

**Statement on behalf of Indigenous Women Delegation
MADRE and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office**

**18th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
April 24, 2019**

Madame Special Rapporteur, members of the Expert Mechanism and Permanent Forum, Indigenous sisters and brothers:

I am an Indigenous women from the Wayuu community speaking on behalf of a delegation of Indigenous women from Kenya, Nicaragua, Nepal, Colombia,, Guatemala, Canada, and Arab Bedouin communities in Israel. We appreciate this opportunity to address you on critical issues for us and our communities. As Indigenous women from all areas, we continue to face disproportionate discrimination and inequalities and we are raising our voices to protect our lands, cultures, traditional knowledge, and collective and human rights from an intersectional perspective.

We make a call to prioritize the following issues:

- The impact of colonization and forced displacement that continues today through extraction of natural resources and aggressive development projects in our ancestral territories. On our recent visit to North Dakota we saw up close the impact on Mother Earth and on the communities that suffer the consequences, including the trafficking and disappearance of women and girls, and the consumption and trafficking of drugs.
- We still do not have guarantees for an education harmonized with the transmission of traditional knowledge, such as the preservation of the native language and the intellectual property of indigenous peoples.
- The impact of climate change on traditional knowledge systems in relation to our lands and territories. This leads to ensuring that false solutions to climate change that further marginalizes Indigenous peoples and our ancestral territories are not implemented.
- Increasing rates of criminalization and violence against Indigenous women human rights defenders.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. To the States:
 - a. Promote best practices and innovations under the **Just Transition** model and reject all market-based false solutions to climate change to uphold our inherent rights, sovereignty, and assertion of self-determination over our ancestral lands and resources.
 - b. Ensure that all laws, policies, procedures, policy development on Indigenous rights and climate change are made available in accessible formats, languages, and in a timely manner to ensure full and meaningful participation of Indigenous peoples, especially Indigenous women and girls, **including those with disabilities.**
2. We demand that the UNPFII creates stronger mechanisms that enhance the implementation of the recommendations made during the different sessions of the Forum, in order to ensure communication, coordination, and collaboration amongst the different bodies of the UN system to address the lack of accountability from States and corporations to uphold Indigenous peoples rights.
3. We call the UNPFII and other mechanisms to encourage the CEDAW Committee **to adopt** a general recommendation on indigenous women **by 2020**, in accordance with the UNDRIP recognizing our **individual and collective rights.**

Thank you.