



## **Concluding Statement of the workshop establishing an indigenous peoples' forum at IFAD, 18 February 2011**

*On 17 and 18 February 2011, IFAD, in cooperation with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), organized a workshop on the establishment of an indigenous peoples' forum at IFAD as part of the implementation of its Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. This workshop gathered in Rome 28 representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations from all continents to discuss and agree upon the purpose and modalities of the Forum, its possible directions, scope and objectives, and how the Forum should be organized and operate, as well as a road map leading to the first global session of the forum in 2013. The following statement was validated at a concluding session with the Associate Vice President of IFAD.*

We, the participants in the workshop, agree on the establishment of an indigenous peoples' forum at IFAD within the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the IFAD Policy of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, with the aim of improving the work of IFAD to address the realities, concerns and aspirations of indigenous peoples.

**The objectives of this forum** will be to:

1. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of IFAD Policy of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, including its contribution to the realization of the UNDRIP provisions, and share and discuss these assessment with IFAD staff, Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples in order to improve the benefit for indigenous peoples
2. Build and strengthen partnerships between IFAD and indigenous peoples in order to address poverty and sustainable development with culture and identity, taking into account the perspectives and aspirations of indigenous peoples
3. Promote the participation of indigenous peoples' organizations in IFAD's activities at country, regional and international levels, at all stages of project and programme cycles, and support the capacity-building processes of indigenous peoples' organizations

The Forum will be guided by the principles of mutual respect, promoting complementarities, adherence to UNDRIP, inclusiveness, pluralism, reciprocity, accountability and solidarity.

**The forum will be governed** by a Steering Committee that will define the agenda of the forum sessions, endorse the participants proposed by the regions, and coordinate inter-sessional activities that take place between the forum global sessions that will meet every other year, starting in 2013. The Steering Committee will be composed of: seven representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations (two from Africa, two from Asia, two from Latin America and the Caribbean, one from the Pacific – chosen based on a self-selection process); one representative of the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility (IPAF) Board; one representative of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII); and representative(s) of IFAD. IFAD will serve as the Secretariat of the Committee. The Steering Committee will be gender-balanced and its members will be knowledgeable about IFAD-funded programmes at country level.

An *ad hoc*/interim Steering Committee of the same composition will be established by the workshop's participants to lead the implementation of the road map in preparation for the first global session of the forum in 2013. This first session will endorse the selection of the members of the Steering Committee conducted at the regional level.

**The participants in the global sessions** will consist of: 20 to 30 indigenous peoples' representatives, including representatives of indigenous peoples' communities and organizations (local, national, regional); members of IPAF Board; representatives of the UNPFII, the Expert Mechanism and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and IFAD staff.