



*Presentation to Sixty-first Session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*

Challenges and Opportunities For Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into Space Legal Framework

**Under
Agenda Item 16: “Proposals to the
Committee for new items to be
considered by the Subcommittee”**

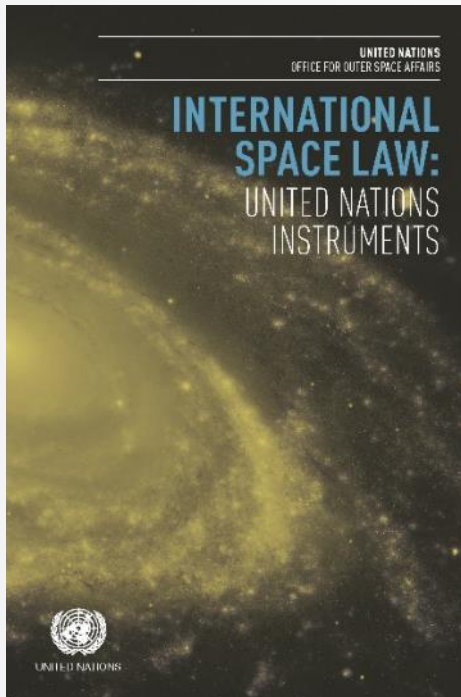
**Milind Pimprikar
Chairman, CANEUS**

*Vienna
April 6, 2022*



What is the Proposed New Item?

CANEUS welcomes this opportunity to propose a new and important item aimed to:



Integrate Indigenous Knowledge into Space Legal Framework"



Image Credit: Indigenous Education Institute

Why is this **New Item** needed?

01.

There is a **lack of genuine understanding, acceptance, and involvement** of stakeholders in decision-making on how traditional Indigenous knowledges are understood or approached into Space Legal Framework.



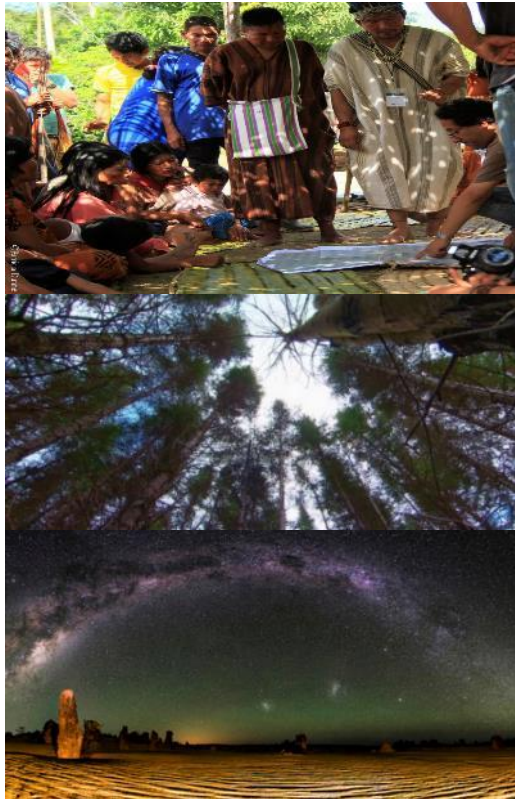
02.

The Committee has yet to address this important issue and the legalities of **how near-Earth space impacts Indigenous communities** and how Indigenous knowledge is **crucial for space-based governance**.



What is the Current Status?

Exploration and use of Outer Space by humankind is **leaving out Indigenous People** and their knowledge who need to be involved as stakeholders in space governance.



Nonetheless, Limited efforts at National and regional levels are **encouraging collaborations** between Indigenous people and NASA, ESA, CSA, and others.



What are the Challenges?

Section 3 of Article III of the Outer Space Treaty – OST, and fragmented efforts on space-based governance at localized national level



Lack of consideration for inclusion of Indigenous knowledge, and involvement of Indigenous stakeholders

involvement of Indigenous stakeholders in issues such as, satellite mega-constellations, astronomy, and debate over the Artemis Accords overlapping agreements covering UNDRIP by several Member States



What are the Opportunities?



What are the Related Ongoing Efforts?

01.

Series of global initiatives to help integrate Indigenous knowledge with space science and technologies by CANEUS FILAC and UNOOSA



02.

Numerous presentations to COUPOS by CANEUS since 2019 on the importance of integrating Indigenous Knowledge with space applications



03.

Technical presentation at the STSC Session on February 9, 2022, suggesting creation of an International Center under the auspices of UN COPUOS to compliment the "Centre for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky" proposed by the International Astronomical Union.

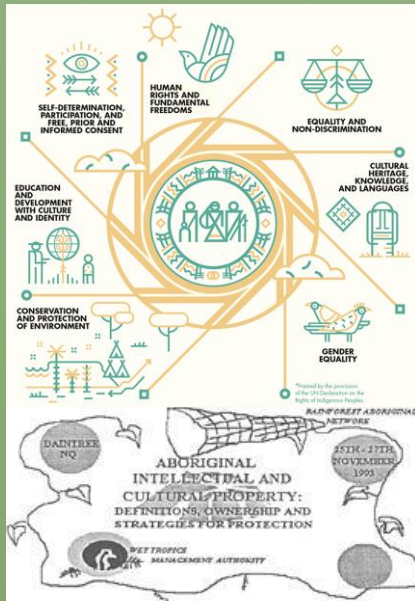


04.

Launch of a unique and historic "Global Research and Knowledge Repository Initiative", known as "Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure" (IKRI), aimed to Integrate Indigenous Knowledge to achieve the SDG's, by CANEUS, FILAC and UNOOSA.



What are the benefits of this New Item?

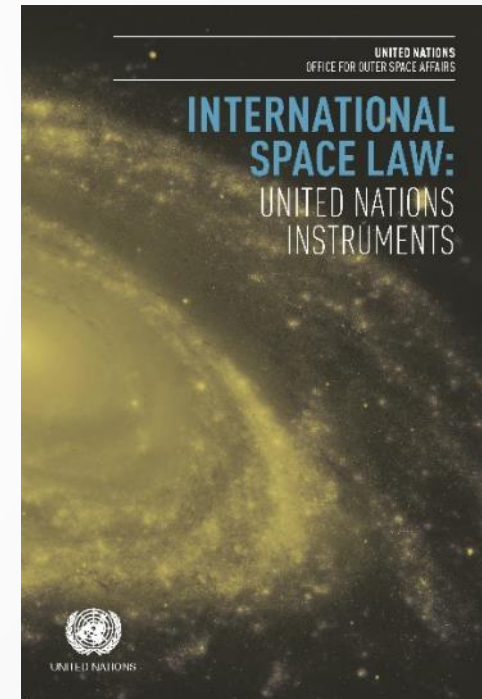
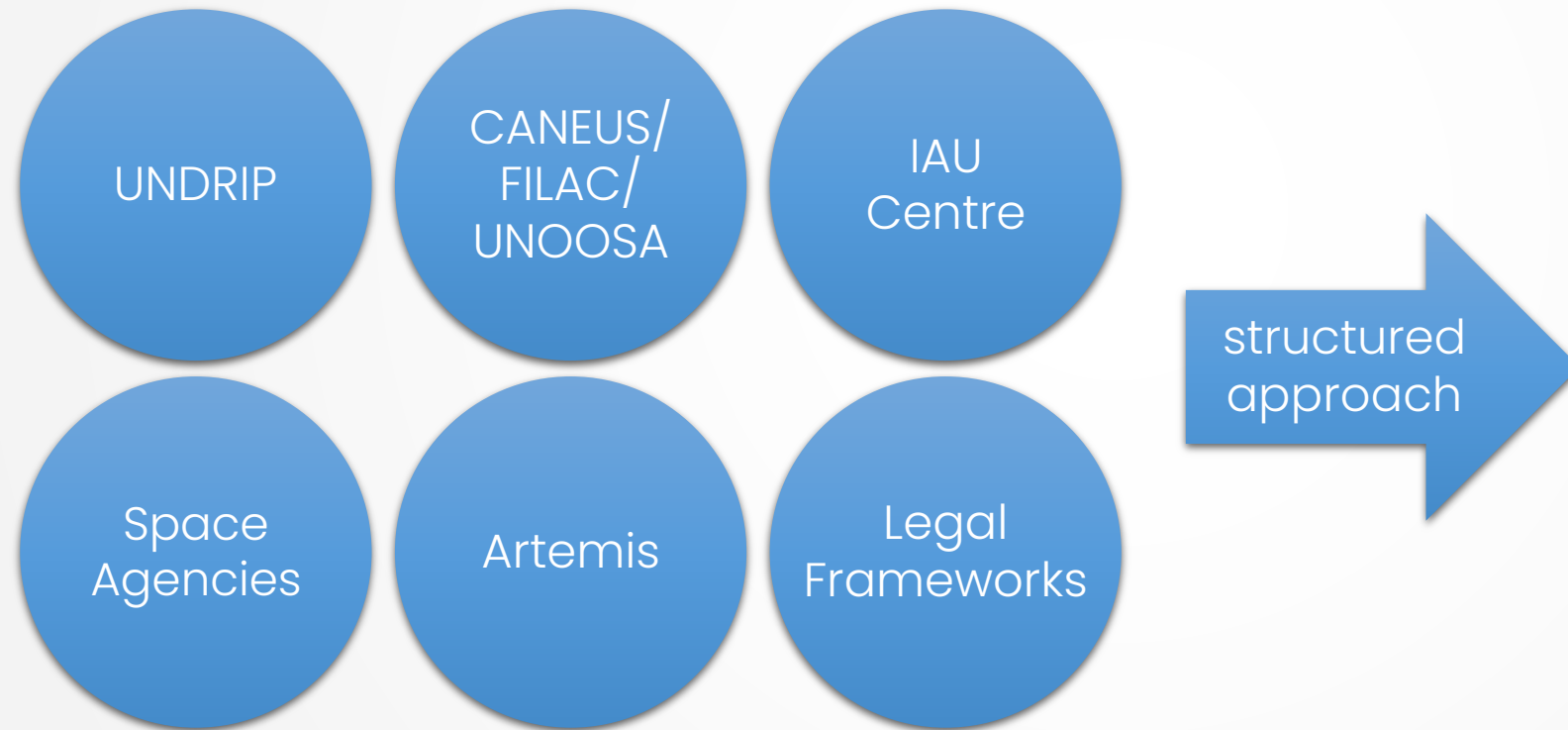


One of the key advantages of integrating Indigenous knowledge into Space legal framework, is that it would provide a **degree of protection and harmonization.**



What Actions are Needed?

Leveraging diverse efforts worldwide **through a structured approach** to assess and integrate Indigenous Knowledge into existing space legal framework.



What Actions are Needed?

Invite contribution from stakeholders representing Indigenous and Space communities

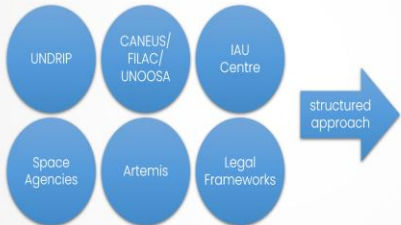
Assessment: Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities

- Potential Recommendations for Section 3, Article III of OST
- Define near and long-term integration options

COPUOS to Initiate a research paper for the proposed New Agenda Item

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SUMMARY

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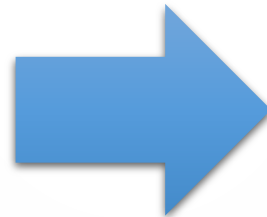


Integrate Indigenous Knowledge into Space Legal Framework*



CANEUS CANEUS Presentation to COPUOS Legal Sub-Committee, April 6, 2022

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That will protect and promote the rights of Indigenous peoples within the UN system



**INPUT WELCOME
THANK YOU**