

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 10 June 2021 12:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	UN Food Systems Summit, 2021: Regional Consultation / Саммит ООН по Продовольственным Системам 2021 Региональная консультация
CONVENED BY	Center for support of indigenous peoples of the North (CSIPN) , Aborigin Forum
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/35212/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, No borders, Russian Federation, Tajikistan

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

2 0-18 14 19-30 17 31-50 13 51-65 7 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

19 Male 34 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

14	Agriculture/crops	3	Education		Health care
18	Fish and aquaculture		Communication		Nutrition
8	Livestock		Food processing	9	National or local government
	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	16	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	2	Local authority
7	Small-scale farmer	5	Government and national institution
2	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	1	United Nations
35	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
6	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
49	Indigenous People		Consumer group
4	Science and academia		Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

A coordination group was assembled by the CSIPN to solve technical, logistical and coordination issues. Participants were invited through an open invitation distributed through country and interregional mailing lists of indigenous peoples and local communities, posting information on social networks, direct letters to organizations of indigenous peoples, women and youth in the region, including NGOs working with indigenous communities or organizations. The invitation included a link for registration, along with information about the Consultation and the future UN Summit. The dialogue was documented and recorded, the recording is posted on the website <https://indigenous-russia.com/>

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue started at 12:00 a.m Moscow time in consideration of the time differences within the region vis the convenience of the participants and speakers. In accordance with big territorial and languages diversity of IPs , Russian was the medium of dialogue. Speakers were invited based on their expertise and work experiences in different aspects related to indigenous food systems and also teritorial diversity. In the group discussion, the following topics were considered: access to food, transition to sustainable food systems, increase of positive impact on environment, contribution to fair and equitable sources of livelihood and building resilience to climate shocks and stresses of current and future exposures. Other topics including current risks (climate change, pandemic, etc.), opportunities and solutions for indigenous food network were also included in the dialogue. Participants discussed new technologies in the context of indigenous knowledge and food security and exchanged experience and existing practices. Representatives of each region expressed their own diverse yet common challenges: threat and protection of food systems and access to indigenous land and resources. After the introduction of regional consultation's objectives and presentations of key speakers, the dialogue was divided into two thematic sessions: major threats to indigenous food systems and access to indigenous lands, territories and natural resources. The discussions were documented, synthesized and presented in the plenary meeting with some time given for further discussions. Findings and proposals elaborated during the consultation sessions will form part of global recommendations and lay pathways to a collective strategic action for food governance, finance, information, culture, innovation, empowerment of women and youth

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Major focus of the Discussion was a comprehensive exploration of food systems and possible levers of change. Indigenous food systems in many countries have been severely disrupted through dispossession of Indigenous Peoples from their homelands, introduction of industrial food production, processing and distribution, rapid unification of food environments and changing dietary patterns. In addition, today, indigenous peoples balanced relationship with their land-based food systems is obstructed by the ongoing exploitation of indigenous lands and infringement of their rights through industrial projects and states' mismanagement of land and resources.

Some of the most large-scale resource development in the North, Siberia and Far East is taking place in Russia, prompting international concern for the fragile environment and the future of Russia's indigenous peoples. At the same time sustainability, as a concept, politics or area of research receives little attention inside the country. The role of indigenous peoples in any initiatives related to sustainable development has not yet been sufficiently reflected on.

Existing measures taken to achieve sustainable development are vague and do not include enforcing follow-up mechanisms. There is a lack of financial and economic resources to pursue sustainability related projects coupled with the reluctance of many political and business parties, which in turn plays into the hands of a powerful lobby of extractive industry in the country.

Unrestricted access to indigenous lands, continuous downgrading of their protection regime and absence of legal instruments to defend indigenous territories from resource extraction become the new normal for country's indigenous peoples.

Agricultural communities in Central Asia and Mongolia are facing a reduced availability of water resources and their unequal distribution due to the impacts of climate change and an increase of natural disasters. Unfortunately, existing programs and measures at the national level do not cover climate change adaptation and mitigation spheres; assistance to small-scale producers and farmers is practically absent. Reforms introduced in agriculture negatively affect the volume of goods produced, their cost and sale. According to the representatives from Kyrgyzstan, whereas the large-scale production of meat all but disappeared, the cost of purchases from small-scale farms fell sharply due to the high transport and other expenses, which are calculated in the final value of the product. Therefore, at the moment, all Central Asian countries chose to import meat. The dairy industry face the same fate as those in the meat industry. Products are sold locally while large cities prefer to import dairy foods. This negatively affects the economic development and stability of local small-scale production; poverty is only increasing in remote settlements.

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

Main findings of the Regional Indigenous Dialogue

The subject of indigenous food systems isn't solely and exclusively limited to the matters of a native traditional diet, food system and food sovereignty which closely related to the cultural, social, environmental, political and legal aspects of indigenous discourse.

Access to food is a human right; all barriers to that right must therefore be eliminated. Indigenous right to food examines critical questions of access to healthy, culturally appropriate food, as well as issues of ownership and control of land, traditional knowledge, governance, etc. Debate on food security and food sustainability led by indigenous peoples advocates not only for access to healthy food, but for an end to the structural injustices.

Exploitation of indigenous lands and industrial projects activities are needlessly destructive and have an enormous impact on traditional fishing, hunting and harvesting areas relied on by indigenous communities.

Russian government needs to significantly step up its sustainability efforts and begin to implement mechanisms to address existing inequities. Today's decisive action in economic, social and environmental dimensions of food policy will be critical in ensuring that the decade ahead delivers a sustainable food future. There is little time to lose, today we are witness to the pandemic of mistreated biodiversity. We must urgently reconcile humans with surrounding environments and restore our relationship with the nature.

Russia's move away from environmental agenda, continued policy of weakening indigenous legislation and needlessly destructive resource development are the most severe threat so far to country's indigenous communities. Since the warming temperatures mean more natural resources to exploit, no other country stands to benefit from climate change more than Russia. And under the pretext of the economic feasibility of extractive projects, it substantially ignores already modest standards and requirements for environmental protection.

Representatives of the Central Asia and Mongolia highlighted the need to address the risks of natural disasters and impact on agriculture and grazing, including the development of information infrastructure and a sound weather forecast system. It is also necessary to create and increase capacity of existing water storage for irrigation and food reserve of remote farms and develop effective programs to combat desertification and erosion of soils. They also recommended to introduce training programs for villages, interest-free credit systems, and state support initiatives for the local agricultural sector. It is also necessary to develop marketing infrastructure, organize wholesale local markets, compact slaughterhouses with a quality control system adapted specifically for local small-scale production.

Recommendations

Some of the core recommendations and next steps to a better food system proposed by representatives of breeders, reindeer herders, seed growers, fishermen, hunters, gatherers, farmers, indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation, local communities of Central Asia, men, women and youth include:

To UN structures and states

Any policies developed in the sphere of food security, biodiversity, climate change and other related areas should include legal measures and standards protecting the knowledge, cultures and traditions of indigenous peoples. These measures should be based on human rights and international law and elaborated collectively with the full and active participation of indigenous peoples at every stage of development process; should include productive institutions in the dialogue and ensure indigenous women's participation.

Any initiative to create online databases on food systems, cultures, traditions and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, or to use or apply indigenous knowledge to transform food policies, should be based on the principle of free, prior and informed consent and indigenous intellectual property rights.

There is an urgent need to create a global fund managed by indigenous peoples themselves with adequate funding for the successful and effective protection and support of the food systems of indigenous peoples and local communities. This will enable indigenous peoples to make their own decisions, preserve and promote traditional knowledge and practices, implement appropriate activities and policies, related to the preservation and transfer of knowledge on food systems and reinforce food security and sovereignty.

It is necessary to improve, enhance and reinforce institutional environment and capacities of state officials at the national level and representatives of bodies within the UN system to collaborate with indigenous traditional knowledge holders. In order to achieve a better understanding and increased awareness of indigenous traditions, including food-based knowledge systems, a diverse list of activities and events on traditional knowledge involving people who have dedicated themselves to working on indigenous issues, and those who are in any way related to indigenous food-based systems must be prepared. When and only when policymakers truly embrace and understand the concepts of traditional cultures and interaction is built on mutual respect and human rights, collectively developed and implemented policies truly recognize, protect, preserve indigenous knowledge, traditional cultures and practices.

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KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

During the Dialogue next recommendation was developed to the national government on Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress:

- To prioritize sustainable food production, food safety, food value chains, and revitalization of neglected food system initiatives and implement policies to reduce food waste
- To modify regional/local structures governing food systems in accordance with the indigenous peoples' vision and development priorities
- To revitalize and encourage indigenous resilient food systems grounded in traditional knowledge of lands, waterways, seasonal food sources, ecologically sustainable diets, sophisticated agricultural practices and food preparation methods
- To protect and boost indigenous local markets
- To reform subsidy and regulatory regimes controlling food network and address the shortfall in sustainable food system funding by redeploying financial support for the revival of indigenous traditional food culture and conservation or other sustainability projects
- To address the problem of isolation and remoteness of indigenous territories and lack of basic infrastructure
- To ensure full access to free traditional food and economic activities for people residing in the marginalized and geographically remote areas, and families which are economically and socially excluded and vulnerable to food and nutrition security (older persons, children, persons with disabilities, etc.)
- To support and promote distribution of traditional food of indigenous national cuisine in school and other educational facilities' menus
- To introduce indigenous knowledge on food and food literacy into school programs
- To increase mass awareness and knowledge building on indigenous food systems including realization of training programs in the private sector
- To introduce restrictions/moratoriums on commercial fishing and hunting in areas of indigenous residence
- To protect local food systems from chemization and GMO
- To ensure an access to innovations in food technologies and incorporate new technologies in sustainable development projects of local communities
- To document and preserve data on traditional medicine and provide free access to the extraction of medicinal plants
- To invest in the development of various types of protected areas, intact forests, projects on climate change adaptation and ecosystem recovery
- To reconstruct reindeer herding institutions as facilities essential for health and traditional nutrition of indigenous peoples and aboriginal cattle breeding
- To invest in the development of various types of protected areas, intact forests, projects on climate change adaptation and ecosystem recovery

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

During the Dialogue next recommendation was developed to national and regional governments on Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods:

- ☐ To guarantee indigenous rights to lands, territories and natural resources
- ☐ To guarantee the legal status of indigenous territories of residence and indigenous peoples' economic activities including fishing, hunting and harvesting rights
- ☐ To guarantee the recognition and importance of indigenous rights to preserve traditional food culture and realize indigenous peoples right to healthy and culturally appropriate food and their right to define their own food systems
- ☐ To recognize and support indigenous life systems, community governance, traditional knowledge systems, sacred sites, worldviews, spirituality, etc.
- ☐ To confirm commitment to equitable health and food policies and increase political commitment and finance to address challenges in food-related areas, exacerbated by the pandemic
- ☐ To promote and strengthen the role and prestige of native traditional economies (reindeer herding, seed farming, fishing, gathering, hunting, etc.), employment systems and practices
- ☐ To promote the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making, related to the food, welfare and future development of indigenous peoples and their territories and actively involve and incorporate indigenous perspectives in regional development strategies, planning, policy decisions and actions which affect them, including the development of health policies
- ☐ To empower indigenous communities by strengthening their economic governance capacities and enhancing income opportunities
- ☐ To create incentives (financial and nonfinancial) and encourage the development of indigenous community-based food practices
- ☐ To ensure state and other (international) assistance (legal, financial, technical, etc.) in the development and promotion of traditional food systems of indigenous peoples and local communities
- ☐ To improve availability, access and affordability of indigenous foods at local, regional, national markets and ensure sustainable, regular, continuous and unrestricted access to quantitative, qualitative and adequate nutrition in accordance with the cultural traditions of indigenous peoples and local communities
- ☐ To ensure full access to free traditional food and economic activities for people residing in the marginalized and geographically remote areas, and families which are economically and socially excluded and vulnerable to food and nutrition security (older persons, children, persons with disabilities, etc.)
- ☐ To build the resilience of women, small indigenous business, and vulnerable populations by supporting the growth of local community-based food system initiatives and food policies
- ☐ To initiate conditions for a youth entrepreneurship and build opportunities for young people to engage in a greater data collection, sharing and exchange at various levels, innovations and practices of local food systems and traditional agriculture of indigenous peoples and local communities
- ☐ To promote and legislate fair trade and encourage partnering with indigenous communities in the food system chain and prioritizing federal/regional/local programmes engaging indigenous business and family-based enterprises in agribusiness and food-based systems
- ☐ To provide transparent and open quantitative data on the allocation of quotas between indigenous communities, individuals, industrial companies and small businesses located on the indigenous territories (indigenous territories under the federal law)
- ☐ To protect indigenous territories from industrial pollution, genetically modified or synthetic biological organisms or elements
- ☐ To increase policy actions in the area of traditional food marketing including certification of indigenous products
- ☐ To enhance investment and prioritise research of indigenous traditional food systems research and development
- ☐ To invest in restoration of degraded lands including boreal forests and other endangered ecosystems and lands, which are the basis of indigenous traditional knowledge, practices, medicine and nutrition systems

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KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
✓	Human rights	✓	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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KEYWORDS

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| | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Dialogue program**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Dialogue-Program-10-June-2021-.pdf>
- **Russia Europe Central Asia Dialogue on FSS Report_ENG**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Russia-Europe-Central-Asia-Dialogue-on-FSS-Report-24-06-21-ENG.pdf>
- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Invitation.pdf>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **The recording is posted on the website**
<https://indigenous-russia.com/>