

WEBINAR SERIES

Strengthening the Protection of Indigenous Peoples in Asia

“Building Back Better and Leaving No One Behind: aligning recovery with the sustainable development goals and strengthening the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the Asian region.”

Date/Time: 25 February 2021, at 14.00-15.30 ICT

Platform: Microsoft Teams

“Asia is not on track to meet any of the Sustainable Development Goals. Indigenous peoples continue to face high levels of poverty and remained marginalized in national development efforts across the region. The loss of their traditional lands, territories and resources entrenches the impoverishment of indigenous peoples, and the lack of basic rights such as to education and health services, reflects the discrimination and exclusion that indigenous communities continue to face.

**- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples,
Regional consultation on the rights of indigenous peoples in Asia
September 2020**

“I am receiving more reports every day from all corners of the globe about how indigenous communities are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and it deeply worries me to see it is not always about health issues”

**- Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples,
on devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on indigenous peoples**

Background of the Webinar Series

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, as a global call to eradicate all poverty in all forms and dimensions, protect the planet and ensure the well-being of all people by the year 2030. The 17 SDGs are deeply interlinked - they work hand in hand, ensuring that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Pledging to Leave No One Behind, the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets are relevant to the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples. Although significant progress has been achieved towards realizing the development goals, much work is still needed to strengthen the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.

Acknowledging that while indigenous peoples are amongst the most vulnerable communities, they are also active agent in realizing and contributing to sustainable development. The on-going COVID-19 pandemic presents unprecedented challenges not only to health but also to economic and social issues, it has

disproportionately impacts indigenous peoples and further exposes the underlying systemic inequalities and discrimination. Despite these challenges, indigenous peoples remain resilient. Visibility of indigenous peoples' rights, roles and contributions is fundamental in building back better and in efforts to achieve a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Scope and objective of the webinar series

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, together with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and OHCHR Bangkok are launching a webinar series to discuss how to strengthen the protection of indigenous peoples across Asia.

The virtual events will offer a platform for indigenous representatives to engage with the Special Rapporteur, exchange information about the situation of their communities and identify strategic interventions required to advance the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The webinar series follows the launch of the Special Rapporteur's report on the regional consultation held with indigenous peoples. The report was presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council in September 2020.¹

Target audience

Representatives of indigenous peoples in Asia Region, academics, lawyers and representatives of the civil society organizations, independent national human rights institutions, and UN agencies.

Format

The format of the webinar includes brief presentations of speakers from the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and indigenous leaders from different countries in Asia, interaction with the audience and action-oriented exchange to conclude the side event. The event will take place virtually on Microsoft Teams.

¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, *Regional consultation on the rights of indigenous peoples in Asia* <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/45/34/Add.3>

Webinar Series to Strengthening the Protection of Indigenous Peoples in Asia
**Episode 3: “Building back better and leaving no one behind:
aligning recovery with the sustainable development goals and strengthening
the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the Asian region.”**

Time (ICT)	Agenda
14.00 – 14.10 (10 minutes)	Introduction and welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therese Björk, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR, Regional Office for Southeast Asia
14.10 -14.50 (40 minutes)	Presentation on regional consultation on the rights of indigenous peoples in Asia Building back better and leaving no one behind: aligning recovery with the sustainable development goals and strengthening the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the Asian region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Founder and Executive Director of the Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples’ International Center for Policy Research and Education) • Francisco Cali Tzay, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples • Joan Carling, Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development • Pallab Chakma, Indigenous rights activist from Bangladesh and Executive Director of Kapaeeng Foundation
14.50 -15.25 (35 minutes)	Open discussions Closing remarks from the speakers
15.25 – 15.30	Closing

Background and useful materials

- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples: *Regional consultation on the rights of indigenous peoples in Asia*
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Statement of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of the indigenous peoples: **the impact of COVID-19 on indigenous peoples.**
- **COVID-19 Guidance: COVID-19 and Indigenous Peoples Rights** by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (29 June 2020)

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