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SUB-DOMAIN: 5. HUMAN INTERVENTIONS, ECOSYSTEM ALTERATION, ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES, AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

PANEL TITLE: CULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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DISCUSSANT: DR. J. TRIPATHY

ABSTRACT

The planet is struggling because of the greenhouse effect and global warming. It has resulted in extreme weather events that have adversely impacted ecosystems around the world. Consequently, the biosphere is threatened posing grave danger to plant and animal species. It also endangers our cultural heritage causing material damage to sites that humanity treasures to trace its evolutionary history. Displacements from native ecological habitats is resulting in increasing number of ecological refugees (for details refer to Gadgil and Guha, 1992). These displacements have caused loss of oral traditions, performing arts, local customs, festive events, and traditional knowledge. The crucial loss that many have not yet deciphered is loss of indigenous knowledge about the environment and preventive measures that communities have traditionally undertaken to safeguard natural resources. These are all susceptible to climate change. The perceptible impact it has is on lost economic opportunities. The loss of cultural and creative industries also causes loss of revenue because of decline in cultural tourism. Culture and Cultural heritage can convey traditional knowledge that builds resilience for change to come and leads us to a more sustainable future. UNESCO has taken several steps to address issues related to impact of climate change on culture. However, it is essential to pursue in-depth studies on the impact of the climate change on culture to create more awareness. We must act collectively to protect our culture and cultural heritage from the growing effects of climate change. The discussion in this panel will be focused on issues related to the impact of the climate change on culture, resilience, protective measures, future strategies.

Keywords: Climate Change, Global Warming, Greenhouse effect, Cultural heritage

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