

STI Forum 2021: Side Event

Building an Effective Way Forward for Indigenous Peoples To Participate and Contribute with their Knowledge and Experience By Leveraging the Power of Science, Technology, and Innovation to Achieve SDGs

May 4th, 2021

12:30 – 14:00

United Nations, New York

<https://caneus.org/unsti2021>

Registration: https://filac-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4rdyZcL2SdqBKYXk6RcEkA

Background and Rationale

After more than twenty years of debate, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was approved by the UN General Assembly on September 13, 2007. The Declaration essentially prohibits discrimination against Indigenous Peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them, as well as their right to follow their own vision of economic and social development.

Nevertheless, there is no effective participation of Indigenous peoples in STI policies and decision-making. To-this-date, Indigenous Peoples are treated only as "observers" and not contributors / co-creators / participants. We have an opportunity to change it through this STI Forum with their inclusion as stakeholders.

There is a need to examine and identify challenges and barriers for Indigenous communities to implement workable and replicable emerging S&T based solutions because improving the quality of life for all in the region, and especially indigenous people, requires a new development model. A model which should be born hand in hand with the recovery from COVID-19 and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This model for recovery requires strong leadership, multilateralism, and cooperation and not least important is access to the right tools. In this regard, fostering sustainable industrial and technological policies and practices is a critical component of the recovery.

This side event also offers an opportunity to update progress on Article # 15 of the WSIS Declaration stipulating that “In the evolution of the Information Society, particular attention must be given to the special situation of indigenous peoples, as well as to the preservation of their heritage and their cultural legacy”.

Thematic focus

Since March 2020, the world has faced an unprecedented humanitarian and health crisis. COVID-19 is impacting Indigenous peoples more, those with serious pre-existing problems. Additionally, poor nutrition puts individuals at greater risk of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), and the COVID-19 lockdowns are leading to increased food insecurity. It has attacked profoundly especially Latin America, wherein Indigenous Peoples are the groups with greatest vulnerabilities facing pandemic income disparities and high prevalence of violence.

As noted by the UN, “spread of COVID-19 has exacerbated and will continue creating critical situation for many Indigenous Peoples”. It may further exacerbate, causing fears that many Indigenous Peoples will die, not only from the virus, but also from conflict and violence linked to scarcity of resources, particularly drinking water, and food.

Therefore, Indigenous Peoples want sustainable solutions from the perspective of their Indigenous science and knowledge, possibly through their own institutional and organizational mechanisms. The global STI community needs to involve Indigenous knowledge in the process, at the same time, Indigenous Peoples need to adapt emerging frontier technologies by educating a skilled workforce, building innovative tools and markets, and establishing informed decision- and policymaking.

Among many solutions Space activities are at the frontier of these endeavors. They are, in a sense, a game-changer as Space helps us to greatly improving resilience and recovery from disasters; enhancing our understanding of the Earth, its spheres and processes; climate action; enabling remote work, healthcare and education; facilitating business and creating decent jobs; improving crop yield and access to potable water.

Objectives: Contribution to STI Forum

- To reduce the sense that frontier technologies have been overlooking Indigenous peoples as active participants in attaining the SDG’s, as opposed to mere recipients. Specifically, with the emergence of the global data revolution and associated new technologies are a double-edged sword for indigenous peoples.
- To convert the regional collaborative effort using the lessons learned during Covid-19 pandemic, as scalable and replicable worldwide, aimed to address the technological inequalities amongst Indigenous Peoples, techno-cultural complexities, and the role of emerging EO and AI based tools and solutions that have high relevance to complement Indigenous knowledge for economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- Showcase the potential of space technology and the importance to bridge the space divide as the benefits related to space operations is always growing as more and more data and information gets translated into actionable services, applications, policies and decisions. Taking steps to promote Indigenous Peoples attitude towards STI

Expected Outcome

The outcome from the side event is aimed to formulate potential framework(s) for integrating Indigenous knowledge/experience with Science, Technology, and Innovation. It will attempt to devise a roadmap for its implementation with measurable milestones for 2022-2025 period.

This workshop attempts to define technical, policy, and financial issues, and to frame a public/private partnership implementation plan for the small-satellites constellation contributing to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Program:

The program is structured based on the focused objectives for the STI Forum and its outcome as measurable deliverables.

- A. Setting the Stage (25 Minutes)
1. Welcome, Prayers and Overview by FILAC Technical Secretary Mr. Gabriel Muyuy; CANEUS Chairman Mr. Milind Pimprikar, and UNOOSA Program Officer Mr. Markus Voltran (10 Minutes)
 2. Raison d'être:
 - “Need for the Initiative”, FILAC President Ms. Myrna Cunningham (7 minutes)
 - Role of frontier technologies, e.g., Space for educating skilled workforce, building innovative tools and markets, and establishing informed decision- and policymaking, Ms. Simona Di Pippo, Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, UN-OOSA (7 minutes)
- B. Challenges, barriers, and policy Issues for integrating Indigenous knowledge / experiences with Science, Technology, and Innovation. (20 minutes)
Panel Input: To help define and implement workable and replicable emerging S&T based solutions and new development model for improving the quality of life for Indigenous People.
Moderator: Invited Representative from Guatemala
- Invited Panelist from Mexico, “Policy issues perspective” (7 minutes)
 - Invited Panelist from Indigenous Intercultural University, “Challenges and barriers” (6 minutes)
 - Invited Panelist from Indigenous Studies, University of Saskatchewan (7 minutes)
- C. Workable and replicable emerging S&T based solutions, and potential framework for integrating Indigenous knowledge/experiences. (22 minutes)
Panel Input: To help define and implement workable and replicable emerging S&T based solutions and new development model for improving the quality of life for Indigenous People.
Moderator: Invited Representative from ITU
- Invited Panelist from UNITAR (7 minutes)
 - Invited Panelist from Microsoft (7 minutes)
 - Invited Panelist from UNEP (7 minutes)
- D. Proposed Framework and Implementation: Discussion covering Scope, Stakeholders, Implementation Mechanism and Success Criteria (15 minutes)
Moderator: CANEUS Chairman, Mr. Milind Pimprikar
- E. Outcome: Summary of technical and policy issues, and proposed framework model (5 minutes)
- F. Wrap up: Closing Remarks FILAC Technical Secretary Mr. Gabriel Muyuy (3 minutes)

Supporting Materials:

Following documents will be provided to participants prior to the event.

1. A background paper outlining potential framework for integrating Indigenous knowledge/experience with Science, Technology, and Innovation.
2. Potential structure of the proposed roadmap for implementation with measurable milestones for 2022-2025 period.

Organizers:

- CANEUS
- FILAC
- UNOOSA

Contributors:

- FILAC
- CANEUS
- UNOOSA
- UNITAR / ITU
- STI Industry / Academic / Government Stakeholders

Contact:

Milind Pimprikar
CANEUS
Montreal, Canada
mp@caneus.org

Oscar Aguilar
FILAC
Nicaragua
oscar.aguilar@filac.org

Markus Woltran
UNOOSA
Vienna
markus.woltran@un.org