

Sustainable Development Goal 16 and Indigenous Peoples' collective rights: The role of FAO in contributing to achieving peace and justice for Indigenous Peoples

Side Event at UNPFII Twentieth Session: April 21, 2021 | 12:00 - 13:30 (EST) 18:00 – 19:30 (CEST)

Zoom Event: <https://fao.zoom.us/j/97146540275> Passcode: 55932826

Background

FAO notes with great concern the acts of violence, criminalization, and threats aimed at Indigenous Peoples worldwide, posing a risk for peace and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the last decade, the pressure on natural resources increased, putting Indigenous Peoples more than ever in the frontlines of economic interests, environmental issues and territorial struggles.

Despite the importance of Indigenous Peoples' lands, (marine and fresh) water and territories for biodiversity and their spiritual, social, cultural value as sources of identity, Indigenous Peoples' rights over their lands, water and territories have been historically disregarded. Tenure insecurity has led Indigenous Peoples to forced evictions, displacement and relocation affecting their security and cultural survival.

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting Indigenous Peoples and their food security differently around the world: those with access to land and waters and who rely on their Indigenous Peoples' food systems to generate food are coping better than other communities who rely heavily on the market to meet their food needs. (FAO, 2020)

In response to this issue and attending the special theme of the 20th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: "Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16", the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit in collaboration with FAO Development Law Service embarked on the initiative to write a paper that studies Sustainable Development Goal 16 and Indigenous Peoples' collective rights. The paper focuses on FAO's role in contributing to the achievement of peace and justice for Indigenous Peoples.

In this paper, FAO shares experiences and proposes actions to advance towards the realization of Indigenous Peoples' rights to lands and waters, territories, and resources, urging the Members to protect Indigenous Peoples' rights as an avenue to achieve the SDG 16.

PROPOSED AGENDA

12:00 -12:05	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>Moderator: Yon Fernández de Larrinoa, Chief of FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit</p>
12:05 - 12:10	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Anne Nuorgam, Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues <i>Land tenure insecurity affecting Indigenous Peoples</i></p>
12:10 – 12:25	<p>Presenting the paper: <i>FAO’s role in supporting Indigenous Peoples and countries in achieving SDG 16</i></p> <p>María Acosta, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit Luisa Castañeda, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit</p>
12:25 – 13:00	<p>Panel discussion Indigenous Peoples and peace: ensuring security of tenure and Indigenous Peoples’ governance systems and institutions</p> <p><i>Featured panelist</i></p> <p>Marcela Villarreal, FAO Director Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division <i>The VGGTs: an avenue to prevent conflict and secure land tenure for Indigenous Peoples</i></p> <p>Kundan Kuman, RRI Director, Asia Program TBC <i>Lack of realization of Indigenous Peoples’ collective rights as a driver of criminalization</i></p> <p>Elisa Morgera, Professor of Global Environmental Law and Director of the One Ocean Hub, University of Strathclyde <i>Legal challenges and opportunities for the protection of Indigenous Peoples' collective rights to lands and waters, territories and natural resources in the context of SDG 16</i></p>
13:00 – 13:20	<p>Questions and Comments</p>
13:20 – 13:30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Luisa Cruz, FAO Development Law Service, Legal Office</p>