



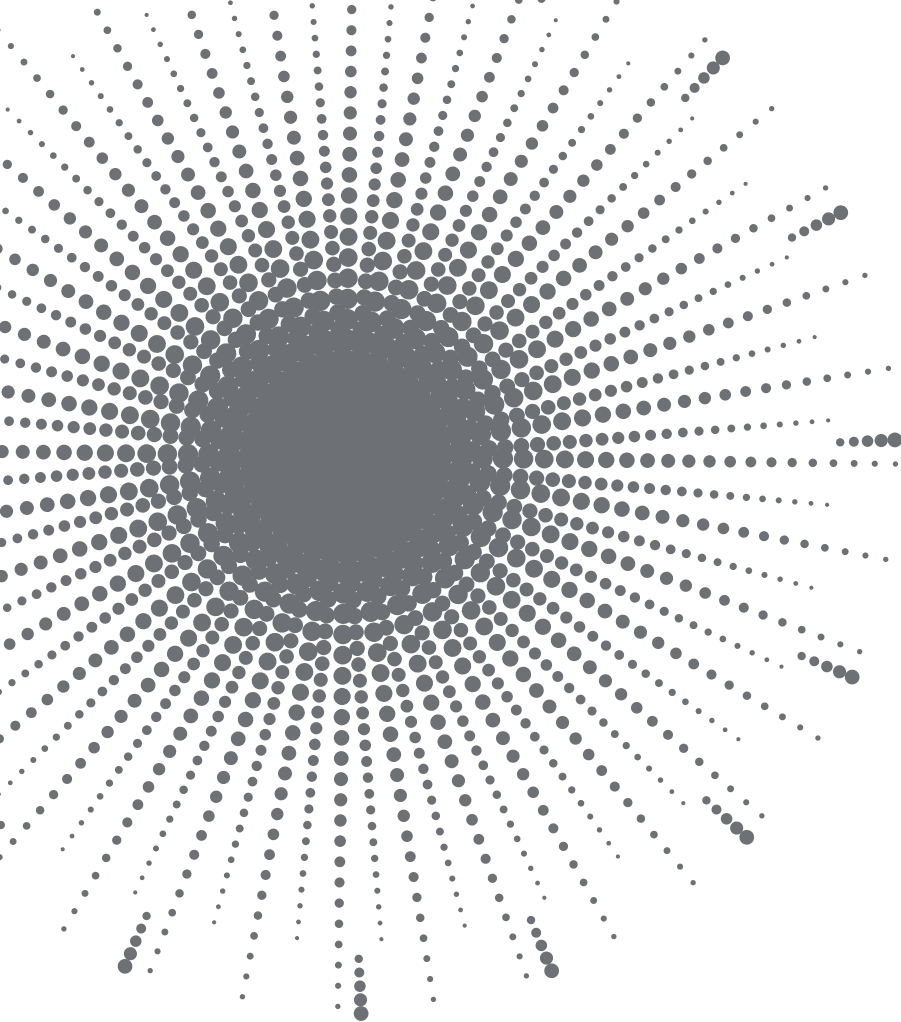
**FAO POLICY
ON INDIGENOUS
AND TRIBAL PEOPLES**





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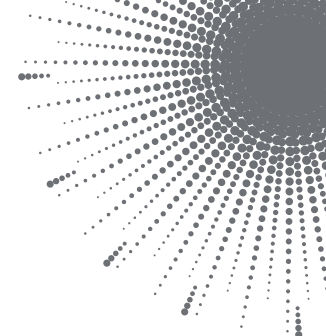




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ACRONYMS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
IASG	Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues
ILO	International Labour Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues



FOREWORD

Consistent with its mandate to pursue a world free from hunger and malnutrition, the following “FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples” has been formulated so as to ensure that FAO will make all due efforts to respect, include and promote indigenous issues in relevant work. In so doing, it joins the international community’s increasing mobilization in favour of the rights and concerns of indigenous peoples, most of whom suffer disproportionately from multiple adversities such as discrimination, poverty, ill health, political under-representation, and environmental and cultural degradation. Although much attention is focused on the challenges that indigenous peoples face, it is equally important to remember the specialized knowledge and ingenuity which often characterize indigenous livelihood practices. As an organization which specializes in rural poverty reduction and food security, it is imperative for FAO to consider indigenous peoples as fundamental stakeholders and partners in development.

The policy has been prepared through a consultative process under the overall guidance of FAO’s interdepartmental working group on indigenous issues, which is comprised of members from the Organization’s different technical departments and decentralized offices. Key inputs were provided by numerous partners, including representatives of indigenous peoples, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, several UN agencies, FAO management, and various experts. Its content is based on international legal instruments such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in 2007 and representing the highest standard for the treatment of indigenous peoples around the world.

The central purpose of the policy is to provide a framework to guide FAO’s work where indigenous peoples are concerned. It gives information about indigenous peoples’ livelihoods, world views and concerns about development, including certain “core principles” which should be at the heart of joint activities. The policy also defines a series of thematic areas where collaborative opportunities are most feasible. At the same time, a number of mechanisms are suggested that will allow cooperation with indigenous peoples to move forward in a more systematic way.

With the preparation of this policy paper, FAO aspires to play an important role in the international community’s efforts to ensure a better life for indigenous peoples and rural populations. The fight against hunger cannot be won without them.

Jacques Diouf
Director-General, FAO