



MOBILIZING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AND STRENGTHENING THE SCIENCE - POLICY SOCIETY INTERFACE

STATEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAJOR GROUP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
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Thank you Co-chair

I'm delivering this statement on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group on sustainable development.

Throughout history the Indigenous Peoples of the world have contributed with our knowledge and knowledge systems to the advancement of science and technology. Most of the knowledge that today is considered modern science has its roots on our wisdom, knowledge and innovations. Therefore the value of indigenous knowledge and its complementary with science should be acknowledged and enhanced.

The use of traditional knowledge and innovations of indigenous peoples has been instrumental in building and strengthening our community resilience against disasters including the adverse impacts of climate change; for our food security, good health and wellbeing; as well as in for sustainable use and management of land and resources, and conservation of biodiversity. These are some of our invaluable contributions to sustainable development that are undervalued and even undermined by the current destructive economic systems and the continuing violations to our rights over our lands, territories and resources.

Today we have an opportunity to close the gap and undertake actions to establish a respectful complementation of indigenous and western science and technology. This is an important step in preventing further loss of indigenous peoples' knowledge systems, which has been exacerbated by the current pandemic and by the loss of elder women and men, which are the bearers of our knowledge. It also requires States' recognition and protection of the lands, territories and resources of indigenous peoples in order for us to sustain and enhance our knowledge and innovations for the survival and development of the present and future generations.

The inclusion of Indigenous Peoples knowledge and knowledge systems should include strong safeguards to uphold the common good, ensure human rights-based approach that prevent the exploitation and economic expropriation of indigenous knowledge that will only worsen existing social inequities.

We urge the states, UN system and academia, to actively create spaces for intercultural dialogues and partnerships that aims to combat the systematic discrimination of indigenous knowledge and to enhance the complementation of different knowledge systems including indigenous knowledge in advancing sustainable development.

