

Indigenous peoples major group on SDGs statement Science-Policy interface and emerging issues

Cultural diversity is a creative source and enabler for sustainable development. The cultures and values of peoples, and the knowledge and innovations of indigenous peoples and local communities, are fundamental cultural resources, vital for contemporary problem-solving.

Indigenous Knowledge enabled us to achieve sustainability before the existence of modern States and the UN. We welcome recent policy decisions within various United Nations to recognize Indigenous and Local Knowledge(s) as complementary to Science(s) and integral to knowledge-policy platforms on sustainable development, biodiversity and climate change.

For example, the Paris Agreement recognizes Indigenous Peoples Traditional Knowledge as critical for fostering adaptation and mitigation and recommends the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Knowledge platform.

The recognition, protection and promotion of indigenous and local knowledge strengthens economic, environmental, social and cultural resilience within societies and forms the knowledge base for addressing critical sustainability problems of the 21st century.

The IPMG recommends the following:

1. The use of traditional knowledge as complementary to science shall be recognized and enhanced as cross-cutting element to the 17 goals
2. Indigenous peoples' traditional knowledges, innovations and practices should be protected, promoted and valued by ensuring inter-generational transmission of cultures knowledge and values.
3. The full recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge including traditional knowledge holders as part of our rights to sustain our wellbeing and contribution to sustainable development including combatting climate change.
4. Protection of traditional knowledge from mis-appropriation, false claims and privatization/commodification through intellectual property rights.
5. The requirement for the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples to protect their traditional knowledge shall be upheld