



Speech for Thursday, Future work and proposals for Experts Mechanism

BACKGROUNDER: WORLD INDIGENOUS BUSINESS NETWORK (WIBN)

The WORLD INDIGENOUS BUSINESS NETWORK (WIBN) is an online community to connect, inspire and mobilize organizations and entrepreneurs for the sustainable development of Indigenous businesses, providing opportunities to widen the markets, skip intermediaries, and Indigenous prosperity through economic growth.

The Network is an extension of the business partnerships formed at the World Indigenous Business Forum (WIBF) which attracts close to a thousand Indigenous business people every year since 2010. A protocol was signed at WIBF by international Indigenous leaders from the following countries to support the online Community: Guatemala, Chile, Canada, USA, Namibia, Australia, and New Zealand. The Network will:

- Provide an online supportive business environment for Indigenous people to engage nationally and internationally.
- Cultivate a culture of entrepreneurship in Indigenous communities to improve access to business opportunities.
- Enhance the capacity of Indigenous business development organizations to provide services and business information.
- Increase Indigenous participation in economic benefits from major resource development and energy investments.
- Increase the participation of Indigenous people in the economy through providing resources to economic opportunities.

Indigenous business people can be isolated in their communities, limited in their potential for prosperity, and dependent on intermediaries and external service providers. WIBN address this challenge through an online platform already developed and soon available for public, to facilitate the exchange of ideas, generation of proposals, making of investments, and creation of sustainable partnerships.