



**51ème Session du CDH UNOG: Panel discussion on the impact of social and economic recovery plans in the COVID-19 context on indigenous people with special focus on food security**  
**26 Septembre 2022**

**Mr President**

Climate change, conflict, COVID-19, and increasing food and fuel costs have pushed millions of the poorest and most vulnerable into food insecurity. Furthermore, with the introduction of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, there have been additional negative impacts on food production, which has exacerbated inequality among indigenous people across the globe. Although the indigenous peoples comprise only 6% of the world's population and they are crucial environmental guardians managing 28% of the world's land, including ecologically intact and biodiverse forest regions. Therefore, member states must include indigenous peoples in general social and economic rehabilitation strategies envisioned for their countries.

The COVID19 setting has highlighted the disparities faced by indigenous people while also highlighting the need to rely on traditional knowledge, cultural practices and traditions. While experiencing increased disparities, indigenous people have developed creative methods of responding to the food crisis through their representative institutions or forms of self-government. As indigenous people usually inhabit remote regions, they have had to rely on their traditional health services and systems to survive the various waves of the pandemic with little to no medical assistance from their national authorities and local governments. Although the United Nations has established an international plan for an immediate socioeconomic reaction, indigenous people need better access to primary health care networks.

The social biases and discrimination around the indigenous people in public and private institutions have had varying effects, with those with additional intersections like gender identity or sexual orientation, age, and disability being the most vulnerable. There has been a report on a surge in teenage pregnancies and psychological stress among the youth. All nations and communities must continue learning and educating during the pandemic recovery. Despite the epidemic, schools must resume in some way. Governmental bodies must ensure that indigenous students don't drop out when schools reopen due to a lack of support in the educational and other spheres (including food and health programmes, social and emotional support and relevant content).

Another impediment to the effective utilization of the recovery plans in the COVID-19 context has been the language barrier. The member states must ensure accurate and timely information in suitable languages for the indigenous population. The appropriate languages enable the integration of indigenous people and encourage active participation in conceptualizing preventative measures and treatment programs tailored to help their community with the economic and social rehabilitation.

Finally, indigenous people have limited access to lands, territories, and natural resources, which inhibits their ability to practice traditional farming methods like agroforestry, crop rotation, polyculture, intercropping and water harvest. To address food security, the member states need to acknowledge the indigenous people's role in protecting the world's natural resources that have maintained biodiversity and affording them more accessible land.

Présentation: **Mme BRÄNDLE-AMOLO Yvonne**