



*UN Photo/Mark Garten*

9 August 2016 - There are an estimated 370 million indigenous people in the world, living across 90 countries. They make up less than 5 percent of the world's population, but speak an overwhelming majority of the world's estimated 7,000 languages and represent 5,000 different cultures. Since 1995 the [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#) has been celebrated on August 9 each year to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.

The Nordic countries are home to various indigenous peoples. The Sami are one such group; numbering up to 70,000 Sami, their homeland is known as Sápmi (Samiland) and extends across the Russian Kola Peninsula, northernmost Finland, Sweden and coastal and inland parts of northern Norway. Meanwhile, Greenland is predominantly populated by another indigenous people- approximately 90 percent of the population is Inuit.

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) sets out to include everyone in the journey to a world of peace and dignity, opportunity and prosperity. Indigenous peoples are amongst the most vulnerable to being left behind because they face a wide range of grave challenges including systematic discrimination, marginalisation, denial of their land and territorial rights and inadequate access to essential services.



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