



I20_India2023

CIVILIZATION RESILIENCE: The Missing Link in Climate Action and Social Justice for Heritage Sites and Communities

Data: April 17, 2023 - 18:30 to 21:30 Indian Standard Time

ZOOM LINK: <https://bit.ly/43DOXBN>

Overall Objective

An international think tank and knowledge-building event addressing the challenges faced by heritage sites and communities threatened by climate change and **endorsing action and policy recommendations** to the [C20 Summit](#).

Rationale

Climate change significantly threatens indigenous groups, heritage sites, and their communities worldwide. These communities are not only bearers of unique cultures and traditions but also of entire civilizations that have contributed immeasurably to humanity. As the impacts of climate change continue to worsen, we must recognize and protect the rights of these communities to ensure their cultural heritage continues to thrive and contribute to the richness and diversity of our global society.

Resilience, rights, and justice are interconnected concepts that must be considered to create a fair and equitable society. However, achieving climate justice and resilience challenges many indigenous communities and heritage groups because international laws do not define or fully protect their rights. On the one hand, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) establishes minimum standards for indigenous peoples' rights recognition, protection, and promotion. However, on the other hand, UNDRIP and WIPO's IP laws do not recognize the case of these groups' possession, display, replication, and commercial exploitation of heritage structures, monuments, statues, and artifacts.

Meanwhile, climate threats to heritage sites raise equity concerns, particularly in protecting them and their communities. As a result, the resilience of heritage communities in the face of climate change is a critical concern that must be addressed using a rights-based and justice approach to ensure that all heritage sites, individuals, and indigenous communities can recover equitably from climate shocks and stresses.

This "Civilization Resilience" think tank will focus on innovative ideas for filling gaps in international laws, funding mechanisms, and incentives to achieve climate justice for civilization bearers and heritage communities while also leveraging the role of women and youth in these communities and assisting in their progress toward sustainability and resilience.



Summary of Proposed Policy Recommendations (to be discussed in respective themes):

Topic I: CIVILIZATION RESILIENCE AND RIGHTS FOR HERITAGE COMMUNITIES

PRESSING ISSUES:

- Heritage sites and communities vis a vis climate justice: Climate changes pose unique challenges on indigenous groups and heritage sites and communities.
- As part of their identity, history, and civilization, all nations and communities have the right to protect their cultural heritage from climate change and the illegal possession, display, replication, and exploitation of heritage structures, monuments, statues, and artifacts of all sizes.
- Existing international regulations and intellectual property laws are inadequate for protecting the civilization rights for heritage communities.
- There is a need for mechanisms to integrate Civilization Rights and Climate Action

PROPOSED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Policies and international laws should recognize the rights of communities to protect their cultural and civilization heritage from the effects and threats of climate change.
- International regulations and intellectual property should explicitly assert the climate and civilization "rights" of heritage communities.
- Any entity that directly or indirectly exacerbates climate impacts, exploits, or prioritizes monetary gains over mitigating and preserving civilization heritage in their original homeland should face legal action.
- Civilization heritage custodians should receive royalties and returns from legal enforcement.

Topic II: ENRICHING WOMEN & GENDER ROLES IN THE CIVILIZATION RESILIENCE OF HERITAGE COMMUNITIES

PRESSING ISSUES:

- Women and other gender minorities are disproportionately affected by climate threats to heritage sites and communities. Yet, they are often excluded from decision-making processes, although they are the primary keepers of traditional knowledge and practices. Therefore, there is a critical need to address civilization resilience from gender perspectives.
- Cultural heritage is not just about physical structures but also intangible practices and values that are often gendered. Women and gender minorities, especially in indigenous groups, play important roles in preserving cultural heritage, passing on traditional knowledge, and building resilience in communities.



Gender Equality and Disability (GED)

Sustainable & Resilient Communities: Climate, Environment, and Net Zero Targets

- Women's views and experiences are essential in shaping the interpretation and presentation of civilization rights and climate justice efforts.

PROPOSED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- All civilization rights and climate resilience policies in heritage sites and indigenous communities should reflect a gender perspective.
- Leverage women's unique roles and contributions in cultural heritage preservation and promote women's leadership in civilization rights, climate and heritage initiatives, and all climate and heritage management decision-making processes.

Topic III: FUNDING AND INCENTIVES FOR CIVILIZATION RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE IN HERITAGE SITES

PRESSING ISSUES:

- Approaches and funding mechanisms are lacking for engaging cultural institutions, building public-private partnerships, and providing explicit national and international funding for civilization rights and climate justice in indigenous communities and heritage sites.
- Civilization rights royalties and returns can help communities adapt to climate change, protect heritage sites, and improve resilience.
- Corporates and cultural institutions that benefit in one way or another from cultural artifacts belonging to any nation should directly invest in the preservation and resilience of the homeland sites of these artifacts and their surrounding communities.
- There is a need to incentivize corporations that donate or invest in heritage preservation projects.

PROPOSED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Create licensing policies for heritage communities and cultural institutions to invest in the resilience and preservation of heritage sites in exchange for using their cultural artifacts, site image, or other civilization rights property.
- Provide tax credits, grants, and subsidies to organizations recognizing heritage communities' civilization rights and working to preserve the heritage and combat climate change.
- Develop metrics to measure the impact and effectiveness of climate change funding in heritage and indigenous communities and use this information to improve future funding decisions.