

# Declaration of the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP)

Indigenous Food Solutions to the Climate Crisis



**INMIP**

International Network of  
Mountain Indigenous Peoples

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“ We believe that Indigenous Peoples’ low carbon, resilient food systems can help to reverse the climate crisis ”

We, representatives of more than 50 Indigenous Mountain communities from 11 countries in South, Central and Southeast Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, and Africa, organised under the umbrella of the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP), have come together to put forward the INMIP Declaration on Indigenous Food Solutions to the Climate Crisis.

We reaffirm our right to food sovereignty, which is intrinsically linked to our biocultural heritage, specially to our spiritual relationship with Mother Earth, and ratify our rights as established in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Concerned by the climate crisis and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which have aggravated biodiversity loss, species extinction and ecosystem destruction, and by deepening global hunger and malnutrition, and as proud members of ancient cultures who possess and maintain a wealth of knowledge, practices and strategies on how to live in harmony with nature, we reject all false solutions to the climate crisis. In particular, we reject carbon pricing, REDD, and the new fads of Nature-based Solutions and ‘Net Zero’, because they have failed to deliver any real emissions reductions or climate action and have caused massive land grabs and human rights violations on Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Similarly, we reject the results of the pro-corporate United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) which has captured public policy spaces to continue the colonisation of local food systems and food governance. Any solution to the food, human and environmental health and climate

crises must be led by Indigenous Peoples and small-scale producers who collectively produce over 80% of the world’s food.

Industrialised agri-food systems have created the current climate emergency, contributing up to 30% of global greenhouse emissions. We believe that Indigenous Peoples’ low carbon, resilient food systems can help to reverse the climate crisis because they are based on respect for Mother Earth, woven in a sacred relationship between our cultures and water, air, plants, pastures, animals, mountains, and respect for the wisdom of our elders and women.

Industrialised food systems also caused the COVID-19 crisis, and have been significantly impacted by it. By contrast, our Indigenous food systems proved resilient during the pandemic, ensuring food security because of a high degree of self-sufficiency and an emphasis on solidarity, sharing and helping those in need. INMIP members experienced no COVID-related deaths and only minor health impacts, which we believe is linked to our nutrient-dense foods with medicinal and immune-boosting properties.

Indigenous Peoples living in mountains are stewards of most of the world’s centres of crop origin and diversity, which provide critical repositories of hardy low-input varieties for climate adaptation, and sustain a large proportion of the world’s biodiversity hotspots. Our homelands serve as water towers for millions of people living downstream, but our territories are also highly sensitive to climate change impacts. The pro-corporate UNFSS agenda will surely add hardships to our already threatened Indigenous food systems, violating our human rights and endangering our very survival as mountain Indigenous Peoples with unique traditional lifestyles.



We call upon the UNFCCC Parties and observers meeting in Glasgow, Scotland to:

1. Address the harmful impacts of industrial food systems and 'modernisation' on greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, resilience to climate change and the food security and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale producers.
2. Promote Indigenous Food Systems as a key solution to the climate crisis, since they are low carbon and effective in enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and food producing habitats; provide nutritious foods and medicines; inhibit the transfer of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 from animals to humans; supply clean water, air and soils; and provide jobs.
3. Protect Indigenous Peoples' biocultural systems, especially against industrial farming, and reject the results of the pro-corporate United Nations Food Systems Summit. We call upon the donor community not to fund the neocolonial FSS agenda and instead support Indigenous food systems, food sovereignty and grassroots agroecology.
4. Develop a specific action plan on mountains that recognises Indigenous Mountain Peoples' contributions to climate change adaptation and mitigation and supports local action to respond to the vulnerability of mountain ecosystems, based on a biocultural resilience approach that builds on traditional knowledge and biodiversity.
5. Reject all false climate solutions, including carbon markets, REDD, high-tech 'climate-smart' monocultures, Nature-based Solutions and Net Zero, which are being used to increase corporate power, deflect responsibility from rich historical polluters and avoid urgent action to reduce emissions.

6. Take urgent action to protect the human rights of Indigenous land defenders. During the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown at least 227 land and environment defenders were killed, making this the deadliest year on record for Indigenous activists.
7. Strengthen the role of women and youth and gender and racially transformative approaches to climate action, and open all spaces for inclusion of Indigenous food solutions to address the current climate crisis.
8. Heighten donor support, both direct and indirect, to Indigenous food systems and localised transformative approaches, including Indigenous exchanges and educational and developmental learning.

We reaffirm the inherent and fundamental human rights and status of Indigenous Peoples, as per Articles 25–30 of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP), which recognise the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their traditional territories and resources and to maintain their spiritual relationships with their lands.

The survival of humanity demands radical and rapid action. INMIP is committed to working with the international community on real solutions to the climate crisis and transforming the world's unsustainable and inequitable food systems, while enhancing poverty alleviation, public participation, gender equality and women's empowerment, food sovereignty and ecosystem integrity.

*“ We call upon the UNFCCC Parties and observers meeting in Glasgow, Scotland to: ... Promote Indigenous Food Systems as a key solution to the climate crisis ”*

## Get involved

To find out more about the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP), contact the Network Coordinator, **Alejandro Argumedo**, [inmip-secretariat@andes.org.pe](mailto:inmip-secretariat@andes.org.pe), or visit [www.inmip.net](http://www.inmip.net)

To finance INMIP adaptation projects and engage the network in policy dialogue, contact the Country Coordinators:

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