



UN GLOBAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH FORUM (UNGIYF)

16-20 OCTOBER 2023 | FAO HEADQUARTERS



2023 UNGIYF - MEDIA BRIEF



OVERVIEW

What is the UNGIYF?

The Biennial [UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum \(UNGIYF\)](#) is the **only high-level forum** in the UN dedicated to Indigenous Youth and related to Indigenous Peoples' issues.

Since its inauguration, in 2021, it had been hosted by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The UNGIYF is a unique space of dialogue and discussion for Indigenous Youth from all the 7 socio-cultural regions of the world. It is their **chance to raise their voices** and share concerns and proposals with Member States, UN Agencies, academia, research centres and other stakeholders.

The 2023 Session of the UNGIYF will focus on a series of issues that affect Indigenous Youth lives, ranging from **climate and biodiversity action, the impacts of pesticides and ultra-processed foods and the protection of plant genetic resources**.

Indigenous Youth: From self-harm to leadership

In 2016 the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (UNPFII) presented a [report](#) that shed light on the alarming reality of **self-inflicted harm and suicide** rates amongst Indigenous Youth. Many of the issues leading Indigenous Youth to commit these extreme acts are linked to land grabbing, forced displacement, forced assimilation and the loss of their ecosystems, territories and ways of life.

The **loss of their food and knowledge systems** is also one of the main concerns of Indigenous Youth.

Many of the challenges faced by Indigenous Youth are linked to **FAO mandate**. This is why in 2017 FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organised a meeting between the [Global Indigenous Youth Caucus](#) (GIYC) and the Organisation's Senior management. It was the first time the Caucus met in-person and the meeting resulted in the [Rome Statement on the Contribution of Indigenous Youth towards a World Without Hunger](#).

FAO listened to the concerns, requests and proposals of the Youth and a year later, in 2018, UNDESA and UNPFII issued a recommendation to FAO for the creation of the UNGIYF. FAO and the GIYC worked together for 3 years to set up the Forum's Secretariat.



Scan or click on the QR to visit UNGIYF website and get more information!

WHERE and WHEN?

The UNGIYF take place from the **16 – 20 October 2023** both **online** and at **FAO headquarters** in Rome

The Forum's discussions and the press conference will be hosted in the **Nomad Indigenous Foodlab**, a group of Sámi nomadic tents and an Indigenous territory at the heart of FAO.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Friday 20th October 2023

4:45 pm (CEST)

In-person and online

Follow the instructions on page 5



The **inaugural session** of the Forum was held online in **2021** and 136 Indigenous Youth participated in it. It resulted in the [Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on sustainable and Resilient Food Systems](#), that underlined the importance of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems for a better, sustainable nutrition for all.

In **2022** a delegation of Indigenous Youth gathered in-person at FAO headquarters in Rome to launch the **My Food Vision Is... campaign**.

This year the biennial UNGIYF is convening again to **make Indigenous Youth voices heard**.

Seven years have passed since the release of the UNPFII report, and the causes of self-harm amongst Indigenous Youth are more present than ever. Little has changed. But today Indigenous Youth are taking action: they are **leaders of the transformation** that the planet needs for the future of food systems.

They are the **seeds of change**.

Not only a Forum, but real action

The UNGIYF is drawing lots of attention. Indigenous Youth are working on messages and recommendations that will **pave the way for real action**.

They will deliver **Policy recommendations** and four **Manifestos** to Member states, UN Agencies and academia, outlining the concrete steps to undertake to improve Indigenous Youth lives and to make a better future a reality, leaving no one behind. Furthermore, Indigenous Youth messages will be delivered in a **Declaration** based on 7 points for action, deriving from 7 major concerns. This document will be rooted in the legacy of the previous 7 generations of Indigenous elders and ancestors and will be an act of responsibility and **solidarity towards the 7 future generations**.

2023 UNGIYF KEY DATA

481 Indigenous Youth applied
186 are coming to the Forum
98 Indigenous Peoples' groups
93 languages
51 countries
14 Indigenous Chefs
4 Indigenous musicians

KEY DATA ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

476 million Indigenous Peoples
5000 different groups
90 countries
Protecting **80%** of biodiversity



INDIGENOUS YOUTH MESSAGES

Seven concerns, seven actions, seven generations

The **number 7** has a strong symbolic meaning in many Indigenous cultures. Indigenous Peoples are divided into **7 socio-cultural regions**. Indigenous Youth inherited the legacy of the previous 7 generations, and their actions today will have a concrete effect on the future 7 generations.

Action needs to be taken on 7 main issues affecting Indigenous Youth lives, and not only. These will be the focus of the UNGIYF, and will be reflected in the messages that Indigenous Youth will deliver to the world.

- **Indigenous Peoples' knowledge is at risk.** Indigenous Youth are the bridge between the ancestral and the modern worlds, but they need support from decision makers.
- Mother Earth is sick and angry. **Climate and biodiversity actions** can wait no more.
- The modern genocide must stop. Extractive industries and the widespread **use of pesticides** are endangering Indigenous Youth lives. A moratorium on harmful activities is needed.
- Very often Indigenous Peoples' land rights are not considered in the design and implementation of the **"green transition"**. **Their livelihoods and ways of life end up being disrupted.** The green transition should not leave anybody behind.
- Indigenous Peoples' territories should be **free of violence**. Too often Indigenous Youth are victims of different kinds of violence that endangers them and the future of their food and knowledge systems.
- Healthy foods for a healthy life. Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems are rich and nutritious, but Indigenous Youth are suffering from an epidemic of non-communicable diseases brought by **ultra-processed foods**. This must stop.
- Halt biopiracy. Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems are guardians of a great variety of plants for food and medicine, but they are at risk of misappropriation from external actors. A protocol on the **protection of Indigenous Peoples' plant genetic resources** is needed.

Indigenous Youth are speaking to the world. **The time to listen to their voices has come.**

CONTACTS

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SOCIAL MEDIA

@FAOIndigenous
#UNGIYF23
#MyFoodVisionIs



USEFUL INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

UNGIYF press conference

A conclusive press conference will take place on the **20th October 2023, at 04:45pm (CEST)**. Journalists are invited to participate either in-person or online. Please, **follow the information below** this box to get accreditation or to register for the online press conference.

How to follow the UNGIYF in-person

All media outlets are welcome to participate to the UNGIYF sessions. To get **accredited and get access to FAO** headquarters in Rome, follow these instructions:

- Send an accreditation request to FAO-Newsroom@fao.org
 - Specify that you will be attending the UNGIYF.
 - Specify the desired date(s) for the accreditation.
 - Attach to the request scanned copies of a *valid ID* (passport/ identity card) and of a *valid press card or letter of assignment on company stationery*.
 - Remember to bring a valid ID with you when arriving at FAO
-

How to follow the UNGIYF online

Register through this [link](#) to **follow the UNGIYF sessions virtually**. It will lead you to UNGIYF website, where you will find an orange button to register for the day of the press conference. Join the conference at 4:45pm (CEST).

Interview opportunities

Media outlets participating in the UNGIYF will have the opportunity to interview **Indigenous Youth** coming from the seven socio-cultural regions of the world, world class **Indigenous Chefs** and **Indigenous artists**.

LINKS

[UNGIYF website](#)
[UNGIYF agenda in brief](#)

ORGANISERS

- **Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC)**
- **Association of World Reindeer Herders**
- **Nomad Indigenous Foodlab**

The UNGIYF is supported by **DOCIP** and hosted by **FAO**

