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Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – 10th Session 10-14 July 2017

Item 3: New mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

Activities and Methods of Work

Statement by Rosalee C Gonzalez, Co-Coordinator, North Region

My name is Rosalee Gonzalez, Xicana-Kickapoo, and I address you on behalf of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women and the Americas.

We thank the EMRIP members and secretariat for your work to bring us to this time in history.

Drawing on **Item III, Country Engagement**, the purposes and modalities of EMRIPs country engagement, we highlight Par. 4 which describes activities that “may include inter alia: country missions”.

As you well know, it’s not the same to say IPOs and Indigenous Peoples more broadly, also it’s not enough to assume indigenous women organizations are included when stating IPOs. Therefore, *we recommend* that this paragraph explicitly state training activities for States and [indigenous peoples, Indigenous Peoples Organizations, including indigenous women’s organizations].

I bring to your attention, the advances made by the current rapporteur in this regard. In 2014, organized Indigenous Women met with the former UNSR and raised the issues of our sense of exclusion during country visits by the multiple Special Rapporteurs. IW were asked how can the SRIP meet with IW while trying to uphold and rightfully legitimize country visits by coordinating with the indigenous institutions in place. In essence, we learned that the priority was to meet with elected or traditionally appointed indigenous leaders who make up our indigenous bodies of governance/indigenous institutions. Given the majority representation of indigenous men in our indigenous institutions, frankly indigenous women are often excluded from the dialogues that arise from such country visits. We believe the current SRIP is changing this practice.

We encourage EMRIP to recognize the structural invisibility that is operationalized when Indigenous women are not represented in the formal (indigenous and non-indigenous) structures and institutions that the UN engages with.

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We welcome EMPRIP efforts to ensure that indigenous women also be included in dialogues with this body during any future country visits.

We recommend the Expert Mechanism to explicitly include, in-text, that the activities may include inter alia: country visits, and state that [dialogue with **Indigenous Women organizations is a positive area on which to focus**].

Thank you Mr. Chairman.