined sustainable development.

Vicky Tauli-Corpuz



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Ms Sohayata Maiga, African Union Commissioner, Chair, African Commission's Working Group of Experts on Indigenous Populations/Communities, Mali

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RESPONSE TO THE SYNTHESIS OF DELIBERATIONS BY IFAD MANAGEMENT AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice President, Programme Management Department, IFAD

“You are pushing us but what you ask us to do is do-able”

The demand for the services of IFAD is huge; even richer countries want assistance in terms of knowledge. However, the world is not generous with resources and United Nations agencies are having difficulties in responding to all the demands. Therefore, we have to find ways of serving indigenous peoples and other clients efficiently.

I fully agree with the preamble of the Synthesis of Deliberations; there can be no sustainable development without or at the expense of indigenous peoples. This is why the partnership with you is so precious.

I want to applaud and congratulate you on your recommendations to IFAD. You are pushing, but what you have asked us to do is do-able, although we may not be able to fully comply with all recommendations before we meet again in 2015 for the next global Forum meeting.

The IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples establishes free, prior and informed consent as a principle to be followed. The reason why it has not been applied systematically is that many governments do not respect this principle. IFAD cannot guarantee that governments will listen to us, but we recognize this is a problem, and we will consider free, prior and informed consent as a criterion for project approval.

On the more specific recommendations, I will highlight the issues of documentation of good practices; increased institutional capacity; full and effective participation, including in supervision; acknowledgement and valuing of traditional knowledge; affirmative action; joint advocacy; establishment of focal points; and provisions on communication. All of these recommendations are important, relevant and welcomed. We will work on them within the limitations that you know of.

I also agree with your call for governments to respect lands, territories and resources. This is crucial and we will continue to try to reverse current situations of non-respect.

Finally, I appreciate the commitments you are putting forward as indigenous peoples. This is reciprocity and true partnership.

Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice President, Programme Management Department, IFAD



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Exchanges with Executive Board Representatives

Richard Philippart, Executive Board representative of Luxembourg

I am delighted to be here, and I can see that the work of the Forum has been going very well. The Synthesis of Deliberations is an important and interesting document and I agree with the comments of the Associate Vice President. These recommendations also reflect my own experiences, and I agree that indigenous peoples should get the right support from IFAD. Let us see that this gets implemented in practice.

Michael Bauer, Executive Board representative of Germany

I feel privileged to be here and learn about the impact you have on IFAD. It is good that IFAD took the initiative to establish this Forum, and it has strong support from the Board.

Donatienne Hissard, Conseillère, Représentante permanente adjointe auprès du FIDA, France

I welcome this very interesting result. It is important that IFAD deals with the most vulnerable, including indigenous peoples. Many of the topics discussed here are core issues for France, such as responsible land tenure and cultural diversity. This partnership strengthens the role of IFAD on the international scene. As members of the IFAD governing body, we should be certain that programmes are done on the basis of the free, prior and informed consent of the peoples involved, and we are ready to help you in that regard.

The **Synthesis of Deliberations** was presented by **Vicky Tauli-Corpuz** to the IFAD Governing Council on 13 February 2013.

It was presented along with a case story on IFAD support to community-based tourism from the Ecuadorian Amazonas, by **Pedro Tzerembo**, from the Shuar people. Mr Tzerembo brought a message of peace and wisdom, imbued with the energy of the spirits and gods of the Amazon forest, from those who were struggling deep in the forest every day to survive. Referring especially to the presence of large extraction companies

that posed a threat to the home of indigenous peoples, which is their source of life, he called for an end to harmful forms of development. He welcomed the support and commitment of IFAD, particularly through its financing of a project submitted by IKIAM to strengthen cultural identity through the production of typical arts and crafts, music and dance. The project was based on the world vision and spiritual approach of the Shuar, embodying a lifestyle that is sustainable for indigenous peoples, respectful of the environment and in balance with nature. See videolink at: <http://www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/forum/synthesis.htm>.

**Pedro Francisco Tzerembo, President,
Red de Centros Turísticos Comunitarios
del Cantón Arajuno (REDCTC.CA), Ecuador**



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Carlo Petrini, founder of the International Slow Food Movement and Terra Madre, sent a message of friendship and affinity to the indigenous peoples' representatives at a dinner for Forum participants co-hosted by IFAD and Slow Food:

We have learned to work together, firmly convinced that the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples is a precious resource for all humanity. In recent years food and food culture have assumed a significant role in global policies. For too many years food was seen as a mere commodity, its true value lost. Now it is widely realized that through food we can talk not just about economy, but also about culture, traditions, health, education, landscapes and the environment. It is a holistic vision that puts food at the centre of global policies.

Indigenous peoples have taught us this lesson, simply because it is what they have always practised. In indigenous peoples' culture and lives, food is in harmony with nature. And this is why indigenous peoples now have a strategic role to play in showing us the way forward. The world's rulers need to follow these good practices. They must listen to their voices and recognize the authority of their ideas. The Terra Madre and Slow Food networks have long worked, even through Indigenous Terra Madre, to protect these values. And now more than ever before, they realize that this work can change the destiny of humanity.

This is why the Forum for all of us is a reason for hope. We are closely looking at your work and at IFAD's sensitivity in understanding that you are key political actors at the global level. For this reason I hope that the issues you are raising attract attention throughout the world, not just because they generate hope but because they strengthen the cooperation and solidarity, culture and politics. If we want to use a unifying concept, it is the profound sign of peace.

See videolink at <http://www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/forum/index.htm>

For more information on the Forum, background material, videos, photos, etc. visit <http://www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/forum/index.htm>

ANNEX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' ORGANIZATIONS

AFRICA

Ms Saudata Walet Aboubacrine, Coordinator, Association Tin Hinan, Burkina Faso

Mr Abou Intchirwak, Tidawt Organization, Niger

Mr Moses Khumub, Tsintsabis Trust, Namibia

Ms Agnes Leina, Executive Director, Il'laramatak Community Concerns (ICC - Kenya)

Ms Jacqueline Wanjiru Macharia, Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO); Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility Regional Partner, Kenya

Ms Adolphine Buayuwa Muley, National Coordinator, Union pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone (UEFA); Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mr Moses Mutumba, Programme Manager - Multi Community Based Development Initiative (MUCOBADI), Uganda

Ms Kamira nait sid, Vice présidente du congres mondial Amazigh; Présidente de l'association de femmes de kabylie; Vice président de l'association de populations de montagnes du monde pour l'Afrique du nord, Algeria

Ms Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Association des Femmes Peuples Autochtones du Tchad (AFPAT); The Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC), Chad

Mr Karimu Unusa, Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, (MBUSCUDA), Cameroon

Mr Wolde Gossa Tadesse, Programme Officer, the Christensen Fund; Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD; Board Member, IFAD Indigenous Peoples' Assistance, Ethiopia

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Ms Margarita Bacoco, Provincial Supervisor, Montanosa Research and Development Center (MRDC), Philippines

Ms Joan Carling, Secretary General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP); Board Member, IFAD Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility, Philippines

Mr Laljibai Gafurbahai Desai, Executive Director, MARAG; Secretary General, World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP); Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, India

Ms Rufina Peter, Senior Research Officer, Papua New Guinea Institute of National Affairs; Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, Papua New Guinea

Mr Sochea Pheap, President, Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA), Cambodia

Mr Raja Devasish Roy, Member, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), Bangladesh

Mr Ang Kaji Sherpa, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), Nepal

Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director, Tebtebba Foundation; Convenor, Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN); Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD; IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility Regional Partner, Philippines

Ms Anima Pushpa Toppo, Convener, Jharkhand Jangal Bachao Andolan (JJBA), India

Mr Anthony Wale, Executive Director, Aoke Langanga Constituency Apex Association (ALCAA), Solomon Islands

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Ms Sara Raquel Benítez Méndez, Asociación Mborayu Pora, Paraguay

Mr Nicolás Betis Gómez, Vice Coordinador, Coordinadora de Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA); Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, Venezuela

Ms Mauricia Castro, President, Asociación de Productores Indígenas de Yoro (APROINY), Honduras

Mr Gregory Juan Ch'oc, Executive Director, Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM), Belize

Ms Myrna Cunningham, Member, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII); Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD; Board Member, IFAD Indigenous Peoples' Assistance, Nicaragua

Mr Armando Edwin, Presidente, Gobierno Territorial Matumbak (GTI-Matumbak), Nicaragua

Mr Abigail Grajales Cabrera, Coordinadora Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas de Panamá (COONAPIP); Delegate of Consejo Indígenas de Centroamérica (CICA), Panama

Ms Otilia Inés Lux de Coti, Executive Director, Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas (FIMI); IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility Regional Partner, Guatemala

Ms Juana Segura, Indigenous Communicator, Federación de Mujeres Indígenas de Anta (FEMCA); Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas, Perú

Mr Pedro Francisco Tzerembo, President, Red de Centros Turísticos Comunitarios del Cantón Arajuno (REDCTC.CA), Ecuador

RESOURCE PERSONS

Ms Sohayata Maiga, African Union Commissioner, Chair, African Commission's Working Group of Experts on Indigenous Populations/Communities, Mali

Ms Chandra Roy-Henriksen, Chief, Secretariat, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

Ms Ariel Halpern, Coordinator, Asia and the Pacific, PROCASUR

Ms Giulia Pedone, Focal Point, Indigenous Peoples' Issues, PROCASUR

Ms Maija Peltola, Director General, PROCASUR

IFAD STAFF

Mr Hokeun Ahn, Special Programme Officer, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)

Mr Jean-Philippe Audinet, Senior Technical Adviser, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)

Ms Verónica Alliende, Programme Assistant, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)

Mr Ambrosio Barros, Associate Country Programme Manager, West and Central Africa Division (WCA)

Mr Mohamed Beavogui, Director, Office of Partnership and Resource Mobilization (PRM)

Ms Clare Bishop-Sambrook, Senior Technical Adviser, Gender, Empowerment and Social Inclusion (PTA)

Mr Zachary John Bleicher, IFAD North American Liaison Office (NALO)

Ms Khalida Bouzar, Director, Near East, North Africa and Europe Division (NEN)

Mr Nigel Brett, Country Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)

Mr Adolfo Brizzi, Director, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)

Ms Federica Cerulli, Supplementary Funds Officer, Office of Partnership and Resource Mobilization (PRM)

Mr Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice President, Programme Management Department (PMD)

Ms Antonella Cordone, Coordinator for Indigenous and Tribal Issues, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)

Mr Francisco David e Silva, Portfolio Adviser, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)

Mr Ides de Willebois, Director, West and Central Africa Division (WCA)

Mr Jean-Maurice Durand, Technical Adviser, Land Tenure, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)

Mr Khalid El Harizi, Country Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)

Mr Tawfiq El Zabri, Results-based Management Officer, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)

Mr Samuel Eremie, Country Programme Manager, East and Southern Africa Division (ESA)

Ms Natalia Espinel, Programme Assistant, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)

Mr Grayson Ferrari dos Santos, Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)

Ms Ariane Frier-Ferrari, Portfolio Support Officer, East and Southern Africa Division (ESA)

Ms Cristina Fumo, Assistant, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)

Ms Valeria Galletti, Consultant, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)

Ms Beatrice Gerli, Consultant, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)

Ms Cintia Guzmán, Budget and Results Officer, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)

Mr Ron Hartman, Country Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)

Mr Roberto Haudry, Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)

Ms Sirpa Jarvenpaa, Director, Office of the President and the Vice President (OPV)

Mr Luis Jiménez-McInnis, Special Adviser to the President, Office of the President and the Vice President (OPV)

Ms Esther Kasalu-Coffin, Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)

Ms Jaana Keitaanranta, Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)

Ms Sabina Khatri, Intern, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)
Ms Hoonae Kim, Director, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)
Mr Chung Jin Kim, Partnership Officer, Office of Partnership and Resource Mobilization (PRM)
Mr Prashanth Kotturi, Evaluation Research Analyst, Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE)
Ms Rosalie Lehel, Natural Resource Management Programme Support Officer, East and Southern Africa Division (ESA)
Ms Annabelle Lhommeau, Country Programme Manager, West and Central Africa Division (WCA)
Mr Roberto Longo, Technical Adviser, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)
Mr Joaquin Lozano, Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)
Ms Emma Jessie McGhie, Intern, Indigenous and Tribal Issues, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)
Ms Laure Martin, Regional Analyst, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)
Ms Sylvie Marzin, Implementation Support Manager, West and Central Africa Division (WCA)
Mr Robson Mutandi, Country Director and Representative, East and Southern Africa Region, IFAD Ethiopia Country Office
Ms Yurie Naito, Administrative Officer, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)
Mr Marcelin Norvilus, Country Presence Officer (Haiti), Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)
Ms Chase Palmeri, Country Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)
Mr Francisco Pichón, Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)
Ms Antonella Piccolella, Consultant, Environment and Climate Division (ECD)
Mr Mattia Prayer-Galletti, Senior Evaluation Officer, Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE)
Mr Jesús Quintana, Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)
Mr Thomas Rath, Country Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)
Mr Philippe Remy, Country Programme Manager, West and Central Africa Division (WCA)
Mr Tomás Rosada, Senior Rural Development Specialist, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)
Ms Anne-Laure Roy, Technical Adviser, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)
Mr Périn Saint Ange, Director, East and Southern Africa Division (ESA)
Mr Carlos Seré, Chief Development Strategist, Strategy and Knowledge Management Department (SKM)
Mr Paolo Silveri, Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)
Ms Josefina Stubbs, Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)
Mr Ganesh Thapa, Senior Economist, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)
Mr Benoit Thierry, Country Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)
Mr Jakob Tuborgh, Associate Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)

Ms Rosemary Vargas-Lundius, Senior Researcher, Statistics and Studies for Development Division (SSD)

Ms Soraya Vicente Matias, Assistant, Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA)

Ms Cassandra Waldon, Director, Communications Division (COM)

Ms Cleona Wallace, KM Support Officer, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)

Ms Wanaporn Yangyuentham, Evaluation Research Analyst, Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE)

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS (OBSERVERS)

Mr Mario Acunzo, Communication for Development Officer, FAO

Ms Vanda Altarelli, President, Society for New Initiatives and Activities (SONIA-NGO), Italy

Mr Alberto Bencivenga, Ecoterra

Mr Paul Bordoni, Assistant Scientist, Bioersity International, Italy

Ms Maria Francesca Chianese, Sapienza, Università di Roma

Ms Ida Christensen, Rural Sociologist, Investment Centre Division (TCIO), FAO

Ms Laura Ciacci, Slow Food

Mr Flavia Cuturi, Professor of Anthropology, Università di Napoli "l'Orientale"

Mr Yon Fernández de Larrinoa, OCP FAO

Ms Tiziana Forte, International Consultant, Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas (FIMI)

Ms Julia Galway-Witham, Anthropology Student, Durham University, United Kingdom

Ms Maris Gavino, Women Organizing for Change in Agricultural and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), Rome

Ms Lola García-Alix, Executive Director, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), Denmark

Prof Alfonso Giordano, Adjunct Professor of Sustainable Development and Migration Flows and of Economic Geography, LUISS University, Rome

Prof Maurizio Gnerre, Professor of Lingual Anthropology and Ethno-linguistics, Università di Napoli "l'Orientale"

Mr Thomas Griffiths, Finance Programme Coordinator and Policy Adviser, Forest Peoples Programme, England

Mr Orlando Guzmán Vásquez, Costa Rica

Mr Mustapha Haruso, FAO

Ms Annarita Imbucci, CESVI, Roma

Ms Käthe Jepsen, Human Rights Programme Assistant, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), Denmark

Mr Rainer Krell, Natural Resources Officer, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division (NRC), FAO

Ms Annalisa Mauro, Programme Officer, International Land Coalition (ILC)

Ms Sara Manetto, Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research - Bioersity International, Rome

Mr Pablo Manzano, Global Coordinator, WISP (World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Kenya

Mr Francesco Mazzone, Senior Anthropologist, Italy

Ms Susana Márquez, Argentina

Mr Francesco Martone, Policy Advisor, Forest People Programme, Italy

Mr Carlos Mermot, MERCOSUR, Uruguay
Prof Umberto Mondini, Professor, History of Religions, Sapienza, Università di Roma
Ms Aida Perello, FAO
Ms Alejandra Pero, Civil Society Liaison Officer, OCPP, FAO
Ms Carla Pratesi, Oxfam, Italia
Mr Thomas Price, Agricultural Innovation and Society, FAO
Mr Álvaro Ramos, MERCOSUR, Uruguay
Ms Mia Rowan, English Editor and Social Media Specialist, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
Ms Stella Schiavon, Slow Food
Ms Jeremie Saltokod, Chad
Ms Jennifer Tauli Corpuz, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
Mr Michael Taylor, Programme Manager, International Land Coalition (ILC)
Mr Paolo Tedeschini Lalli, Civil Society Consultant, OCPP, FAO

AUDIO-VISUAL TEAM

Mr Francesco Cabras, Director, Video Team
Mr Alessio Costantino, Video Team
Ms Mariaeleonora D'Andrea, Video Team
Ms Birgitte Feiring, Rapporteur
Mr Christopher Antony Flower, Video Team
Mr Marco Gandolfo, Video Team
Mr Alberto Molinari, Assistant Director, Video Team
Mr Sante Rutigliano, Music

SOCIAL REPORTERS

Ms Laura Arcari
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Ms Daniela Cuneo
Ms Ilaria Firmian
Ms Carla Francescutti
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Mr David Paquí
Ms Monica Romano
Ms Roxanna Samii
Mr Neil Sorensen
Ms Alexandra Spinelli
Mr Beate Stalsett
Mr Sundeep Vaid
Ms Soraya Vicente
Ms Luisa Volpe

ANNEX B

AGENDA OF THE FIRST GLOBAL MEETING OF THE IFAD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FORUM

Monday, 11 February 2013

Venue: IFAD, Italian Conference Room

10:00-10:45 **Opening session**

Chair: Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice President, Programme Management Department, IFAD

Indigenous peoples' opening ceremony

Video on the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

Welcoming remarks by Kanayo F. Nwanze, IFAD President

Opening remarks by the members of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD: Myrna Cunningham, Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) (Latin America and the Caribbean); Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director, Tebtebba Foundation (Asia and the Pacific); Adolphine Muley, National Coordinator, Union pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone (Africa);

Tour de table – Participants introduce themselves

Presentation and approval of the agenda

Remarks by the Chair

10:45-11:00 **Coffee break**

Chair: Devasish Roy, Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

11:00-11:10 **Presentation on the advancements of the Road Map 2011-2013 approved by the workshop establishing the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (2011):** Overview by Antonella Cordone, Coordinator for Indigenous and Tribal Issues, IFAD

11:10-12:15 **Presentation on the recommendations of the regional workshops held in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean in 2012, and findings of the case studies conducted by indigenous people on IFAD-funded projects:** A regional overview by Joan Carling, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (Asia and the Pacific); Jacqueline Wanjiru Macharia, Mainyoto Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (Africa); Myrna Cunningham, UNPFII (Latin America and the Caribbean)

12:15-13:00 **Discussion**

- 13:00-14:00 **Lunch break**
- 14:00-17:00 **Parallel regional working group sessions:**
Enhancing IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples on the ground
Chairs: Regional Directors
- Africa, Oval Conference Room
 - Asia and the Pacific, Conference Room C-500
 - Latin America and the Caribbean, Italian Conference Room
- 17:00 End of working group sessions
- 17:00-18:30 Rapporteurs prepare a two-page written statement on the Forum's action plan 2013-2014

Tuesday, 12 February 2013

- Venue: IFAD, Italian Conference Room
- Chair:** Carlos Seré, Chief Development Strategist, Strategy and Knowledge Management Department, IFAD
- 9:30-10:00 **Plenary session:** reports of the three regional working groups of Monday on Enhancing IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples on the ground
- 10:00-10:30 Discussion and consensus on the Forum action plan 2013-2014
- 10:30-10:50 **Towards the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the post-2015 agenda:** Joan Carling, Secretary General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and Member of the Global Coordinating Committee of the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples; Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director, Tebtebba Foundation
- 10:50-11:15 Discussion
- 11:15-11:30 **Coffee break**
- Chair:** Jean-Philippe Audinet, Senior Technical Adviser, Policy and Technical Advisory Division, IFAD
- 11:30-12:30 **Plenary session:** Presentation, discussion and approval by indigenous peoples' representatives of the short Synthesis of Deliberations, and preparation for presentation to the Governing Council
- 12:30-14:00 **Lunch break**
- Chair:** Clare Bishop-Sambrook, Senior Technical Adviser, Gender, Empowerment and Social Inclusion, Policy and Technical Advisory Division, IFAD
- 14:00-15:30 **Increasing opportunities for indigenous women as key actors for indigenous peoples' well-being. How to strengthen traditional livelihood, communal economy and knowledge:** Myrna Cunningham, UNPFII (Latin America and the Caribbean); Anima Pushpa Toppo, Convener, Jharkhand Jangal Bachao Andolan (Asia); Agnes Leina, Il'laramatak Community Concerns (ICC)
- Chair:** Adolfo Brizzi, Director, Policy and Technical Advisory Division, IFAD

15:30-17:00 **Final plenary session open to IFAD Executive Board Representatives**

- Reading of the short Synthesis of Deliberations
- Reactions of IFAD management (Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice President, IFAD)
- Exchanges with Executive Board Representatives
- Closure of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD by Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice President, IFAD

Indigenous peoples' closing ceremony

19:30 Dinner at Eataly co-hosted by Slow Food

Wednesday, 13 February 2013

Thirty-sixth session of IFAD Governing Council - The participants at the Indigenous Peoples' Forum are invited to attend the Governing Council as observers. The Indigenous Peoples' Forum Synthesis of Deliberations is delivered to the Governing Council Plenary on 13 February at 15:00 hrs.

AGENDAS OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

Latin America and the Caribbean

Monday, 11 February

Enhancing IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples on the ground

Location: Italian Conference Room

Working Group Chair: Josephina Stubbs, Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Division

Working Group Rapporteur: Francisco Pichon, Country Programme Manager, IFAD.

A rapporteur will also be appointed by the indigenous representatives of the region.

Participants in the regional working groups are indigenous peoples' representatives from the regions and IFAD staff from the regional divisions, PTA and SKM. The groups will discuss in detail the recommendations of the regional workshops conducted in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean; the findings of the case studies on IFAD-funded projects, conducted by indigenous peoples; and analyse what works, what IFAD should continue doing and up-scaling, and what needs to be improved.

The output of the workshop is a regional action plan 2013-2014 on strengthening IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples at country and regional level.

- 14:00-14:15 Short introduction on the challenges and opportunities at regional level, Francisco Pichon, Country Programme Manager
- 14:15-14:30 Presentations of the recommendations emerging from the regional workshop meeting in Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation of the global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, Myrna Cunningham, Member UNPFII on:
- IFAD-funded programmes and projects
 - Policy dialogue at country level
 - Communication and knowledge management
- 14:30-17:00 Discussion and identification of concrete actions for the Forum action plan 2013-2014
- 17:00-18:30 Rapporteurs prepare a two-page written statement on the Forum regional action plan 2013-2014

Asia and the Pacific

Monday, 11 February

Enhancing IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples on the ground

Location: Room C-500

Working Group Chair: Hoonae Kim, Director, Asia and the Pacific Division

Working Group Rapporteur: Ganesh Thapa, Regional Economist, Asia and the Pacific Division, IFAD. A rapporteur will also be appointed by the indigenous representatives of the region.

Participants in the regional working groups are indigenous peoples' representatives from the regions and IFAD staff from the regional divisions, PTA and SKM. The groups will discuss in detail the recommendations of the regional workshops conducted in Asia and the Pacific; the findings of the case studies on IFAD-funded projects, conducted by indigenous peoples; and analyse what works, what IFAD should continue doing and up-scaling, and what needs to be improved.

The output of the workshop is a regional action plan 2013-2014 on strengthening IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples at country and regional level.

- 14:00-14:10 Presentation on IFAD's engagement with indigenous and tribal peoples in Asia and the Pacific: challenges and opportunities, Ganesh Thapa, Regional Economist, Asia and the Pacific Division
- 14:10-14:30 Indigenous representative presents recommendations emerging from the Asia preparatory regional workshop on IFAD-funded programmes and projects
- 14:30-15:15 Discussion and identification of concrete actions for the action plan 2013-2014
- 15:15-15:30 Indigenous representative presents recommendations emerging from the Asia preparatory regional workshop on policy dialogue at country level;
- 15:30-16:15 Discussion and identification of concrete actions for the action plan 2013-2014
- 16:15-16:20 Indigenous representative presents recommendations emerging from the Asia preparatory regional workshop on communication and knowledge management
- 16:20-16:50 Discussion and identification of concrete actions for the action plan 2013-2014
- 16:50-17:00 Concluding remarks by the Director of Asia and the Pacific Division
- 17:00-18:30 Rapporteurs prepare a two-page written statement on action plan 2013-2014

Africa

Monday, 11 February

Enhancing IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples on the ground

Location: Oval Conference Room

Working Group Co-Chairs: Ides de Willebois, Director, West and Central Africa Division
Périn Saint Ange, Director, East and Southern Africa Division

Working Group Rapporteur: Samuel Eremie, Country Programme Manager, East and Southern Africa Division

Participants to the regional working groups are indigenous peoples' representatives from the regions and IFAD staff from the regional divisions, PTA and SKM. The groups will discuss in detail the recommendations of the regional workshops conducted in Africa, (Nairobi November 2012), the findings of the case-studies on IFAD-funded projects, conducted by indigenous peoples, and analyse what works and IFAD should continue doing and up-scaling, and what needs to be improved.

- 14:00-14:15 Introduction on the situation of indigenous peoples in Africa, Soyata Maiga, Commissioner, Chair of the African Commission's Working Group of Experts on Indigenous Populations/Communities
- 14:15-14:25 IFAD target groups in Africa, Jean-Philippe Audinet, Senior Advisor, Policy and Technical Advisory Division, IFAD
- 14:25-15:15 Discussion
- 15:15-15:30 Indigenous representative presents recommendations emerging from the Africa preparatory regional workshop on:
- IFAD-funded programmes and projects
 - Policy dialogue at country level
 - Communication and knowledge management
- 15:30-16:40 Discussion on aligning expectations for a more effective partnership between IFAD and indigenous peoples
- 16:40-17:00 Closing remarks and the way ahead, by the directors of West and Central Africa Division and East and Southern Africa Division

ANNEX D

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FORUM

Esteemed indigenous peoples' representatives,
Partners and colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Looking around, it is a pleasure to see many familiar faces. Some of us met last year in Rio. Others were here, two years ago, at the workshop to establish this Forum.

To each and every one of you, old friends and new, I wish you a very warm welcome to our IFAD headquarters and to this, the very first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum.

I would like to extend particular thanks to those who have travelled far to be with us today. Your presence and your contributions will be invaluable in making this meeting a success.

For IFAD, the Forum has a very specific function. It provides an opportunity to improve how we work with indigenous peoples at every stage – from global partnerships for advocacy, to the formulation of country strategies, to the design of development projects and to their implementation and evaluation, many thousands of miles from here.

This global meeting is an opportunity for IFAD's managers and governors to hear directly from indigenous peoples about the issues that affect their lives and about their vision of development. It is also an opportunity for representatives of indigenous peoples to observe the workings of the Governing Council, the highest governing body of our institution.

Your input will help ensure that development initiatives supported by IFAD meet the distinctive needs of indigenous and tribal peoples and ethnic minorities in developing countries.

While we recognize and respect the many distinct cultures, livelihoods and traditions, we are also aware that there is often common ground between indigenous peoples, particularly when it comes to the connection between societies, territories and natural resources.

Unfortunately, indigenous peoples are often victims of marginalization and discrimination. Too often they lack rights to the land, territories and resources that have nurtured them for generations.

And all too often, this results in poverty. This is why indigenous peoples, who account for 5 per cent of the world's population, are 15 per cent of those living in poverty. And it is why an agency such as IFAD, whose work is to reduce rural poverty and hunger, must make a special effort to reach out to indigenous peoples so that we can work together, in partnership.

As you know, IFAD supports projects that help poor rural people grow more food, learn new skills, build strong organizations and gain a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

IFAD aims to reach 90 million people by 2015, helping to move 80 million out of poverty. To do this, we will need to be more effective in reaching and engaging the indigenous peoples who live in the areas where IFAD works.

When I met with some of your leaders at the international conference in Rio last year, I was gratified to learn that many indigenous peoples consider IFAD to be a valued and important partner.

Indigenous peoples are valued partners for IFAD too. Many of you have unique knowledge about the ecosystems that you manage and the animal and plant species you have domesticated over generations.

You have much to share about how to live, how to work and how to cultivate in a manner that provides for future generations.

Three years ago, IFAD adopted a Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. This Forum is intended to give us an opportunity to assess how well we are doing, and to improve how we implement our policy.

The case studies that you have already prepared on IFAD-funded projects will help with this work. We particularly value your assessments of which practices are worth scaling up and which need to be further improved.

Since IFAD's policy is centred on principles that lead to concrete and sustained engagement on the ground, let me report to you on some of our recent achievements.

Today, IFAD funds about 240 ongoing projects. About 30 per cent of these support indigenous peoples' communities in some 38 countries, for a total investment of about \$800 million.

A good example of IFAD's work in support of indigenous peoples is the PROCORREDOR project in Ecuador. The project has taken an unusual, innovative approach that combines income generation with cultural revitalization. Indigenous peoples, who have a tradition of making handicrafts, are learning new marketing and presentation skills so they can benefit from Ecuador's growing ecotourism industry.

The project has been successful largely because the activities were determined by indigenous peoples themselves.

Looking at IFAD's work more broadly, there has also been good progress with the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility. This is a dedicated programme that provides community-based grants for development projects.

Indigenous leaders make up the majority of the Facility's governing board, and indigenous peoples' organizations co-manage the Facility at the regional level. Many are here today, and I look forward to hearing from them about their experiences with the facility.

Since 2007, the Facility has approved more than 100 projects. Each is designed and implemented by communities of indigenous peoples according to their perspectives and needs.

For IFAD, indigenous peoples are a significant part of our target group. Today, I would like to renew IFAD's commitment to work for equity and economic opportunity for indigenous peoples, and to preserve the right of indigenous peoples to self-driven development.

I am glad to see so many staff members here today. Your participation in this dialogue is essential in helping us improve how we reach out to indigenous peoples so that we can achieve better results on the ground.

The workshops that were held in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean also provided invaluable opportunities to listen to the needs and priorities of indigenous peoples.

We hope this Forum will not only provide a platform for consultation and discussion but will also produce tangible results in the form of higher participation of indigenous peoples in IFAD's operations.

And we hope that it will also be useful in developing strategies ahead of next year's World Conference on Indigenous Peoples at the General Assembly in New York. I was happy to learn that the regional workshops that were held ahead of today's Forum had already contributed to your preparations for this conference. We are looking at ways to further support you in this important process.

Now, the hard work really begins! Your participation over the coming days, particularly in the regional working group sessions, should result in a plan of action to guide our partnership over the next two years.

I am hopeful that this Forum will enhance IFAD's effectiveness in programmes and projects, as well as contribute to knowledge management and to policy dialogue at country level.

Ultimately, it should result in greater opportunities for indigenous peoples in all of the rural communities where IFAD works.

Indeed, it is an honour and a privilege for us to convene this Forum at IFAD. Over the years, many of you in this room have proven to be some of IFAD's most engaged development partners.

You will have often heard me say that development and change cannot be imposed from the outside. Every tree, every plant, must be fully rooted in its own soil to flourish. The traditions and the knowledge present here today are precisely what must be cultivated if we are to achieve real and lasting improvements in the rural areas of the developing world.

On behalf of everyone at IFAD, I look forward to a fruitful partnership for many years to come.

Thank you.

GENDER AND THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FORUM

The first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum, which took place at IFAD headquarters on 11-12 February 2013, brought together 34 participants (of whom just over half were women), representing 27 countries from Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Forum aimed to provide a voice for the indigenous people around the world, including raising issues with a gender perspective.

Addressing gender issues was a common thread running through the three regional workshops that were held in the latter part of 2012 as part of the preparations for the Forum. While Latin America and the Caribbean emphasized the importance of including women in decision-making processes during project design, monitoring and implementation, Asia and the Pacific highlighted the importance of capacity-building initiatives focusing on women and youth, and Africa the need to pay attention to gender mainstreaming and women empowerment through IFAD programmes and projects.

The gender dimension was also enriched by the three testimonies from different regions during the session 'Increasing opportunities for indigenous women as key actors for indigenous peoples' well-being: How to strengthen tradition, livelihood, communal economy and knowledge'. See the blog report in Box 1.

Finally, the synthesis of deliberations of the very first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum included among many others, the specific recommendation for IFAD to "devise measures for affirmative action targeting indigenous peoples and, in particular, indigenous women and youth."

*Prepared by Sabina Khatri and Giulia Castro,
PTA gender team*



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Box 1: Empowering indigenous women: big challenges, big opportunities

by *Monica Romano*

Although the debate around increasing opportunities for indigenous women as key actors for indigenous peoples' well-being was time-constrained, the interventions from the three panellists from different developing regions were powerful and inspiring. And hopefully, the debate and follow-up will continue, both in the coming days during the Governing Council and through IFAD-supported interventions in the future.

What was common to the presentations made by the three indigenous women panellists was that indigenous women often face disproportionate challenges and constraints, compared with the still persistent gender inequalities that 'normally' affect 'the other half of heaven'. At the same time, indigenous women are the holders of an immense traditional knowledge, are the *trait d'union* between spiritual and economic activities under the natural environments they live in, and – like all women – are the caretakers of the most vulnerable people in the society – namely the children, the youth and the elderly.

Agnes Leina, from Il'laramatak Community Concerns (Africa), described the plight that the Masaai women find themselves in. They have no rights, own no land or livestock, nor can they buy or sell either. Still, women are those who feed the community. Under the conditions of pressure for the Masaai to change their lifestyles and livelihood development modalities, the rush for getting land to be transformed into wildlife reserves and national parks, and climate change, women are those suffering the most. When men move elsewhere to cope with these challenges, women remain behind, also to look after the children and the elderly. Illiteracy, early marriage and female genital mutilation add to the specific challenges faced by the Masaai women.

I started feeling discouraged by all that, but fortunately Anima Pushpa Toppo, from Jharkhand Jangal Bachao Andolan (Asia), highlighted some strengths of tribal women in India. Women hold an intimate and special relationship with forests, which are at the basis of the spiritual, cultural and economic life of tribal communities. Forests have always been a source of empowerment of tribal women. Anima also noted that women are also the backbone of traditional knowledge, which is then passed on to younger generations and is an invaluable tool for developing adaptation and natural resource management strategies in response to environmental shocks and other changes. As a way forward towards tribal women's empowerment, local institutions (such as Gram Sabha, women's groups, youth groups and cultural groups) should be strengthened and community-based resource management should be promoted, while enhancing women's participation and rights.

I was proud to hear reference to IFAD's good practices from IFAD projects in the intervention by Myrna Cunningham, from UNPFII (Latin America and the Caribbean). She referred, among other things, to the valorization of traditional production practices, the focus on women's organizations, the promotion of inter-generational dialogue, and the development of solidarity networks to facilitate women's participation. When she talked about the need for gathering information for any intervention so that it is disaggregated by gender and ethnic groups, or when she pointed out that there are huge gender gaps within indigenous communities, I felt this to be an invitation for us at IFAD to do even better in project design.

The key role that indigenous women play in local institutions is the last, but not least, thing I want to highlight here. I think this is another pressing invitation to us to invest in those institutions and capacitate them, while making them more inclusive, through the participation of women, including those from indigenous and ethnic minority groups.

**First global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD
11-12 February 2013**



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International Fund for Agricultural Development

Via Paolo di Dono, 44 - 00142 Rome, Italy


Tel: +39 06 54591 - Fax: +39 06 5043463

E-mail: ifad@ifad.org

www.ifad.org

www.ruralpovertyportal.org

 ifad-un.blogspot.com

 www.facebook.com/ifad

 www.twitter.com/ifadnews

 www.youtube.com/user/ifadTV

CONTACT:

Antonella Cordone

Technical Adviser

Coordinator for Indigenous and Tribal Issues

Policy and Technical Advisory Division

Programme Management Department

IFAD

Via Paolo di Dono, 44

00142 Rome, Italy

E-mail: a.cordone@ifad.org

