



9<sup>th</sup> Asia and Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (2022)

Side event:	Indigenous Peoples, Gender and Natural Resources Rights in the context of COVID-19: Trends and experiences from the ground for building back better
Venue:	Online
Date/Time	Bangkok, 30th March 2022 16:15-17:30 (Thailand Standard Time)

Description

From 28 to 31 March 2022, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) will be gathering to support countries in the region in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific. Under the theme “Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific”, the forum will be specifically focusing on Sustainable Development Goals - SDG 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 14 (Life below water), 15 (Life on Land), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). In this context, this side event will provide an opportunity to discuss the close connection between Indigenous Peoples rights to land, territories and resources, and the ambitions established under selected SDGs.

Secure tenure rights and meaningful participation in the management and governance of their land, territories and natural resources are key elements for the food security of Indigenous Peoples, who often rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Indigenous Peoples have a strong cultural, spiritual, social and economic connection to their land, which is closely linked to their identity and their very existence. Land and natural resources tenure security is also at the core of human rights enjoyment among Indigenous Peoples. Their right to food, housing and an adequate standard of living – just to name a few – are tightly linked to secure tenure rights. Furthermore, Indigenous Peoples play a key role ensuring sustainable development and biodiversity conservation, and their land tenure security is closely associated with that. Before the pandemic, forced evictions and conflicts over land, territories and resources were already driving Indigenous Peoples into poverty and vulnerability. During the COVID-19 crisis, reports have increased of encroachments upon indigenous land. These infringements are creating hardship during an especially difficult time and placing Indigenous Peoples in a precarious situation.

In this context of challenges, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

have been working together to raise awareness about the importance of recognizing and protecting Indigenous Peoples rights in Asia, as a pathway for sustainable and equitable social-economic development that leaves no one behind.

As part of their efforts, FAO, OHCHR and AIPP are organizing this side event to discuss Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, territories and resources in Asia, linking Indigenous Peoples tenure security to human rights enjoyment, gender equality (SDG 5), and sustainable management of natural resources (SDG 15). Drawing evidence from a recent policy brief jointly prepared by FAO and OHCHR, the event will point out recent trends triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, which have been negatively affecting Indigenous Peoples' rights. It will demonstrate that if such trends are not tackled, they may jeopardize the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Asia Pacific region. At the same time, this event will create a space to showcase positive experiences of indigenous communities building resilience and addressing the pandemic, demonstrating the crucial importance of Indigenous Peoples' tenure security, empowerment of indigenous women, traditional knowledge and agency for building back better; and, especially, fostering a more balanced relationship with the environment as a way to mitigate the risks of future pandemics.

## Objectives

This side event aims to raise awareness about issues experienced by Indigenous Peoples in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, while demonstrating their critical role helping mitigate the risks of future pandemics and building back better. Through concrete field experiences, the event will demonstrate that safeguarding Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, territories, and resources are critical for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The event will have two main expected outcomes. Firstly, it will generate an increased awareness among participants about Indigenous Peoples key role contributing to biodiversity conservation; and how Indigenous Peoples traditional knowledge and sustainable practices can play a pivotal role tackling the pandemic and building back better. Secondly, the event will result in a set of strategic recommendations on areas for action.

## Participants

As the side event is virtual, it will be open to all interested participants. The organizers will invite a multi-stakeholder group of participants including Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Peoples groups, members of civil society organizations, academia, development actors and representatives of governmental institutions at different levels dealing with Indigenous Peoples' issues.

## Proposed Agenda

Duration: 75 minutes

Timing	Intervention	SPEAKER
16:15-16:20 (5 min)	<b>Welcome by the moderator and agenda presentation</b>	Romchat Wachirarattanakornkul, Human Rights Officer (OHCHR)
16:20-16:25 (5 min)	<b>Opening remarks by FAO, OHCHR and AIPP</b>	Takayuki Hagiwara, Regional Programme Leader (FAO)
16:25-16:35 (10 min)	<b>Keynote address</b>  COVID-19: Strengthening Indigenous Peoples rights to their land, territories and resources, and promoting gender equality as a path for building back better	Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
16:35-16:45 (10 min)	<b>Setting the scene presentation</b>  COVID-19, Land, Natural Resources, Gender Issues and Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Asia Key issues and ways forward	Marianna Bicchieri, Land Tenure Officer (Social Inclusion) (FAO)  Katia Chirizzi, Deputy Representative of the Regional Office for South East Asia (OHCHR)
16:45-17:10 (25 min)	<b>Panel discussion</b>  <b>Indigenous Peoples Voices</b> - Ms. Noraeri Thungmueangthong, Karen People, Chief of Huay Ee Khang Village, Chiang Mai, Thailand (5 min)  - Ms. Shobha Tirkey, Oraon People, Ph.D Research Scholar, Chhattisgarh, India (5 min)  <b>Global Perspective</b> - Yon Fernandez de Larrinoa, Head of the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit (FAO/HQ) (5 min)	Moderator: Romchat Wachirarattanakornkul
17:10-17:25 (15 min)	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
17:25-17:30 (5 min)	<b>Closing remarks by AIPP</b>	Prem Singh Tharu, Environment Programme Officer (AIPP)

## Contacts

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