

# ANNEX I INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Indigenous peoples have progressively brought their voices to crucial negotiations and decision-making processes worldwide. As a result of decades of advocacy, the international community has increasingly recognized the socio-economic marginalization of indigenous groups, their systematic exclusion from the benefits of economic growth, and the deleterious impacts that global processes have often had on their cultures, identities and resources. In parallel, the importance of indigenous peoples' unique contribution to social and economic development is also gaining greater appreciation.

The following are major milestones that have accompanied this progress towards the full realization of indigenous peoples' rights and livelihood security. They are to be regarded as the highest international standards, providing the legal basis upon which this FAO policy and related work are built.

## International legal framework concerning indigenous peoples

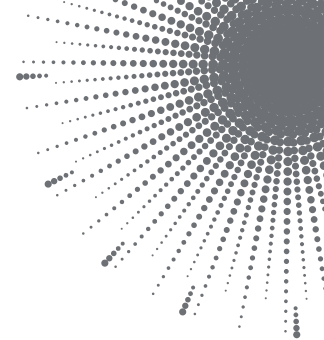
Year	Title	Description
<b>Conventions</b>		
1957	ILO Convention 107	First international convention on the subject. This was the earliest attempt to codify international obligations of States in respect of indigenous and tribal populations. It defines indigenous peoples as distinct peoples and emphasizes the need to improve the living and working conditions to which they are exposed.
1989	ILO Convention 169	Successor to Convention 107. Provides an updated and more comprehensive international legal instrument delineating the rights to which indigenous peoples are entitled and the principles by which States, multilateral organizations and other actors should abide.
1992	Agenda 21 and Rio Declaration (UN Conference on Environment and Development)	These recognize indigenous peoples as a “major group” and state that efforts to implement sustainable development should recognize, accommodate, promote and strengthen the role of indigenous peoples and their communities.
1993	Convention on Biological Diversity [Articles 8(j) and 10(c)] (UN Conference on Environment and Development)	Article 8(j) of the Convention recognizes the significant contribution of indigenous peoples to environmental conservation. It calls on Contracting Parties to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and encourages the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization. Article 10(c) calls on Parties to protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation and sustainable use requirements.
1994	UN Convention to Combat Desertification	In Articles 16 (g) and 17 (c), the Convention calls for the protection of indigenous traditional knowledge, technologies and practices.



<b>Declarations</b>		
1992	Cancun Declaration – International Conference on Responsible Fishing	Article 9 of the Cancun Declaration declares that “States should take measures to ensure respect for the interests of small-scale artisanal and <i>indigenous fishers</i> [emphasis added].”
1993	Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action – World Conference on Human Rights	This conference took historic steps to promote and protect the rights of frequently marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, women and children. Through the Vienna Declaration, the Conference explicitly stressed the “inherent dignity and the unique contribution of indigenous people to the development and plurality of society and strongly reaffirms the commitment of the international community to their economic, social and cultural well-being and their enjoyment of the fruits of sustainable development.” It also called for the establishment of a Permanent Forum.
2002	Declaration of Atitlán	The Declaration emphasizes the importance of indigenous peoples’ rights to lands, natural resources and self-determination to their overall food security and food sovereignty.
2007	UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	After 20 years of negotiation, the Declaration establishes a vital standard for eliminating human rights violations against indigenous peoples worldwide, for combating discrimination and marginalization and for advocating the protection of indigenous livelihoods. It emphasizes the rights of indigenous peoples to pursue development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations, including the right to maintain and foster their own institutions, cultures and traditions.
2009	Anchorage Declaration	In Article 9 of the Declaration, UN agencies are urged to address climate change impacts in their strategies and action plans, especially with regard to indigenous peoples. In particular, the declaration calls upon FAO and other relevant UN bodies to establish a working group to address the impacts of climate change on food security and food sovereignty of indigenous peoples.

## International mechanisms specifically addressing indigenous peoples and their rights

Year	Mechanism	Description
1982	UN Commission on Human Rights' Working Group on Indigenous Populations, to prepare an International Convention on Indigenous Peoples	Established as a subsidiary organ to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (now known as the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights). Its purpose was to facilitate dialogue, review developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and give attention to the evolution of international standards in this area.
1987	Cobo Report: <i>Study of the Problem of Discrimination against Indigenous Populations</i>	Famous study ordered by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, prepared by Special Rapporteur José Martínez Cobo. The report addressed a wide range of human rights issues affecting indigenous peoples, and was an important catalyst for UN action relating to the protection of indigenous peoples' rights.
1995–2004	First International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Proclaimed by the General Assembly in December 1993, its main objective was to strengthen international cooperation to solve problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education and health.
2000	Establishment of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	Formally integrates indigenous peoples and their representatives into the structure of the UN. It placed state and non-state actors on an equal footing in a UN permanent representative body for the first time. Its mandate is to discuss and provide recommendations on indigenous peoples' issues relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.



2001	Appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (Commission on Human Rights)	Resulting from a decision of the Human Rights Council, in 2001 a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people was appointed.
2002	First annual meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	The first annual meeting took place at UN Headquarters in New York City from 13 to 24 May 2002. The first meeting brought together indigenous leaders and civil society from all parts of the world.
2005–2010	Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples	The Second Decade aims to further strengthen international cooperation to solve problems faced by indigenous peoples.
2006	Establishment of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues	Established to support and promote the mandate of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues within the UN system. Its mandate was later expanded to include support to mandates related to issues of indigenous peoples throughout the inter-governmental system.
2008	First session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Composed of five experts, the mechanism offers thematic expertise on the rights of indigenous peoples to the Human Rights Council.

## Documents guiding development practices with indigenous peoples

Year	Document	Description
2008	<i>UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues</i>	Prepared by the UN Development Group, the guidelines provide information on the international human rights framework that guides the UN's work on indigenous peoples' issues. They also provide practical advice on designing programmes with a special focus on such issues.
2008	<i>Resource Kit on Indigenous Peoples' Issues</i>	The Resource Kit provides UN Country Teams with guidance on how to engage with indigenous peoples.
2009	<i>UN-REDD Programme Operational Guidance: Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities</i>	Developed to ensure that consideration for and participation of local and indigenous peoples are integrated into the work of the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), the Guidance is endorsed but considered a living document always in the process of change.

## Other important standard-setting instruments recognizing the human rights of all people

Year	Instrument	Description
1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are entitled.
1963	UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	A human rights proclamation issued by the UN General Assembly. The Declaration is an important precursor to the legally binding International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
1965	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	The Convention is a legally binding mechanism that commits UN members to the elimination of racial discrimination and promotion of understanding among all races.



1966	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	This Covenant commits its parties to work toward the granting of economic, social and cultural rights to individuals, including labour rights and rights to health, education and an adequate standard of living.
1966	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Among other provisions, this Covenant advocates protection against discrimination based on gender, religion, race or other characteristics.
1995	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO)	Among other provisions, this voluntary Code provides for due recognition to the traditional practices, needs and interests of indigenous people (Article 7.6.6).
2001	UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity	This UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Declaration established universal rights to cultural identity, diversity and pluralism.
2004	Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (FAO)	These guidelines provide practical guidance to countries for the implementation of the right to food.
2004	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Article 5 requires parties to promote an integrated approach to the exploration, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. In particular, it calls on Parties to “promote or support, as appropriate, farmers and local communities’ efforts to manage and conserve on-farm their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture” [Article 5(c)] and to “promote <i>in situ</i> conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production, including in protected areas, by supporting, <i>inter alia</i> , the efforts of indigenous and local communities” [Article 5(d)]
2007	Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources	Strategic priority 6 calls on the international community to “support indigenous and local production systems and associated knowledge systems of importance to the maintenance and sustainable use of animal genetic resources.”



# ANNEX II FAO'S NEW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2010–2019

## How indigenous peoples' issues fit into FAO's overall work plan

In 2008, the FAO Conference approved the development of a new Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan. These identify key strategic objectives that reflect FAO's vision and represent the primary development impacts sought through the Organization's work. Indigenous peoples' issues are relevant to the achievement of a number of targets, making collaboration between FAO and indigenous peoples feasible and advisable.

**Strategic Objective A** is to provide an adequate supply of quality food through sustainable crop production and better management of plant genetic resources. Particularly relevant for indigenous peoples is the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which calls for increased support of local and indigenous communities.

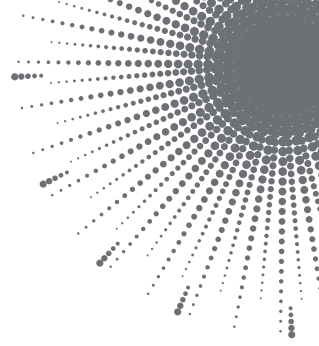
**Strategic Objective B** focuses on sustainable livestock production. Through the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, it calls for efforts to support the contributions of indigenous and local communities to animal genetic diversity.

**Strategic Objective C** concerns sustainable management and use of fisheries and aquaculture resources, including the application of human rights instruments. Among other things, it supports small-scale fishers, including indigenous fishing communities, in their fight against poverty, natural resource depletion, climate change, price volatility and other threats.

**Strategic Objective D** focuses on food biodiversity and sustainable diets. It pursues capacity development for improved safety and quality of food, with greater consideration for the health and nutritional benefits of local/traditional food systems, including those of indigenous peoples.

**Strategic Objective E** is to promote sustainable management of forests and trees through an approach that interlinks the social, economic and environmental aspects of forestry. A renewed emphasis has been placed on improving involvement of local stakeholders, including indigenous forest-dwelling communities.

**Strategic Objective F** concerns sustainable natural resource management and, among other things, calls for more equitable access to and secure tenure of land,



water and other resources by vulnerable constituencies such as women, indigenous peoples and youth.

**Strategic Objective G** facilitates the creation of enabling environments for markets to improve livelihoods and rural development. Since poor access to markets, financial resources and stable employment is a major constraint faced by indigenous peoples, developing capacities in this area is key to longer-term security.

**Strategic Objective H** states that improved food security and nutrition may benefit from a greater utilization of locally-specific knowledge, tools and resources, including traditional and local knowledge.

**Strategic Objective I** emphasizes the need to improve the response capacities and emergency preparedness of poor people in rural areas who are particularly vulnerable to threats and crises affecting agricultural and other natural resources.

**Strategic Objective K** promotes socially inclusive policies, capacities, institutions and programmes. It stresses the need to fill critical gaps in gender and equity issues, and to redress social imbalances that have favoured certain groups over others.

Finally, the new Strategic Framework also puts renewed emphasis on working through strong partnerships and alliances (**Core Function H**), including CSOs and NGOs with pertinent best knowledge and capacities.

FAO's new Strategic Framework thus presents an excellent opportunity to effectively integrate indigenous peoples' issues within FAO's new projected work plan; the Strategic Objectives are to be utilized as the groundwork for establishing a more concerted relationship. Many of the issues that have been highlighted as feasible points of engagement have already been addressed in FAO projects and programmes. It is important to stress that the Organization has worked successfully with indigenous peoples in the past, demonstrating that such engagement is an existing reality and that an improved relationship is a viable prospect. At the same time, FAO's practical engagement with indigenous communities will benefit significantly from increased institutional support and from the existence of a policy framework to guide action in this area. This policy will therefore help strengthen and expand such efforts for the benefit of indigenous peoples, FAO and sustainable development activities overall.

# ANNEX III

## PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK

Indigenous peoples and FAO share an interest in a number of specific themes within food and agriculture. Outlined below, these themes correspond to FAO's core programme areas and are derived from activities that already exist; as such, they offer the most feasible platforms for collaborative action. The areas are strongly interrelated and thus should be addressed in a holistic and multidisciplinary manner.

### **Natural resources, environment and genetic resources**

Because many indigenous peoples seek to live in symbiosis with the environment and are highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, they have developed specialized knowledge about nature's resources and diversity, both on land and in the water. However, efforts to achieve food security and sustainable development are being compromised by continuing environmental degradation and the erosion of traditional skills.

Strengthening agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices – at both national and community levels – is therefore imperative for the sound functioning and sustainability of the world's ecosystems. Issues of right to access to and use of natural resources, as well as their quality and conservation, are central to such an effort.

### **Climate change and bioenergy**

Indigenous peoples' lands and territories are particularly vulnerable to climate change, primarily because of the fragility of the ecosystems in which many live and upon which they depend. On the other hand, the ability of indigenous peoples to survive in such environments can provide valuable information as to how to adapt to future climate scenarios, and their in-depth knowledge of specific indigenous species could enrich the world's knowledge base on how to respond to climate change. Ultimately, the long-term effects of climate change, including the accelerated loss and deterioration of natural resources, biodiversity and associated food systems, must be mitigated if indigenous and other rural communities are to withstand such pressures and survive.

Bioenergy has the potential to contribute to climate change mitigation, but also to energy security and to agricultural and rural development more generally. Much of this depends, however, on the type of feedstock, production system and institutional arrangements that are used. FAO pursues bioenergy development through sustainable small-scale livelihood-oriented bioenergy initiatives, which can provide improved access to sustainable and affordable energy services, enhance livelihoods for rural people and increase their resilience to the effects of climate change, without negative impact on food production and the environment.



## **Land and territories**

Rights over land, territory and related natural resources are of fundamental importance to many indigenous peoples since these resources constitute the basis of their economic livelihoods and the source of their spiritual, cultural and social identities. FAO's work in this area is therefore particularly valuable. When built through participatory methods, land titling and demarcation processes, tenure security, agrarian reform and similar efforts can contribute greatly to creating a more secure and legally-defined property environment. For indigenous peoples, obtaining clear and inalienable rights over land and natural resources would support their aspirations for greater sovereignty, afford a greater sense of well-being and improve their ability to meet their livelihood needs.

## **Food security, nutrition and the right to food**

Scientific findings show that indigenous peoples face a higher risk of food insecurity and malnutrition than other groups because they suffer from high poverty levels, decreased resource availability and growing dependence on highly processed but cheaper foods. Efforts to ensure food security and adequate nutrition are necessary to address this problem. During the World Food Summit in November 2009, FAO member states committed themselves to “actively encourage the consumption of foods, particularly those available locally, that contribute to diversified and balanced diets, as the best means of addressing micronutrient deficiencies and other forms of malnutrition, especially among vulnerable groups.” Indigenous peoples have a key role to play in the promotion of sustainable diets and resilient food systems.

At the same time, indigenous peoples' ‘food sovereignty’ is being jeopardized by the erosion of traditional food systems. For indigenous peoples, ‘food security’ also denotes the right to choose the kinds of foods they wish to eat and to prepare them in accordance with traditional methods. Sustainable diets utilizing local foods conserve both ecosystems and the traditions of indigenous peoples. The right to food is therefore closely linked with the fulfilment of cultural rights and the two should be pursued jointly.

## **Communication and knowledge systems**

Knowledge and information are fundamental in supporting livelihood security and rural development. Communication initiatives are increasingly recognized as an effective means to promote capacity development, empowerment and social change, and FAO has been active in this area for numerous decades.

Communication initiatives also foster the blending between local/indigenous knowledge and 'technical' information for development. Indeed, recognition of the resourcefulness of traditional agricultural knowledge systems and their complementarity with 'scientific' innovation systems is a growing area of interest today.

### **Cultural and biological diversity**

The loss of future options for food security is not only a problem of conservation of species, resources or ecological systems, but is also associated with the decline of traditional agricultural practices, cultural systems and languages. Indeed, rural populations such as indigenous peoples have historically been the originators of livelihood systems that are built on an intricate awareness of the local environment and that manifest impressive levels of sustainability. The inextricable relationship between cultural and biological diversity must therefore be respected, cultivated and promoted, and the rights of indigenous peoples over their traditional knowledge and practices must be recognized and, when necessary, protected. Ensuring the dynamic conservation and promotion of traditional agricultural heritage systems is a central component of FAO's efforts in this regard.

### **Economic opportunity for sustainable livelihoods**

Many of the problems faced by indigenous peoples stem from being marginalized from economic, social, cultural and political processes. Providing access to markets, financial resources and stable sources of production remains a major challenge to the alleviation of poverty and food insecurity. FAO supports efforts to create enabling environments for sustainable and autonomous living through activities such as entrepreneurial training and institutional capacity development. Objectives include the generation of greater income, the diversification of livelihood options and the creation of more equitable and accessible opportunities for making a living.





Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla - 00153 Rome, Italy

Tel. +39 0657051

**[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)**







Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla - 00153 Rome, Italy

Tel. +39 0657051

[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

ISBN 978-92-5-106689-8



9 789251 066898