



ENLACE CONTINENTAL DE MUJERES INDÍGENAS DE LAS AMÉRICAS

15^o Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Greetings, to all my relations.

I address you on behalf of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas composed of 23 national indigenous women's organizations in North, Central and South America.

We congratulate you Mr. Alvaro Pop for your selection as Chair. We also thank you for accompanying us at our most recent gathering held in Guatemala, the ancestral territory of the Mayan peoples.

On that occasion, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our Continental Network, which gathered over 300 Indigenous women, youth and ancestral authorities of 22 countries of the Americas. We gathered to reaffirm our commitment to the **struggle for a full life** for Indigenous women and peoples, and the protection, defense, and healing of Mother Earth. This statement draws on the IXEM ULEW DECLARATION, an outcome of this gathering.

We welcome the recent advances achieved at the 60th Session of CSW with the leadership and collaboration of the Secretariat of Permanent Forum, Friendly States, UN agencies and indigenous women. We did it—we ensured the CSW consider the empowerment of indigenous women as a priority theme at a forthcoming session.

We emphasize the alarming increase in multiple forms of violence that target indigenous peoples. Women and youth are not spared from horrific and exonerated violence that aims to silence and end indigenous peoples struggles. Our territories throughout the Americas have been militarized and exploited indiscriminately for its natural resources.

As these transgressions do not stop, indigenous women are obligated to unite further throughout North, Central, South and Caribbean America. We join our voices in a collective cry to make public the attacks we have suffered in the defense of our inherent rights to territory and life.

We denounce the militarization and re-militarization of our lands, and defend peaceful demonstrations, as an option to build democracy, and the creation of spaces that serve to report the violation of our rights.

We remind the world that indigenous peoples have the right to life and no one will silence us.

We highlight the systematic stigmatization and criminalization of indigenous peoples of the continent, which have exposed our leaders to poor security conditions. Actions to exercise the rights of indigenous peoples places our leaders as targets for criticism, harassment and in certain cases death, as in the case of our sister Berta Caceres, an indigenous leader, feminist and environmentalist, awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize, who was murdered for speaking out against the historical struggles for sovereignty over indigenous peoples territories, the role of multinationals and the lack of effective judicial and state protection.

This context of killings, massacres and persecutions have a disturbing correlation with recent statements by World Bank President Jim Kim, who recently said, "We can not do the work we do without these incidents," referring to the assassination of leaders who oppose the actions of multinationals in their territories. It is inexcusable that a high-level official, such as the President of the World Bank, go unremarked.

We, therefore, ask the Permanent Forum and other expert bodies to stand with Indigenous Peoples and denounce such statements, which perpetuate a war against indigenous peoples who exercise their inherent rights.

Argentina: CONAMI,
Newen Mapu

Belize: Toledo Maya
Women's Council

Bolivia: CDOB, CHACIOB -
Barolina Siza, CHANIB

Brasil: CONAMI,
Red GRUMIH, COIAB

Canadá: FAO, Pasukkuutit
Colombia: ONIC

Costa Rica: IXACAVAA

Chile: Consejo de Todas las
Tierras, Aukiñko Zamo

Ecuador: CONAIE
El Salvador: CONIS

Estados Unidos: Red
Xicana Indígena

Guatemala: CONAVIGUA
Guyana: Amerindian Peoples

Association in Guyana
Guyana Francesa: FOAG

Honduras: CONPAH,
CONAMINH

México: CONAMI
Nicaragua: AMICA

Panamá: CONAMUJP,
NES BUNDOR

Paraguay: OPG, FAPI
Perú: CHIRAPAQ,

ONAMAP
Surinam: OIS

Uruguay: CONACHA

Venezuela: Red de Mujeres
Indígenas Wayuu, COIWE



We note that the femicide and forced disappearance of indigenous women is increasing, as well as other organized crimes. Such forms of violence are correlated with the effects of extractive companies and drug trafficking that cause social and economic problems, such as overcrowding, poverty, inadequate housing, poor access to health and labor opportunities, prostitution and trafficking of women. Also, because of introduced pollution from mining, indigenous peoples health is impacted by the consequences of the modification of their environment and routines harvesting traditional food and plants, and limited access to sacred sites.

We affirm that indigenous women are bearers of ancestral knowledge, and we contribute to development with our identity. However, gender inequalities impact differentially on indigenous women considering the ethnic discrimination that we face in different areas.

Taking into consideration the aforementioned, we urge the Forum to include the following priorities:

- **We ask** the Forum to follow up on the recommendations to undertake a study on genocidal and ethnocidal practices perpetrated on indigenous peoples; and a study on the Consequences of all forms of violence and Indigenous Women.
- **We recommend** the UN system to finance agencies, such as UN Women, with the appropriate resources to continue to support actions and the participation of the Indigenous Women in key forums.
- **We recommend** to the UN Voluntary Fund on Indigenous Peoples Issues to expand its mandate to include funding the participation of Indigenous Women to CSW sessions.
- **We recommend** the UN System the creation of an International Fund for Indigenous Women, Youth, and Girls with the human, technical and financial resources required to ensure the achievement of the Sustainable Development objectives of the Agenda 2030, with our full and effective participation in its implementation and monitoring.
- **We urge** CEDAW to develop in coordination with indigenous women a general observation on indigenous women.
- **We urge** Member States to comply with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, to operationalize it by developing action plans at regional, national and local levels, with the full and effective participation of indigenous women and youth, for the prevention and reporting of the different acts of violence.
- **We urge** the UN to increase its role in the peace negotiations that are forthcoming or pending in countries throughout the America

Lastly, drawing on the statement made this morning by the United State, as co-coordinator for the North Region, I note that in the US there are two kinds of indigenous peoples—the federally recognized and represented, and those not recognized nor represented, which includes 57% of American Indians off reservations, unrecognized historical tribes, urban indigenous peoples and children not “eligible for federal recognition”. As signatories of the Declaration, we urge Member state that all efforts to implement DRIP requires the inclusion of all indigenous peoples located within its Nation-State boundaries.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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