

Statement by Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas  
Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas  
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Dagoteh, Ahe'ye'e. Greetings and thank you Chair.

Shí Jandi Craig gonzee. Shí Dził Łigai Si'an Ndee gonzee. Dischiidn nshlii. Nakaiye banshtii.

My name is Jandi Craig – I am a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and I belong to the Dischiidn clan, born for Mexican. I speak on behalf of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA), North Region and Native Women Lead. ECMIA is comprised of 23 national Indigenous women's organizations in 19 countries across North, Central, and South America.

As discussed on Wednesday, April 27th, 2022, at the side event entitled “ReMatriation: Indigenous Women Rise Against Economic Trauma”, hosted by my organization, Indigenous women are the experts of our future. As Indigenous women, we tend to build systems, businesses and economies that are sustainable in all forms—physical, material, and spiritual. Indigenous values and ethics on stewardship of Mother Earth consider the next seven generations in recovery from patriarchy, colonialism, and economic savagery. As Indigenous women, we call on our communities and nations to ReMatriate our indigenous institutions networks and organizations, because when indigenous women advance, no Indigenous man or child regresses.

We urge the Permanent Forum to consider the following recommendations:

- To the Permanent Forum, we recommend the hiring of Indigenous Peoples across the UN system, specifically to staff the UN Indigenous peoples' mechanisms and the chief positions of the secretariats to be filled by Indigenous peoples with the consideration of gender parity
- To the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and member states, we urge the adoption of the General Recommendation on Indigenous Women
- We call upon the United States of America to adopt the Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, to afford Indigenous women in the US the ability to operationalize the forthcoming General Recommendation on Indigenous Women
- To states and UN agencies, we call on you to invest in resources and capacity building to ensure Indigenous women prosperous entrepreneurship, closing the wealth gap, so that Indigenous women can own and lead sustainable economies and activities
- To Indigenous peoples, it is critical for Indigenous women and girls to participate in Indigenous culture and decisions made about us. Indigenous culture contains scientific, sophisticated, poetic, and vivid information about the natural world, collected over the generations and preserved in Indigenous language. When Indigenous women and girls participate in culture and language, we are ReMatriating, healing the unjust traumas of our ancestors, and now is the time to Mobilize the Matriarchy.

With sincere gratitude, my thanks to the UN Voluntary Fund for allowing me to participate in-person in this session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Ahe'ye'e, gozhóó doleel