



INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES'  
FORUM  
AT IFAD

10  
years

## Message from His Holiness Pope Francis

Fifth Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum  
at IFAD

2 February 2021

Dear representatives of the indigenous peoples,

Be assured, once again, of my closeness to you and of the commitment of the Church to continue on our path together, expressing our shared conviction that globalization cannot mean a kind of uniformity that disregards diversity and imposes a new colonialism.

The challenge is, instead, to create alternatives from a place of solidarity so that no one feels left out – but without overwhelmingly imposing a single direction that is said to be the only right way. On the contrary, we are well aware that when diversities are articulated and enrich one another, communion among peoples revives and flourishes. In reality, this means promoting development without embracing consumption as both the means and the end; it means truly looking after the environment to listen, learn and dignify. This is an all-encompassing ecology, in which social justice goes hand in hand with protecting the planet. Only in this humility of spirit will we definitively overcome hunger and achieve a society based on enduring values that flow not from one-sided passing trends but rather from justice and goodness.

I am confident that your work here will bear abundant fruit, through our love for the world we wish to build together and leave to those who come after us – as a treasure and not an accumulation of waste and ruin. And to do so, let us pay attention to the things that benefit all of us, the things that will enable us to pass through this world leaving altruism and generosity in our wake – escaping the wounds of earthly immanence, the desolation of spiritual emptiness, the paralysis of self-centredness and the sadness of individualism.

With these sentiments, I ask God to bless your communities and all those working at IFAD to help people living in the most disadvantaged parts of our world, in the grace of the beauty that comes of respecting and living together with nature, the handiwork of our Lord.

FRANCISCO, POPE

Vatican City, February 2, 2021