

Presented by Agnes Leina

Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)

As we celebrate ten years of the UNDRIP, Indigenous women would like to first of all recognize that the UNDRIP guarantees protection against all forms of violence and discrimination against women, in article 21 and 22. The Beijing platform for action recognizes the double marginalization that indigenous women face. We appreciate the UNPFI for highlighting issues of IP women each year on their agenda. Indigenous women's contributions to the UNFCCC at the outcome document in the Paris agreement, at COP 21 is of great value. We are grateful to the UN women for their inclusion of indigenous women's aspirations in their agenda in the past few years and for organizing the first ever high level interactive dialogue event for indigenous women during the commission on the status of women in 2017.

However;

- Each year, 15 million girls are married off, 75% of them are indigenous, if it does not end soon, the global number of women married as children will reach 1.2 million by the year 2050.
- More than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation, according to the most recent report published before the zero tolerance on Female Genital Mutilation by UNICEF
- 3 out of 5 women undergo domestic violence.

As we celebrate ten years of the UNDRIP, we must keep in mind the fact that indigenous women are the face of discrimination, poverty, violence, child marriage, the female cut, illiteracy, child and maternal mortality among others, and the list is endless.

We recommend that;

1. We increase and encourage the role of men and boys in combating violence against women and girls, following the UN women HE for SHE campaigns
2. We recommend that all African states launch the AU end Child marriage campaign, Kenya is the most recent member as country number 19, to launch the campaign on 8th of march this year more countries should join this campaign for the empowerment of the girl child
3. Indigenous women ownership, control, and management of natural resources, especially land be prioritized, as this has been a major source of conflict and poverty for far too many years
4. Inclusion of indigenous women in all decision making processes, for instance: Women should actively be engaged in conflict resolution processes as the most adversely affected during war
5. Indigenous women should be empowered economically through affirmative action and entrepreneurship as a means of reducing poverty and violence against indigenous women; Put resources in the hands of indigenous women
6. In the spirit of leaving no one behind, indigenous women and girls should be included in the implementation of the SDGs.