

51st Session of the Human Rights Council

Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples

Theme: Impact of social and economic recovery plans in the COVID-19 context on indigenous peoples, with a special focus on food security

Geneva, 28 September 2022

UN Women Liaison Office in Geneva

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Mr President,

We would like to appreciate the Council for this very important panel discussion.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken an enormous toll on women and girls, disrupted progress on SDG5 and put the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at risk. Moreover, the global response to the economic fallout of the pandemic has largely left women behind, including indigenous women who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Although pandemic-related employment losses have disproportionately impacted women, little policy initiatives have been made to help women (re)enter the workforce on an equal basis with men.

Our report “Government’s responses to COVID 19” indicates that women’s needs were rarely at the center of governments’ policies. 196 out of 226 countries and territories adopted at least one gender-sensitive measure; only 12% of all social protection and labor market measures targeted women’s economic security and a slight 7% supported unpaid care work.

Furthermore, just as the pandemic-induced disruptions seemed to subside in some parts of the world, the geopolitical crisis triggered by the conflict in Ukraine has thwarted any prospects for rapid economic recovery. Low-income countries that are heavily reliant on food and fuel imports are particularly affected by supply chain disruptions and rising inflationary pressures, exacerbating high levels of livelihood and food insecurity that were already affecting women and girls disproportionately.

Against this backdrop, there is an urgent need to ensure that crisis response and recovery strategies are gender responsive. It's time to coordinate our efforts to put women at the heart of findings and implementing solutions.

Thank you