

22nd 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, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”

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International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

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Distinguished Members of the Permanent Forum, Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives, Colleagues,

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

- At IFAD, we recognize that Indigenous Peoples are custodians of some of the world's most biodiverse regions and that their wealth of traditional knowledge and experience are key to addressing today's complex challenges and to sustainable resource management and environmental conservation.
- Through the **Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD**, IFAD is committed to a continuous dialogue with Indigenous Peoples. Last February, IFAD hosted the sixth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (IPFI) under the overall theme of "*Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership: community-based solutions to enhance resilience and biodiversity*" – a theme intentionally aligned with the theme of this year's Permanent Forum.
- Indigenous peoples who are intimately connected with and dependent on the land and its resources, and who live in some of the most vulnerable regions and conditions resulting from historical and contemporary exclusionary dynamics, bear the

heaviest burden of climate change effects. Nevertheless, they are responding with determination and creativity, drawing on their wealth of knowledge and wisdom and offering leadership and inspiration.

- We see Indigenous Peoples' **climate leadership** as intimately tied to the integrity, security and health of their lands and territories and custodianship. These continue to be undermined and disrupted in the interest of global biodiversity conservation goals and the extraction of minerals for sustainable energy transitions, while Indigenous Peoples are often excluded from climate debates, planning, and decision-making processes in national and international spaces. However, in the face of these challenges, Indigenous Peoples are revitalizing and inventing practices and ways of thinking that are invaluable in confronting the challenge of climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainability. The 6th Global Meeting of the IPFI created a space for dialogue for Indigenous Peoples to share their perspectives and experiences of community-based solutions to overcome the combined challenges of climate change, food security and biodiversity conservation centered on their knowledge systems. Ultimately, this dialogue serves to enhance IFAD's programming, better inform business practices and policies and deepen our partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

- Over the past years, IFAD has demonstrated longstanding commitment to partnering with Indigenous Peoples and supporting their development aspirations, especially through the **Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility (IPAF)** which is among the main instrument that IFAD has to work directly with Indigenous Peoples' communities and their organizations.
- The sixth cycle of the IPAF, for which proposals are currently under review, is also very relevant to the theme of this Forum, as it focuses on *advancing Indigenous Peoples' conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity for adaptation and resilience to climate change*. We trust that the projects that will be funded through the Facility will bring further recognition of the contribution of indigenous knowledge to climate resilience and to human, planetary and territorial health.
- Let us work together to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership is acknowledged, rewarded and supported.

Thank you very much for your attention.