

21st Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Statement of the
International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD

Agenda Item 3

Discussion on the theme “Indigenous peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence, including free, prior and informed consent”

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April 2022

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

On behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to address this session of the Forum. We honour this space for dialogue.

At IFAD, we are committed partners with indigenous peoples. **Today we are calling for action** from **all** development actors-- from governments to intergovernmental organizations to the private sector—to apply free, prior and informed consent in their work, and to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in all development initiatives.

IFAD recognizes Indigenous Peoples as vital custodians of the world's remaining natural landscapes.

We stand firm on our duty to ensure that indigenous peoples' communities can exercise their rights, and on our duty to ensure FPIC for our grant and loan recipients.

Thanks to our long-lasting partnership with indigenous peoples, we at IFAD have learned that the dialogues and

mutual recognition facilitated through prior and informed consent processes go a long way toward improving the effectiveness of investments. FPIC also enhances community ownership, and, moreover, sustainability.

When working with indigenous peoples, IFAD has proactively developed strategies that are shaped by indigenous identities, values and cultures.

We also wish to inform this Forum that this year, IFAD is updating its **Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples**, and is doing so through a participatory mechanism and led by the indigenous members of the steering committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD.

At the core of the Policy lies IFAD's commitment to finance programmes and projects that build on the identity, culture and knowledge of indigenous peoples.

As climate change remains the greatest challenge facing humanity, the world needs to recognize the many solutions that indigenous peoples' distinctive and valuable knowledge, traditions and practices can provide.

Indigenous peoples are part of the solution – to climate change, to poverty and to hunger. They can show us the way to sustainability. Let us work together to ensure they are at the heart of climate action and the Agenda 2030, and that they guide us to eradicate poverty and hunger.

Thank you for your attention.