



PF17 Yon Fernandez Item 3 2704 (2704)

**XVI Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (24 April - 5 May 2017) Statement by
the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Yon Fernandez- de-Larrinoa, FAO Indigenous
Peoples Team Leader**

**Agenda Item 3: Follow up on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum: a) Empowerment
of Indigenous Women, b) Indigenous Youth**

Indigenous Women and Youth

Elders and Honourable members of the Permanent Forum,

Distinguished representatives,

FAO is thankful for this opportunity to address the forum during this agenda item:

First, because it talks about how to integrate the recommendations from the Permanent Forum into our work.

Second, because it touches upon two crucial items: indigenous women and indigenous youth.

Together with FIMI, FAO has been actively working in the empowerment and leadership of indigenous women.

This work is very important and we remain committed to continue it.

On Indigenous Youth, FAO is honoured to have hosted in Rome two weeks ago, a meeting of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus.

The idea started when the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus approached FAO seeking support and better understanding of our work on food systems, food security, nutrition, land, forests and fisheries.

The meeting brought young representatives from the seven socio cultural regions.

We were particularly happy to have Africa and Russia Representatives with us.

This three-day meeting became so strategic that the FAO Director General and the three Deputy Director Generals joined the discussions with the youth caucus.

The meeting allowed indigenous youth to have a closed door meeting to strategize and prepare the Rome Declaration just read.

The last day of the meeting brought for the first time in FAO Representatives from 20 member states that wanted to meet directly with indigenous youth.

Among others, the countries suggested indigenous youth participation in the FAO World Committee on Food Security (CFS).

Besides the Rome Declaration, three important results came out of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and FAO meeting:

- The decision to host a forum on indigenous youth in FAO Headquarters in Rome.



- The support from member states to the inclusion of indigenous youth activities in the work of FAO, and the need to link it to policy discussion forums and committees on forestry, fisheries, agriculture, plant genetic resources.
- The inclusion of youth activities in the Indigenous peoples and FAO joint workplan.

As our Director General mentioned during the meeting:

“It is essential that we incorporate activities with indigenous youth. Initially it may be one or two but eventually we will manage to have indigenous youth taken into consideration into the different programmes.

Along with you, we learn how to combine traditional knowledge with new technologies”

Let us all join forces to ensure that councils, meetings, and policy discussions actively involve indigenous youth!!!

They are the future!!!

We thank you for your attention.