



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
54th plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security
19-23 October 2026

Item IV: Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems

Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia align themselves with this statement.
3. We thank the HLPE-FSN for its report and all those who contributed to it, in particular Indigenous knowledge holders. We acknowledge the report with appreciation and support its translation into all official UN languages.
4. As the UN General Assembly recognised in 2024, the food systems of Indigenous Peoples can support healthy diets and nutritious food and contribute to ending hunger and malnutrition. Rooted in lands, territories and resources, they help to maintain biodiversity, diversified agricultural production and strengthen resilience. Yet they are under growing pressure from insecure tenure, climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental challenges, conflict and changing diets, and from the erosion of knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and their languages. Indigenous Peoples continue to face disproportionate food insecurity, while disaggregated data remain scarce.

Mr Chair,

4. We are firmly committed to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food. Their full, effective and meaningful participation in the decisions that affect them is essential.

5. Secure and legitimate tenure rights are the foundation of food systems. In line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, this requires effective and meaningful consultation with Indigenous Peoples, through their own representative institutions, applying the principle of free, prior and informed consent.
 6. The knowledge of Indigenous Peoples must be respected, protected and passed on to future generations, with free, prior and informed consent and fair and equitable sharing of benefits. Indigenous women and youth are central to this. We also recognise the important contribution of Indigenous Peoples, to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
 7. We look forward to an inclusive, evidence-based policy convergence process, with the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, leading to focused and action-oriented recommendations. These should build on existing CFS policy products, support uptake at country level in collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies, and ensure coherence with other fora, avoiding duplication.
 8. The European Union and its Member States remain committed to SDG 2, the right to adequate food, as well as the rights of Indigenous Peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and recognise the contribution of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices to food security, nutrition biodiversity and resilience. We stand ready to engage constructively.
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