

Media Update

8 August 2019

United Nations

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

9 August 2019

This year marks the International Year of Indigenous Languages, declared by the United Nations General Assembly to draw attention to the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages.

Languages are how we communicate, and they are inextricably linked to our cultures, histories and identity. Almost half of the world's estimated 6,700 languages – of which most are indigenous -- are in danger of disappearing. With every language that disappears, the world loses a wealth of traditional knowledge.

There are an estimated 370 million indigenous people in the world. A significant proportion still lack basic rights, with systematic discrimination and exclusion continuing to threaten ways of life, cultures and identities. This is contrary to the intent of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its promise to leave no one behind.

I count on Member States to engage and support indigenous peoples in determining their own development through policies that are inclusive, equitable and accessible. The United Nations stands ready to support all initiatives aimed at realizing the rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples.

Background:

By resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples shall be observed on 9 August every year. The date marks the day of the first meeting, in 1982, of the UN Working Group on Indigenous



Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

In 1990, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 1993 the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/45/164 A/RES/47/75). Later, the General Assembly established two International Decades of the World's Indigenous Peoples: the first 1995 - 2004 (resolution 48/163), and the second 2005 - 2014 (resolution 59/174), with the goal of strengthening international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education, health, economic and social development.

As requested in the outcome document of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, a UN System-Wide Action Plan on the rights of indigenous peoples was developed by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues in 2015, in consultations with indigenous peoples, UN Members States, UN agencies and other stakeholders. It aims to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including through improved support to Member States and indigenous peoples.

For more information:

<https://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/>

IPCC

REPORT LAUNCH

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) launched Special Report on Climate Change and Land

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has launched the **Special Report on Climate Change and Land today** at the World Meteorological Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Over two years in the making, the report looks at how the way we use our land contributes to climate change and how climate change affects the land. The report, prepared by 107 leading scientists from 52 countries across all regions of the world, specifically looks at desertification,

land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. (*Press release attached*)

The Special Report on Climate Change and Land #SRCCL follows the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C released in October 2018, and will be followed by the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate to be finalized in September 2019, which will look at oceans and the frozen world.

Some key messages:

- Limiting climate change to well below 2°C cannot be achieved without the land sector.
- The way we treat land can either help or harm the climate. Right now humans are driving deforestation, wiping out animals and plants at a staggering rate, and speeding up the climate breakdown.
- Industrial agriculture and the food industry are almost as big a driver of climate change as fossil fuels.
- To achieve our climate goals, and reduce emissions 45% by 2030, we need to improve our land management and agricultural practices.
- There are many opportunities to improve land and forest management that will help us adapt to and limit the effects of climate change.
- This will mean adopting farming practices that work with nature – improving soil health and resiliency – as well as being able to drawdown carbon.
- We should work to eliminate food waste, eating a balanced diet thereby reducing emissions from our food system.
- Halting deforestation and restoring damaged ecosystems will be crucial for improving climate resiliency of our ecosystems, and changing from an emissions source to a sink.
- Together these steps will help us to weather climate impacts, by making both the land and the economies that rely on it more resilient to climate shocks.
- If we don't rapidly change course, we won't be able to deliver the Paris Agreement or the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Without near-term action, the ability of land to help mitigate climate change will be lost – as it suffers under a changing climate and from growing demands (e.g., growing population, food security, and bioenergy). We must move to sustainably managing our lands now.

- There is no single “silver bullet” solution to the climate crisis. Changing our relationship with the land is a vital part of limiting climate change.

The numbers behind the science

- The Special Report on Climate Change and Land was prepared by 107 leading scientists from 52 countries across all regions of the world, who acted as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors.
- 53% of the authors are from developing countries, making this the first IPCC report to have more authors from developing countries than from developed countries.
- The author teams in turn enlisted the help of 96 Contributing Authors and 11 Chapter Scientists.
- Over 7,000 papers were assessed in this report.

The report received a total of 28,275 comments from expert reviewers and governments (First Order Draft 10,401; Second Order Draft 14,831; Final Government Draft: 3,043).

The report, press materials and social media assets can be found at <http://bit.ly/ipcc-social-media-resources>

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