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FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES THROUGH FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT

IFAD calls on all development actors, including governments and the private sector, to respect and apply free, prior and informed consent as a tool for social justice in any development initiative.

Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is the right of self-determination of indigenous peoples as recognized in the UNDRIP. At IFAD, FPIC is considered as an operational instrument that empowers local and indigenous peoples' communities, ensuring mutual respect and full and effective participation in decision-making on proposed investments that may affect their rights, their access to lands, territories and resources, and their livelihoods.

- FPIC ensures that justice and inclusion are at the heart of indigenous peoples' development.
- FPIC is essential to increasing indigenous peoples' agency and capacity.

UNDRIP ARTICLE 23: RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.



Indigenous peoples have their own unique organizations, traditions, and ways of life. FPIC enables dialogue and mutual recognition, which in turn improves the effectiveness and sustainability of investments by enhancing the community ownership of each project.



Investing in rural people

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IFAD hereby calls on all development actors – from governments to intergovernmental organizations to the private sector to NGOs of every size – to apply FPIC in their work and to:

- i) Commit our organizations to ensuring the **full and effective participation** of indigenous peoples in the design and implementation of development programmes and projects;
- ii) Enable an environment where indigenous peoples' representatives sit at the table and co-create projects that reflect their **worldviews, needs and interests**;
- iii) Act together to promote **indigenous peoples' agency in climate action** and recognize their leading role as vital custodians of the world's remaining natural landscapes;
- iv) **Share knowledge** and best practices about seeking FPIC with other development actors;
- v) Promote engagement with indigenous peoples undertaken in good faith, in a culturally appropriate manner and with **full regard to their institutions, governance systems, customs and methods of decision-making**;
- vi) Ensure **culturally appropriate benefits** in which indigenous peoples have an equitable share derived from any development of their lands, territories or resources, or from the valuation of their cultural heritage;
- vii) Ensure that provisions are made in project design and implementation to support the **legal recognition of customary and traditional land tenure** and management systems, and the collective rights of indigenous peoples;
- viii) Ensure that there is **no involuntary resettlement** of indigenous peoples from their lands or territories or any other adverse impact on indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation;
- ix) Establish **culturally appropriate grievance mechanisms** for projects, and ensure that the mechanisms are easily accessible to indigenous peoples in local languages.