



International Funders
IFIP
for Indigenous Peoples

Sharing Circle April 2024

A Message from the Executive

Spring is now in bloom here in North America, and with it comes a renewed sense of energy and connection across our IFIP Global Team. We've had a vibrant start to the year—celebrating the success of several regional programs, welcoming many of you back through our membership renewal season, and coming together in Kenya for an unforgettable conference and 25th Anniversary Celebration.

In the face of the complex and concerning realities we are experiencing, IFIP calls on our members on your allyship, solidarity, and your unwavering funding support to Indigenous Peoples organizations today, tomorrow, and beyond. We encourage our members to stay the course to support the continuity of the gains made by the Indigenous Peoples movement and by organizations like IFIP in advocating and influencing philanthropy.

We know it takes a clear willingness from philanthropy to be courageous and to step up in favor of solutions that value diversity and lift and respect rights. Yet this willingness to be courageous is tested time after time. To our US-based members, please consider adding your voice by signing this [Public Statement From Philanthropy](#) by the Council on Foundations.

As we look ahead, we remain focus on the path ahead and excited to share what's next.

In this issue, you'll find updates on our upcoming programming at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York, a first look at our Anniversary campaign, and more news from our growing global community.

Thank you for walking with us. Your presence strengthens this movement and our collective efforts to shift power and resources to Indigenous Peoples worldwide.

In solidarity,
Lourdes Inga

Global Impact, Local Solutions: A Landmark Gathering for Indigenous Philanthropy

The IFIP 2025 Global Conference in Naivasha, Kenya, brought together Indigenous leaders, funders, and allies from around the world under the theme “Global Impact, Local Solutions: Funding Indigenous Self-Determination and Leadership.” The gathering fostered deep dialogue, relationship-building, and commitments to Indigenous Philanthropy.

With over 290 participants from 42 countries and 142 organizations, the event featured 2 plenaries, 18 breakout sessions, 5 workshops and 85 speakers and moderators, many of whom were IFIP members, Indigenous youth and movement leaders. Discussions centered on redistribution and direct funding to Indigenous Peoples, self-governance and rights, and intersectional and intergenerational Indigenous leadership, while cultural performances and community visits offered inspiring immersive learning and bonding experiences.

Dr. Albert K. Barume, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, highlighted a critical shift:

"Indigenous organizations are building the infrastructure to receive and distribute funds directly, while donors are adopting Indigenous values-aligned approaches that support self-determined priorities. This shift calls for rethinking partnership models, operational procedures, and accountability systems to uphold Indigenous rights to self-governance."



The conference strengthened global commitments to Indigenous self-determination and set the stage for continued partnerships that honor Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Chair of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Keynote Plenary Speaker shared that:

“Indigenous intelligence is a powerful tool it deserves billions of investments, and I hope my sisters and brothers in this room that are solution makers and our communities at home will get this direct access finance to enhance our action on the ground. I wish you all very good and productive Conference and you can count on me to echo your resolve during the Permanent Forum in April in New York this year.”

[See the full video message](#)

Catch a glimpse of the conference experience by watching the **[wrap-up video](#)**, which also includes an exciting announcement on Global Conference 2027's location. Stay tuned for the full conference report and highlights which will be published later this month on our member portal!

If you haven't accessed the members portal yet, reach out to our **IFIP Membership Team** for guidance, as we will be sharing more timely news on the portal, and invite you our members to do the same!





IFIP's 25th Anniversary Celebration and Campaign has Launched!

In 2025 the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) is celebrating our 25th Anniversary, an achievement made possible due to our dedicated Board, Staff and Members.

To mark this special occasion, on February 19, 2025, during a stunning Anniversary Gala event at our Kenya Global Conference in Naivasha. IFIP Board Secretary & Anniversary Committee Member Sofia Arroyo, along with our Executive Director Lourdes Inga, launched our powerful new campaign, designed to Celebrate 25 years of IFIP's purpose to Shift Power, Mobilize Resources and Build Partnerships by highlighting key moments from the past, current activities and our shared vision for the future (5R's).

Throughout the next year, we will honor our 25th milestone and embark on campaign goals and objectives that include:

- Resource Mobilization of \$10 million towards IFIP's special initiatives, growth and strategic trajectories for the next four years.
- Redistribution of a minimum of 20% in direct funding to Indigenous Peoples Organizations, ushering in the new paradigm within the next five years.
- Engage and grow IFIP's membership base by 25 new members over 3 years, through storytelling and engagement.

25 YEARS OF IFIP

RESPECT, RELATIONSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY, RECIPROCITY, REDISTRIBUTION



IFIP's 25th Anniversary continued

Together we will honor our history, achievements and challenges met along the way. Centering our membership and stakeholders throughout this celebration through to the campaign's conclusion.

For 25 years, IFIP has stood with Indigenous Peoples, amplifying their voices, and transforming philanthropy. From land rights to cultural preservation, from climate justice to economic empowerment, our work has touched lives across the globe, and we have so much more to do together!

We invite you to reach out to [IFIP Staff](#) to learn more or set up a meeting to explore the many options for your support of this Call to Action, and should you be inspired to make an individual donation you can do so [HERE](#).

Thank you to our members, the donor community, our allies and the Indigenous organizations and Indigenous leaders who are leading the way and doing so in relationship with IFIP.

Be sure to watch our website and social media for exciting updates and stories to come.





Advancing Indigenous Philanthropy Through Governance, Trust, and Power Shifts

Advancing Indigenous Philanthropy Through Governance, Trust, and Power Shifts
Indigenous Led Funds (ILFs) are increasingly recognized as vital vehicles for advancing Indigenous self-determination and shifting power in philanthropy. Rooted in the 5Rs of Indigenous Philanthropy—Respect, Relationships, Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Redistribution—ILFs operate across local, regional, and global scales and are led by Indigenous Peoples who are best positioned to identify community needs and develop solutions grounded in culture, context, and lived experience. While ILFs are growing in number and influence, there is a need to document the diverse governance models ILFs use to make decisions, remain accountable, and sustain their work.

To support this, IFIP has conducted a Governance Scan on Indigenous Led Funds, that explores and documents the range of governance structures within the ILF movement. The scan aims to capture the diversity of governing practices across different ILFs. Its goals include understanding what governance models are being used, identifying challenges ILFs may face in governance, and sharing best practices that support the development of strong, culturally rooted, and sustainable governance frameworks that uphold Indigenous leadership and self-determination. Findings from the scan underscore the disconnect between mainstream philanthropy and Indigenous-led funding. Themes of trust, redistribution, and decolonizing giving emerged as critical, with strong calls to reframe altruism and shift power to Indigenous-led governance models that promote justice, accountability, and collective well-being.

These themes were echoed during the 4th Indigenous-Led Funds Gathering in Naivasha, Kenya, where representatives from both emerging and established ILFs convened to share strategies and strengthen peer learning. Grounded in cultural values, trust-based relationships, and Indigenous worldviews, the gathering highlighted tensions between power and trust in funder relationships. Participants called for a move away from top-down philanthropy toward long-term partnerships grounded in reciprocity and mutual respect. They also emphasized the importance of educating funders about Indigenous governance, supporting youth leadership through mentorship, and adopting community-led evaluations and success indicators.

Reframing Philanthropy requires placing trust in Indigenous leadership, embracing Indigenous governance models and embracing funding practices rooted in the 5Rs of Indigenous Philanthropy.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The ILF Governance Scan will be officially released in May and available on our [Knowledge Hub](#) so watch for it... OR if you're in New York, please join us in person for the official launch event as we unveil the report and discuss its key findings (details under UNPFII Events or [email us to confirm](#)). We look forward to sharing these findings with you!



Board Update



With deep gratitude, we honor Tricia Stevens and Sofia Arroyo as they step down from our Board of Directors after serving over six years across several terms. Their leadership, vision, and steadfast commitment have been instrumental in shaping IFIP's direction and advancing our mission. The impact of their contributions will continue to resonate in our work, and we are deeply thankful for the legacy they leave behind.



At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Esohe Evbuomwan to the IFIP Board. As a Finance Manager at Disability Rights Fund, Esohe brings valuable expertise, a strong sense of justice, and a deep passion for equity, qualities that will bring fresh energy and insight to our mission.

Board transitions are moments of reflection and renewal—opportunities to celebrate those who have helped shape our journey and to embrace new leadership that will carry us into the future. Thank you, Tricia and Sofia, for your years of service. And welcome, Esohe—we're excited for the journey ahead!

Strengthening the IFIP team

We're excited to share updates on our growing team! Following IFIP's strategic goal to grow our capacity, we welcome two new staff members, and celebrate an internal transition, strengthening our commitment to Indigenous-led philanthropy.



Rubie Simonsen - Community Engagement Coordinator

Rubie (Gaddang) is a passionate advocate for Indigenous self-determination and the rights of marginalized peoples globally. With over a decade of experience in community development, program leadership and network building, she has worked on critical issues like food security and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Rubie's experience includes global community building, cross-cultural facilitation, and philanthropy. Her work is informed by her background in sociology (B.A. in Sociology, Sac State CSU (2014), deep connection to land-based practices, and commitment to fostering equitable partnerships between Indigenous communities and philanthropic organizations. She is eager to bring her skills, knowledge, and passion to further strengthen IFIP's membership base, foster deeper connections, and contribute to the continued success of IFIP's global community.



Yesica Torres - Communications Associate

Yesica (Maya K'iche') is a seasoned social communicator with over seven years of experience collaborating with NGOs focused on advancing the economic and educational development of Indigenous communities in Guatemala's highlands. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Communication and, as a Fulbright scholar, earned a master's degree in communication with a Documentary Emphasis from Northern Arizona University.



IFIP congratulates Winnie on her new role as Indigenous Led Funds Manager

IFIP is pleased to announce that Winnie Kodi (Nuba) is stepping into the role of Indigenous-Led Funds Manager. In this position, she will lead IFIP's efforts to strengthen and support Indigenous-Led Funds (ILFs), a critical pillar of Indigenous self-determination. ILFs ensure that resources flow directly to Indigenous communities, where they are most needed and directed by those who best understand their impact. Winnie's leadership in this space reflects IFIP's commitment to advancing Indigenous philanthropy and deepening partnerships that center Indigenous voices in funding decisions.

IFIP and Members at the UNPFII

IFIP team members will be attending the twenty-fourth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from April 20 – 26, 2025. The theme is “Implementing UNDRIP within UN members states and systems, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges.”

IFIP is hosting several side events featuring Indigenous Led Funds (ILF) and the release of our ILF Global Governance Scan, along with a side event on Indigenous Midwifery & Rights, if you are attending the forum and/or also hosting events let us know as we would love to connect, and be sure to add your events into the IFIP [Members Hub](#) and share with us via [email](#)

Join us at the following Events in New York City and at the UN Headquarters (405 E 45th St):

Meeting of the Continental Alliance of Traditional and Indigenous Midwives

In collaboration with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and IFIP

Date: Monday, April 21st

Time: 9:30 am – 16:30 pm

Contact: chanda@internationalfunders.org

Note: CLOSED MEETING

The Role of Indigenous-Led Funds in Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Date: Thursday, April 24th

Time: 11:30 – 12:45

Venue: Conference Room-9, UN Headquarters

Contact: winnie@internationalfunders.org

Note: a UN pass is required to access this side event

Advancing Indigenous Self-Determination: Exploring Governance Models within the ILF Movement - Launching the Indigenous Led Funds Governance Scan Report

Date: Thursday, April 24th

Time: 14:00-17:00

Venue: UNDP HQ, 304 E 45th St, Rio Room, 9th Fl – Parallel Event

Contact: winnie@internationalfunders.org

Note: registration in through [this link](#) is required and a UN pass is required to access this side event.

Indigenous Midwifery & Rights: Progress, Gaps & Solutions

Co-hosted by IFIP, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Continental Alliance of Traditional and Indigenous Midwifery of the Americas

Date: Friday, April 25th

Time: 16:30- 17:45

Contact: chanda@internationalfunders.org

Venue: Conference Room-9, UN Headquarters

Twenty-fourth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues – Cultural Event and Reception

Date: Thursday, April 24th

Time: 18:30 – 21:30

Venue: UN Headquarters, Sputnik Area

Organized by: Indigenous People & Development Branch/ DISD/ DESA

Film, Art, Indigenous Rights and the Coca Leaf

In this cultural exhibition of short films, the Permanent Mission of Colombia, with the support of the Open Society Foundations, seeks to present to the public the cultural, medicinal and traditional value of the coca leaf as part of the collective identity and memory of Indigenous Peoples, and to open a conversation about the rights of Indigenous Peoples and their relationship with the international drug control system.

Date: Thursday, April 24, 4:00pm-7:30pm

Venue: Open Society Foundations, 224 W 57th Street, New York

IFIP in the News: Stories Worth Sharing

Alliance Magazine was our official media partner for our Global Conference in Kenya, they assigned a writer to cover our Conference and curated a collection of blogs from attendees and participants, experience the reflections: [International Funders for Indigenous Peoples 2025 Global Conference - Alliance magazine](#)

Reflections on IFIPs Conference from Jarso Mokku CEO of the Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI) [Reflections on the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples Conference \(IFIP\) 2025 - Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative](#)

Center for Effective Philanthropy invited IFIP, Pawanka and FIMI to share our experiences of the power of Indigenous Led Funds and trust based giving: <https://cep.org/blog/moving-towards-respect-and-redistribution-a-reflection-on-the-power-of-sharing-and-giving-from-three-indigenous-peoples-organizations/>



Membership Announcement for April 2025 Sharing Circle

We Value our Member Community!

Thank you for your commitment to Indigenous-led philanthropy and global solidarity, and for being a vital part of the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) community!

Have you activated your access to our expanding [Membership Hub](#) yet? This growing resource center is your gateway to deeper engagement with our Indigenous funding community.

Mark Your Calendars: We are excited to announce upcoming member meetings, feel free to reach out as we would love to see you:

- In Person Meetings: New York (April 21-25) and San Francisco (June 10-13)
- Virtual Sessions: quarterly informal coffee chats are coming soon!

Don't miss these valuable opportunities to connect, share, and learn together. Our gatherings embody the Five Rs of Indigenous Philanthropy: Respect, Relationship, Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Redistribution.

By being our member you can:

- Stay connected with a global network of Indigenous funders and allies
- Gain exclusive access to member-only events, resources, and insights
- Support Indigenous-led solutions that drive meaningful change

Know someone who is also interested in joining IFIP, have questions or need assistance, please contact us at membership@internationalfunders.org

Thank you for being a vital part of IFIP!

