



CANEUS STATEMENT

**59th session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**
Vienna, February 16, 2022

Agenda Item 4: General Exchange of Views, CANEUS

**“Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure - IKRI”:
A Tool to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals**

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By

CANEUS Chairman Mr. Milind Pimprikar

In collaboration with

UNOOSA Director Dr. Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, and

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

Mr Chair,

I would like to begin by expressing our gratitude to UNOOSA Director Dr Simonetta Di Pippo, for her encouragement and support over the past 8 years and offer our best wishes for her continued contribution to the humanity.

Mr. Chair, and Distinguished Delegates,

It is my pleasure to share 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.

Mr. Chair, the IKRI partnership was created by CANEUS, jointly with UNOOSA, FILAC (Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, an Inter-Governmental organization representing 21 countries), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of UN) IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), and several other global stakeholders, and was launched at the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

The proposed repository is planned to restore and preserve Indigenous knowledge to bring long-term socio-economic return to society, especially given the rapid pace of development, motivating indigenous youth to migrate to economic growth centres, which threatens the physical, sociological, and economic setup of indigenous communities.

IKRI will leverage diverse efforts worldwide creating a structured framework and partnerships through a new development model that will inspire engagement of youths to develop entrepreneurship tools and technology transfer.

One of the key aspects of this initiative is to leverage the power of Earth observation and geospatial intelligence, to capture, process, analyze, and present indigenous knowledge from multiple sources.

It will genuinely contribute to advance the implementation of all SDGs, specifically the most crosscutting of all: Goal 2: Zero Hunger, and Goal 10: Reduce inequality.



Mr. Chair, IKRI founding partner Dr Myrna Cunningham of FILAC, is the “UN Official Spokesperson for Goal 10”.

Recently, UN ECOSOC has highlighted IKRI amongst the 5 key Global partnerships.

Now, allow me to briefly talk about the present status of IKRI and its importance to COPUOS.

Currently, we are working on the details of this global partnership covering its scope, architecture, and policy / financing mechanism.

IKRI Focus Group meeting was held during the UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum on February 2-3, to formulate various aspects of design, development, and implementation phases.

Two aspects are especially crucial to consider. One is policy and framework, and the other technical. Both offer great benefits and opportunities for COPUOS Members. Additionally, Member States or group of countries could join as champions for the cause of IKRI.

To begin, we are seeking partners and support for the design phase, which include: (a) planning series of brainstorming meetings in various regions worldwide, and (b) developing detailed plan covering the road map for its implementation.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to share that several Member States and key organisations such as FAO, UNESCO, World Bank, have expressed interest to support IKRI.

I take this opportunity to invite COPUOS Members to join these efforts, which will make enormous contribution to the humanity.

Thank you.

Milind Pimprikar
Chairman
CANEUS International