



STI FORUM 

Science, Technology & Innovation for
the Sustainable Development Goals

REPORT
UN 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**

With the challenges of accelerated technological inequalities amongst world Indigenous Peoples, there is an urgent need to bridge the gap with these imbalances, including language barriers and gender inclusion with the scientific community. Indigenous Peoples demand sustainable solutions from the perspective of their Indigenous science and knowledge, possibly through their own institutional and organizational mechanisms. Therefore, the global STI community need to involve Indigenous knowledge in all the process, at the same time, Indigenous Peoples need to adapt emerging frontier technologies in the management of territories and land.

To date, there is lack of effective participation of Indigenous peoples in STI policies and decision-making. To-this-date, Indigenous Peoples are perceived only as "observers" and not contributors / co-creators / participants.

There is a pressing 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, The Indigenous Peoples can contribute to achieve the 2030 agenda.

This model for recovery requires strong leadership, multilateralism, intercultural dialogue, 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.

Held on
May 4th, 2021
12:30 – 14:00
United Nations, New York



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

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 enhancing our understanding of the Earth systems such as atmosphere, land, oceans and ice coverage that leads to improving sustainable and resilient development; early warning, response and recovery from disasters; improving crop yield, access to potable water and understanding of climate action. Space-based infrastructure is enabling remote work, healthcare, and education, facilitating business, and creating decent jobs.

Therefore, the objectives of this event were:

- a) 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,
- b) To convert the regional collaborative effort using the lessons learned during Covid-19 pandemic, as scalable and replicable worldwide.

This side event offered an opportunity to (a) discuss the challenges, barriers, and policy issues for integrating Indigenous knowledge/experiences with STI community, and (b) explore workable and replicable emerging S&T based solutions, and new development model for improving the quality of life for Indigenous People.

It further created necessary groundwork, an important first step, to develop potential framework and strategy for its implementation, covering roadmap with measurable milestones for 2022-2025 period, for the UN

STI community and the global Indigenous communities in identifying how indigenous and scientific knowledge may be integrated to meet the SDGs, this event included the point of view of the governments, UN Agencies, academia, Indigenous Peoples and private sector.

Co-organized by CANEUS International in partnership with FILAC and UNOOSA, the event offered a highly enriching and inspiring experiences bringing together complementary competences of Indigenous and scientific knowledge stakeholders.



The event was well attended by 219 registered participants from 22 countries and supported by 16 experts contributing to its planning and implementation. The theme of the side event was aligned with the theme of UN STI. Thus, the outcome from the event is planned to present at the upcoming HLPF (High Level Political Forum) in July 2021.

The next steps further envisage to engage major stakeholders from the global STI community and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UN-CSTD) to advance the framework model for integration of Indigenous and scientific knowledge.

These efforts consider the model that draws on the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2019 which presents Science and Technology is one of the four levers of change which can catalyze change across multiple SDGs by working through six entry points that indicate key areas for STI action in support of the achievement of the entire range of SDGs.

The progress from this side event would also be showcased at related upcoming UN Forums, e.g., UN Food Systems Summit, COP26, GPDRR, UN Ocean, amongst others.

