



Tribal Communities Solutions to Global Challenges

Why in News?

The **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development** held at the [United Nations headquarters in New York](#), highlighted the solutions and policy involvement of [indigenous tribal communities](#) in Rajasthan to address global challenges.

- A State representative discussed how the **traditional practices of the tribal communities have contributed to the preservation of their rich natural heritage.**

Key Points

- The forum was held under the auspices of the [U.N. Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#).
 - Its **theme** was '**Reinforcing the 2030 agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions**'.
- A ministerial declaration adopted at the forum called for **renewed impetus** to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).
 - According to ECOSOC president Paula Narvaez, the ministerial declaration had reinforced the urgency of implementing the [2030 agenda for sustainable development](#).
- Experts at the forum emphasized the **importance of recognizing indigenous communities** for their **contributions to biodiversity and ecosystems**.
 - They advocated for **global involvement of these communities** in strategy formulation, highlighting that their traditional practices provide essential insights for sustainable development.
- The indigenous practices, rooted in **reverence for natural and community-centric approaches**, could **promote sustainability and resilience**, which were essential for reinforcing the 2030 agenda amid the crisis.
- Inspired by the [principles of swaraj \(sovereignty\)](#), the tribal communities' **lifestyle and cultural values** have **fostered self-sufficiency, reduced reliance on external sources, and improved agricultural practices**, ensuring food, nutrition, and livelihood security for their families.
 - The **best practices of tribals highlighted at the forum** included the **production of local seeds, [water conservation](#) at source, use of animals in agriculture, checking [soil erosion](#) through mixed cropping, and the use of uncultivated food for nutritional security.**
 - These practices have helped tribal communities **reduce their dependence on the market and survive during the difficult phases**, including the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) in 2020-21.
- The **traditional practices of tribal communities** would not only fulfill their own aspirations, providing them with **sustainable and resilient solutions**, but would also **help address the issues of [poverty](#), [inequality](#) and vulnerability**, in order to potentially advance the 2030 agenda for SDGs.

UN Economic and Social Council(ECOSOC)

- Established by the UN Charter in 1945, it is the **principal body for coordination, policy review,**

policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.

- It has **54 members, elected by the [UN General Assembly](#)** for overlapping three-year terms.
- It is the UN's central platform for reflection, debate and innovative thinking on **[sustainable development](#)**.
 - Each year, ECOSOC structures its work around an annual theme of global importance to sustainable development.
- It **coordinates the work of the 14 UN specialized agencies**, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions, receives reports from nine UN funds and programmes and issues policy recommendations to the UN system and to member states.

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