



CANEUS STATEMENT

66th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, June 2, 2023

Agenda Item 4: General exchange of views

“Space 4 Indigenous Peoples”

By

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In collaboration with

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**FILAC (Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean)

Mr Chair,

On behalf of our Global Indigenous Peoples partners, CANEUS is pleased to present to this Committee a unique opportunity to create an agenda item focusing on “Space 4 Indigenous Peoples”, how space can benefit Indigenous people, or providing access of space education to the students of indigenous community etc., just the way we do Space4Women or Space4Youth, and possibly organizing a related session at the proposed 2024 Workshop.

CANEUS plans to present a working paper at the STSC session in 2024 to begin the agenda item process.

Mr Chair,

Over the past several years, CANEUS in partnership with UNOOSA, and several Member States, have undertaken series of initiatives to co-develop Earth-Observations -based solutions which are relevant to serve the needs of the global Indigenous communities.

For example, through our extensive collaboration launched at the UN Secretary General’s Indigenous Climate Summit held in September 2019, we have examined and identified challenges and barriers for Indigenous communities to implement workable and replicable emerging space technology-based solutions.

The lessons learned have demonstrated the key advantages and its impact on sustainability, climate change, and food security and water conservation.

Mr Chair,

I am excited to share that CANEUS in partnership with concerned stakeholder UN agencies and Indigenous Peoples organizations representing all 7 global regions, have created a unique “Global Research and Knowledge Repository” initiative known as “Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure - IKRI” to preserve, protect, and integrate Indigenous Knowledge in the implementation of SDG’s.



The IKRI is a dynamic digital global collaborative research tool leveraging the power of geospatial intelligence and frontier technologies. The IKRI aims to compile, conserve, and protect indigenous knowledge and practices, which we are at risk of losing amidst the current pace of development.

The IKRI was launched in 2021 at the UN Food Systems Summit aimed at restoring and preserving indigenous knowledge to bring a long-term socio-economic return to society.

Mr. Chair,

The UNOOSA is a founding partner of IKRI.

We are also privileged that the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, C-DAC, of the Government of India is a design partner for the IKRI. Additionally, we are exploring to leverage the “Traditional Knowledge Digital Library – TKDL” of India to address the issues related to Indigenous knowledge protection.

We plan to unveil the IKRI prototype during the upcoming G20 Summit to be held at Delhi, India on September 9-10, 2023.

Mr Chair,

We have now reached the time and it is crucial that this Committee create an agenda item to address Space for Indigenous Peoples.

It will help reduce the sense that space sector has been overlooking Indigenous peoples as active participants in attaining the SDGs, as opposed to mere recipients, and provide a degree of harmonization to support the One-UN approach.

Let me express my gratitude to those Member States who have joined hands to support this initiative and invite others for their support, which would make an enormous contribution to the humanity.

Thank you.