Date: The twenty-third session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will take place in-person from 15-26 April 2024  
Location: UN Headquarters, New York

Side event:

Title of side event: "Harmony High: Empowering Peaks, Nurturing Futures - Indigenous Youth Leading the Charge for Resilient Mountain Agriculture"
Date: Friday, 19 April, 2024, Time: 15:00-16:15

Background:

As the global community gathers for the 23rd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the side event "Harmony High" emerges as a beacon of inspiration, celebrating the resilience of Indigenous youth. This event is dedicated to unravelling the rich tapestry meticulously woven by Indigenous youth, particularly focusing on their contributions to sustainable agriculture in mountainous regions.

Rationale:

"Harmony High" is an ode to the relentless pursuit of disaster and climate resilience by Indigenous youth, particularly in the challenging terrain of mountainous regions. It symbolizes the passing of the torch, blending tradition and innovation harmoniously, all with the aim of sculpting a sustainable and resilient future.

Objectives:

The side event aims to organize Indigenous youth for a resilient future by engaging and celebrating their contributions to food security and agriculture in mountainous regions. Mountains boast beautiful landscapes, rich biodiversity, and environments teeming with flora and fauna. They are also the cradle of traditional Indigenous knowledge and wisdom, including indigenous seeds and agricultural practices. This event seeks to highlight Indigenous youth leadership and vision for a sustainable and resilient world, rooted in traditional knowledge.

Approach:

The event will take a holistic approach, combining research, technical support, and financial resources to preserve and continue traditional Indigenous knowledge. It will provide a platform for capacity building, documentation, and empowerment of traditional Indigenous knowledge, ensuring its transmission to the next generation of Indigenous youth and leaders in mountainous regions. Additionally, the event will showcase best practices and success stories of sustainable agriculture using traditional Indigenous knowledge, demonstrating how it builds resilience within communities and the environment for sustainable development.

Conclusion:

"Harmony High" represents a significant opportunity to recognize and amplify the voices of Indigenous youth in shaping a sustainable and resilient future. By harnessing traditional Indigenous knowledge and blending it with modern practices, this event aims to inspire action and collaboration towards a more harmonious relationship between humanity and the natural world, particularly in mountainous
regions where the challenges of climate change are acute.

"Harmony High" endeavours to be more than just an event; it is a movement that seeks to celebrate and delve into the dynamic initiatives spearheaded by Indigenous youth. This spotlight on their ingenious endeavours aims to illuminate the path toward resilient agricultural practices, navigating the formidable challenges presented by climate change and disasters in the unique landscapes of mountains.

Key Themes:

Crescendo of Indigenous Youth Leadership:

Unveiling Success Stories: The event will serve as a platform to showcase and celebrate success stories, initiatives, and transformative projects driven by the young torchbearers of Indigenous communities.

Harmonizing Wisdom and Leadership: A symphony will unfold, showcasing the seamless integration of traditional wisdom and contemporary disaster and climate resilience leadership, creating a harmonious blend of the old and the new.

Sustainable Agriculture Crescendos:

Echoing Practices: "Harmony High" will echo the sustainable agricultural practices orchestrated by Indigenous youth in the challenging terrain of mountainous regions.

Resilient Melody: The composition of a resilient melody will be explored, highlighting the fusion of ancient agricultural knowledge with modern methodologies to create a symphony of sustainable practices.

Climate Resilience Symphony:
Orchestrating Strategies: Indigenous youth-led strategies for creating harmonious resilience against climate impacts in mountainous areas will take centre stage.

Preserving Biodiversity Concerto: The event will delve into the biodiversity concerto, nurturing seeds of resilience amidst the climatic cacophony and emphasising the importance of maintaining ecological diversity.

Community Engagement Ballet:
Choreographing Collaboration: "Harmony High" will choreograph community engagement and partnerships as a dance of collaboration, emphasising the importance of collective action in the face of challenges.

Waltzing into Partnerships: Stakeholders will be invited to waltz into partnerships, elevating Indigenous youth-led initiatives to a global crescendo of impact and recognition.

Interactive Ensemble:
An interactive performance will harmonise questions and insights from the audience, fostering an inclusive and engaging dialogue.

A networking symphony will allow participants to connect, share experiences, and forge alliances.

Outcomes:
Moderator: Mr. Deelip Mhaske, President, Foundation for Human Horizon, USA

Speakers:

Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary, opening remarks, Asian Indigenous International Network (AIIN) and Former Expert Member of UNPFII 2017–2022
Ms. Hanieh Moghani, Expert Member of UNPFII, 2023–2025
Ms Luisa Castaneda Deputy Director, Land is Life
Mr. Alexi Tsykarev Former Member to the UNPFII, Russia
Mr. Brijlal Chaudhari, President, Global Home for Indigenous Peoples, France
Mr. Andrew ..................
Ms. Richa Sharma, Closing remarks, Asian Indigenous International Network (AIIN)

Led organizer:

Asian Indigenous International Network (AIIN), Nepal

Financial assistance: Foundation for Human Horizon, USA

Co-partner:

1-Youth for Environment Education and Development Foundation (YFEED Foundation)
2-Global Home for Indigenous Peoples, 13 Avenue Aspirant Buffet, Gaillac, 81600, France
3-Land is Life, 228 Park Ave S, PMB 45112 New York, NY 10003
4-McGill University’s Center for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, 3644 Peel St, Montreal, QC H3A 1W9, Canada
5-Tharu Commission, Government of Nepal
6-Indigenous Commission, Government of Nepal

Thank you!