



International Funders  
**IFIP**  
for Indigenous Peoples

## GLOBAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH MANIFESTO

We, the Global Indigenous Youth, gathered here in Naivasha, Kenya, on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for the IFIP Global Conference, recognizing our shared values and common challenges to the recognition of right to self-determination. Following the Global Indigenous Youth Manifesto from the IFIP Merida Conference in 2023, we hereby declare this as Indigenous Youth Declaration 2025.

We acknowledge the profound interconnectedness of our struggles for self-determination, cultural preservation, and environmental justice. The triple planetary crisis disproportionately impacts Indigenous Peoples, but much more, the Indigenous Youth, threatening our very existence. We recognize the urgent need for action and the crucial role of Indigenous-led solutions in addressing these challenges. We, as Indigenous Youth, are the inheritors of our ancestors' wisdom and the future stewards of our lands and cultures. We are ready to lead the way.

### Our Concerns:

#### **Climate Change and Environmental Impact**

- The escalating impacts of climate change on our lands, water, resources, and traditional ways of life lead to displacement, food insecurity, and identity and bio-cultural loss.
- The lack of involvement of Indigenous Young Women and gender diversity in climate solutions greatly hinders the protection and transfer of Indigenous Knowledge, particularly between daughters and mothers.
- In Africa for instance, climate change and food insecurity have fueled conflicts between ethnic groups, disrupting Indigenous Peoples' social, economic and cultural systems. Furthermore, In the Arctic, Indigenous Peoples are dependent on colonial energy sources such as oil, fracking, diesel, and gas, leaving us vulnerable to imposed infrastructure and energy grids.

#### **Indigenous Youth's Representation and Funding**

- The lack of meaningful representation of Indigenous Youth in decision-making processes that affect our lives. Particularly, the underfunding of Indigenous Youth-led initiatives hinders our ability to implement solutions to the challenges we face.
- The requirements of philanthropic organizations for statistical data are often unrealistic and based on a colonial perspective of development, this creates barriers that are difficult to meet.

#### **Human Rights and Discrimination**

- The systemic discrimination and human rights violations faced by Indigenous Youth, particularly Indigenous Women, girls, and Indigenous youth with Disability





exacerbates suffering through the militarization of our territories, forced displacement in the name of development, carbon projects and conservation.

- The lack of recognition of Indigenous health practices, creates barriers to access and limits the advancement of Indigenous perspectives on health.

### **Our Demands:**

We call upon Funders to:

1. **Prioritize** Indigenous youth organizations in programs and funding initiatives that address climate action, promote Indigenous knowledge, and strengthen Indigenous governance, ensuring that projects are designed and implemented by Indigenous peoples to address their specific needs and challenges and meet our needs and visions of the diversity and intersectionality of Indigenous youth in our specific regions and territories
2. **Support** initiatives that promote self-determination, organization, and empowerment of Indigenous Youth-led Funds and organizations and promote mechanisms for the meaningful participation of Indigenous Youth in all funding decisions and grant direct access to funding for youth and community organizations.
3. **Recognize** and respect Indigenous knowledge as a valuable resource, ensuring its use is guided by the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). Provide resources for long term strategies and strengthen programs that revitalize Indigenous languages, cultures, and traditional practices, ensuring their transmission to future generations.
4. **Support** long-term and flexible funding for Indigenous youth-led initiatives, recognizing the long-term nature of the challenges faced by Indigenous communities.
5. **Ensure** indigenous monitoring mechanisms through Indigenous authorities and Indigenous governance systems to ensure transparency and effective implementation of projects in alignment with FPIC.
6. **Commit** philanthropic sectors, the private sector, and governments to provide increased support and funding aimed at mitigating climate change impacts through funding public policies led by Indigenous Youth.
7. **Ensure** the availability of dedicated funds to support litigation efforts in Indigenous rights cases. This financial support is crucial for strengthening legal advocacy, protecting Indigenous Peoples, and upholding their rights at national and international levels.
8. **Invest** in quality education within Indigenous Peoples to inspire youth to pursue schooling. This includes increasing funding for schools to ensure equitable education comparable to urban areas. Additionally, providing training programs for Indigenous educators and indigenous knowledge-holders will empower communities to teach in culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate ways.





9. **Create** funding programs that support energy sovereignty through the development of renewable & alternative energy plans so that they effectively, resiliently serve Indigenous Peoples in an environmentally friendly energy infrastructure.
10. **Build** youth socio-economic capacities to meaningfully stir up the growth of local economies and alleviate poverty.
11. **Demand** divesting from corporations, partnerships, investments, and affiliations that contribute to militarization and the acceleration of climate crises in all Indigenous territories, such as Hawaii and the larger Pacific. Redirecting these funds toward Indigenous-led solutions and Indigenous Peoples Organizations

We call upon IFIP to:

1. **Invest** more time and financial resources in Indigenous youth for planning, gathering, and preparation leading up to and during IFIP's conference. This will enable a process that centers relationship-building, trust, and knowledge-sharing, while addressing language barriers and other accessibility needs.
2. **Support** capacity strengthening for youth to better navigate the philanthropic sector, helping them overcome challenges and creating a strong foundation from which they can put forward informed and strategic recommendations for the philanthropic sector.
3. **Align** engagement processes to ensure they are easily translatable into international advocacy spaces like UNPFII and COP through the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and other youth constituencies.
4. **Commend** IFIP for establishing the framework for youth engagement with funders, philanthropic organizations and networking with grassroots youth organizations. We request that they continue to support our initiatives now and into the future for the prosperity of indigenous youth globally.

### **Our Commitment**

We, as Indigenous youth, commit to:

1. Continue the road towards self-determination and the protection of Indigenous lands, cultures, and our resources.
2. Lead the development and implementation of innovative solutions to the challenges facing Indigenous Peoples.
3. Work collaboratively with elders, communities, and allies to achieve a just and sustainable future.
4. Hold IFIP and funders here present accountable to their commitments and ensure that resources are used effectively to support Indigenous-led initiatives by asking for your support and commitment for this global declaration and presenting your results with Indigenous Youth in the next IFIP Global Conference.

