



**Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
To the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
In relation to Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group
On existing policies and practices for participation of indigenous peoples and local communities**

Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supports the establishment of the Local Community and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) and its Facilitative Working Group, and welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on existing policies and practices for participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in climate-change related bodies and processes under and outside the Convention as part of activity seven of the LCIPP initial two-year workplan (2020-2021) (decision FCCC/SBSTA/2019/L.13). This submission builds on previous FAO's submissions of 2019 on possible activities related to the implementation of the LCIPP functions and on issues related to the Gender Action Plan and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture.

FAO adopted its Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples¹ in 2010 and since 2014 has been actively working on its implementation, consistent with its mandate to pursue a world free from hunger and malnutrition. This also contributes to other frameworks such as the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples have devised ingenious ways of managing their territories without depleting the natural resource base. As guardians of biodiversity, indigenous peoples hold vast traditional knowledge and play pivotal role in contributing to climate actions. In particular, they have developed sophisticated indigenous food systems, complex territorial management practices, and crafted weather reporting systems through natural indicators. These bodies of knowledge are fundamental to counterbalance climate change and ensure food security. Such knowledge has been traditionally passed on from one generation to another. However, they are now at the frontline of the worst impacted by climate change as they live in exposed environments such as the arctic, low-lying islands, tropical forests and high mountains.

Views on existing policies and practices for participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in climate-change related bodies and processes under and outside the Convention

The Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP should participate in events and policy discussions organized by other organisations, including FAO's Committees on Food Security (CFS), on Agriculture (CoAg), Forestry (COFO) and Fisheries (COFI), which work on issues that are important to the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples, such as agriculture and natural resources.

¹ FAO. 2015. *FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples*. In: FAO [online]. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2020]. <http://www.fao.org/3/i4476E/i4476e.pdf>

In addition, FAO is proposing that the Facilitative Working Group have an active role in the Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples Food Systems to be launched in 2020. This global hub gathers universities, research centers, indigenous organizations and UN agencies in order to generate knowledge on indigenous food systems and provide inputs to global discussions on sustainable food systems and climate change.

Furthermore, FAO suggests the Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP to have a place at the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security, to ensure its views and perspectives are taken into consideration in the policy recommendations and guidelines developed and endorsed by the CFS. This is particularly important during the current process of drafting the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition.

In order to increase the engagement of indigenous women in climate-change related bodies and processes under and outside the Convention, FAO suggests the LCIPP to support capacity building programs that allow indigenous women to increase their knowledge on climate change, the convention and their role and contributions as indigenous women and peoples. In this regard, FAO proposes that the Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP establish a collaboration with FAO for the implementation of the Indigenous Women Leadership Schools on Food Security and Climate Change program.

Regarding small-scales fisheries (SSF), FAO proposes that the Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP play an active role in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, including through engagement in the related partnership mechanism, the Global Strategic Framework (*SSF-GSF*), and particularly to help guide implementation of the SSF Guidelines in indigenous fisheries². Additionally, the Facilitative Working Group would be invited to take initiatives to celebrate the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022.

In addition, the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)³ proposes the Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP to take part in the ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG), a group of expert mandated by the Governing Body of the International Treaty to:

- i. produce an Inventory of national measures and practices for the implementation of Farmers' Rights; and
- ii. based on the Inventory, to develop options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.

In this Expert Group, farmers' organization especially coming from the origin and center of crop diversity are represented. The Inventory of national measures and practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights had been produced and it would be a rolling document. All indigenous and local communities and farmers are invited to continuously submit and/or update their measures and practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights. The discussion on the preparation of the Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, are in progress and expected to be presented at the next session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty in 2021.

The proposed way forward

FAO confirms its commitment to support the implementation of the LCIPP through sharing its experience in working with local communities and indigenous peoples in the food and agriculture sectors. FAO stands ready to provide its technical support to the work of the LCIPP to exchange experiences, share knowledge and best

² FAO. 2015. *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in Context of Food Security and Poverty Reduction*. In: FAO [online]. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2020]. <http://www.fao.org/3/i4356en/i4356EN.pdf>

³ FAO. 2009. *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. In: FAO [online]. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2020]. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i0510e.pdf>

practices on adaptation and mitigation in a holistic and integrated manner. This support can include the following:

1. Establish a FAO- LCIPP workplan on *LCIPP, food security and climate change* that enables knowledge exchanges, the implementation of capacity building processes and the participation of the LCIPP in FAO's specialized committees and fora;
2. Using FAO's country offices to liaise with different networks of organizations working with local communities and indigenous peoples to better facilitate sharing of knowledge and best adaptation and mitigation practices related to agriculture; and
3. Inviting members of the Facilitative Working Group of LCIPP to participate in FAO's committees such as COFO, COFI, CoAg, CFS in order to familiarize them with some parallel processes and how best to synchronize and harmonize the LCIPP work with those of other organizations.