



SDG 16 CONFERENCE

Peace, Justice & Inclusive Societies



SDG 16 as a compass for navigating intersecting crises

30 May – 1 June 2023
Rome, Italy

SPEAKER BIO



Mr. Yon Fernández-de-Larrinoa, Head, Indigenous Peoples Unit, FAO

Yon Fernández-de-Larrinoa is the Head of the Indigenous Peoples Unit at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since 2014. In the frame of his responsibilities, he supported the creation of the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems post 2021 UN Food Systems Summit; with Canada, he set up in 2019 the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples in Rome; from 2018, led the establishment of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems to its official endorsement at the FAO Technical Committee on Agriculture in 2020. In 2021, the Global-Hub coordinated the drafting of the White/Wiphala paper on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, which resulted in the recognition by the Scientific group of the UN Food Systems Summit of the game-changing nature of Indigenous Peoples' food systems. The White/Wiphala paper catalysed the creation of the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems. Yon has been one of the main coordinators and technical co-editors of FAO key publications like [Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems: Insights of sustainability and resilience from the front line of climate change](#), [Labelling and certification schemes for Indigenous Peoples' foods](#); and [Territorial management in indigenous matrifocal societies](#). He coordinated the inclusion of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in FAO projects and programmes and designed the [FAO Manual on Free Prior and Informed Consent](#).

Yon joined FAO in 1998 as a Policy Officer. He worked for several years in Latin America and Asia, coordinating emergency operations in the Asia tsunami, avian influenza, Peru earthquake and Haiti earthquake. In 2010, Yon joined the Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division (PSU) leading the FAO Civil Society team, co-authoring the strategy to engage with civil society and supporting the participation of civil society in the World Committee of Food Security. He co-founded the Pastoralists Knowledge-Hub in FAO. Yon Fernández-de-Larrinoa is an agricultural economist with a MABD on entitlements and food security.