

Bios of participants for webinar on COVID-19 and Indigenous Peoples



H.E. Ambassador Alexandra Bugailiskis

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to FAO.

Ambassador Bugailiskis has served abroad as ambassador to Syria and high commissioner to Cyprus, ambassador to Cuba and Poland. In Ottawa, Ms. Bugailiskis has held a number of senior positions. In August 2017, Alexandra Bugailiskis was appointed as Canada's Ambassador to the Italian Republic, as well as Permanent Representative to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, with concurrent accreditation as Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino and Albania and High Commissioner to Malta.



Maximo Torero

Chief economist and assistant director general for economic and social development at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy.

Before joining FAO in 2019, he served at the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C. as the executive director for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. He is a professor at the University of the Pacific, Peru (on leave) and Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the University of Bonn, Germany. He has published more than 40 peer-reviewed academic articles analysing poverty, inequality and behavioural economics in top journals.



Anne Nuorgam

Current Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since April 2019.

Anne is a Finnish Sami politician, member of the Sámi Parliament of Finland since 2000. She has also chaired the Saami Council.

Nuorgam was born in Utsjoki, Finland, and has a master's degree in Law and is a public law researcher at the University of Lapland, particularly of Sami law. In the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples she represents the Arctic indigenous: the Sami and Inuit.

**Myrna Cunningham Kain**

President of the Centre for the Indigenous Peoples' Autonomy and Development (CADPI) and the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC).

From 2011 to 2013, she was Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of the UN. Myrna Cunningham is a Miskita feminist and indigenous rights activist and medical surgeon from Nicaragua. She has participated in political-social processes linked to the struggle for the rights of women and indigenous peoples in Latin America. She is the Chair of the Board of Directors of The Tenure Facility. In addition, she served as FAO Special Ambassador for the International Year of Family Farming and is currently a member of the Steering Committee of the Forest and Farm Facility.

**Brian Keane**

Rapporteur to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Brian Keane has been working with indigenous communities around the world for nearly three decades. He is co-founder of the international organization Land is Life and is currently serving as Advisor for Indigenous Peoples' Issues for USAID.

**Mai Thin Yu Mon**

Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Asia

Mai Thin Yu Mon is a young indigenous rights activist from Chin community in Myanmar. She is a Program Director of Indigenous Peoples Development Program of Chin Human Rights Organization. She is representing indigenous youths to the Executive Council of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact. She is also serving as a Asia focal person for Global Indigenous Youth Caucus since 2016. She has been working with indigenous communities in Myanmar and Asia for the past several years, being a part of strengthening platforms for indigenous youths and indigenous women across Asia.

**Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

International indigenous activist of Kankana-ey Igorot ethnicity. Since 2014 she has held the position as UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Victoria also works as the indigenous and gender adviser to the Third World Network, a member of United Nations Development Programme Civil Society Organizations Advisory Committee. She was also the first recipient of the Gabriela Silang Award, conferred in 2009 by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

Previously, Tauli-Corpuz has served as chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2005-2010) and was the rapporteur for the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.

Marcela Villarreal

Director, Partnerships Division

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)



Marcela Villarreal has a PhD in Rural Sociology from Cornell University and a BA/MA in Systems and Computing Engineering from the University of Los Andes in Bogotá.

She is responsible for the implementation of FAO's innovative strategies on partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions. She coordinates the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), the initiative on the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture (CFS-RAI), FAO's policy on Indigenous Peoples, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger initiative and the Decade of Family Farming, among others.