

Statement by
Mrs. Lucy MULENKEI

International Indigenous Women's Forum
African Indigenous Women's Org. (Kenya).

FIMI EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**Indigenous Women and the Beijing +10 Review Process:**

At the 1995 UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, UN Member States produced the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), the most extensive set of commitments ever made by governments to advance women's equality and human rights. In March 2005, the International Indigenous Women's Forum joined hundreds of non-governmental organizations from around the world at the United Nations for the 10-year review of governments' progress in meeting those commitments. The Beijing + 10 Review Process (B+10) was an important opportunity to press governments to meet their commitments to women and to reassert a women's human rights agenda at a political moment rife with hostility towards human rights.

Since the signing of the BPFA in 1995, the US-driven "war on terror" has come to dominate global policymaking and been used to sideline long-standing urgent concerns such as eliminating violence against women and stemming the spread of preventable diseases; and to rationalize other destructive priorities, such as increasing military spending and expanding free trade agreements. Today's climate of surging militarism, neoliberalism and religious fundamentalisms has produced an intensified crisis for women's human rights generally and a concerted backlash against women's sexual and reproductive rights. As we saw at B+10, this environment has created serious obstacles to the achievement of the BPFA and other hard-won gains of the global women's movement.

Indigenous women were a powerful presence at B+10, where they won passage of one of the only resolutions to advance women's rights, educated hundreds of women from around the world about Indigenous women's issues, and played leadership roles in articulating the next steps for the global women's movement.

FIMI's activities during B+10 included:

An Indigenous Women's Conference: In preparation for Beijing+10, FIMI organized the International Indigenous Women's Forum conference in New York City: *Bringing Indigenous Perspectives to the International Arena: An Indigenous Women's Conference*. The conference aimed to enable Indigenous women to integrate agendas, strengthen unity, further develop leadership and advocacy skills, and to enhance their participation in decision-making processes in the international arena. More than 110 women from 22 countries representing every region of the world took part in the conference. Speakers included internationally recognized Indigenous leaders and human rights advocates as well as women whose community-based work offered insights, strategies and questions for the gathering to address. The interplay between the conference and B+10 events brought an Indigenous perspective to B+10 and gave Indigenous women the opportunity to strengthen their work for gender justice in their communities and countries.

Outcome Declaration: "The International Indigenous Women's Declaration" produced by the conference addresses: Indigenous women's human rights, including collective rights; sustainable development; Indigenous resources and economic justice; and the Millennium Development Goals.

→ To be distributed

Resolution: At B+10, Indigenous women wrote and negotiated one of the few resolutions that adopted by UN Member States, calling on "Governments, intergovernmental agencies, the private sector and civil society [to] adopt measures that ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in the implementation, follow-up work and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals."

Capacity-Building for Indigenous Women: Together with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, FIMI organized a series of trainings for Indigenous women at B+10 to enable them to strengthen their advocacy skills, improve their ability to navigate the international arena and enhance their work for women's human rights at the local and national level. The trainings addressed: The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; The Millennium Development Goals; The Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples; Women in Conflict and Post-conflict; and CEDAW.

Media Campaign: FIMI conducted two press conferences at the United Nations headquarters during B+10: "Indigenous Women's Human Rights and B+10" and "Violence Against Indigenous Women." Members of FIMI conducted numerous interviews with print, radio, and television outlets during B+10.

Public Education: FIMI conducted public education efforts at B+10 focusing on: advancing, rather than merely defending, a women's human rights agenda by urging governments to reaffirm the BPfA and commit to stronger actions to respect, protect, and fulfill women's human rights; promoting a critical understanding of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) currently at the center of the UN agenda and argue for a mutually reinforcing relationship between the MDGs and the BPfA; and denouncing violations of women's human rights in the name of national security or culture.

An Exchange of Strategies, Skills, and Friendship: Throughout the two weeks of B+10, FIMI organized opportunities for Indigenous women to socialize, learn from one another, and share information and insights about their work for rights and resources. FIMI also facilitated opportunities for exchange and critical discussion between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women within the global women's movement.

FIMI Outcomes:

FIMI was able to facilitate Indigenous women's international advocacy and political participation by:

- improving Indigenous women's understanding of the international and national legal mechanisms that exist to advocate for and protect their rights, through several sessions, including:
 - *Indigenous Women's Political Empowerment and Participation* (multiple speakers; moderated by Stella Tamang, Nepal);
 - *Indigenous Women in Political Parties* (Fanny Pocatererra, Venezuela);
 - *Indigenous Women in Government and Policymaking* (Mirna Cunningham, Nicaragua); and
 - *Indigenous Women and the International Arena* (multiple speakers; moderated by June Spence, Canada).
- training Indigenous women to navigate the United Nations system and participate in the Beijing +10 Review Process, through panels that included:
 - *The Beijing Process: An Indigenous Women's Journey* (Tarcila Rivera, Peru);
 - *Indigenous Rights in the UN System* (Elissavet Stamatopoulou, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues—UNPFII);
 - *UN Mandate and UN Charter* (Lottie Cunningham, Nicaragua); and
 - *Taking the Platform for Action to the Next Level* (Ellen Dictaan-Bang-Oa, Philippines).
- facilitating networking and conversation among established and emerging community leaders, which enabled participants to share strategies and stories and helped us make concrete plans for community development (that many women have already begun to implement in their communities), through panels including:

- *Indigenous Women Intervene in Injustices Generated by Globalization* (Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Chad);
- *Indigenous Women's Rights and Resources* (multiple speakers; moderated by Dialys Ehrman, Panama);
- *Peacebuilding* (Emilia Pana Cu, Guatemala) and
- *Right to Cultural Heritage* (Ellen Gabriel, Canada).
- creating opportunities for Indigenous, community-based women to share their perspectives with government representatives and other UN staff, including the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), with whom we co-sponsored training sessions and press conferences.

FIMI worked toward the creation of our own sustainable development agenda and moved toward its integration into the global movement for women's human rights by:

- Expanding and deepening the dialogue taking place among Indigenous women about sustainable development, through a keynote address entitled *From Exclusion to Development: Strategies for Sustainable Development* (Lucy Mulenkei, Kenya) and panels including:
 - *Indigenous Women in Community Organizing* (Celeste McKay, Canada, and Rebecca Lolosoli, Kenya);
 - *Survivors' Perspectives on Reconstruction and Peacebuilding* (Viviana Figueroa, Argentina); and
 - *Right to Land* (Margaret Koileken, Kenya).
- Initiating interactions with the global women's movement and working to ensure that our concerns about sustainable development are reflected in national and international conversations about women's rights and development, through participation in panels and events hosted by the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), and the Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice (WICEJ); and
- Hosting Betty Murungi of the Urgent Action Fund, Africa, to speak on a panel entitled *Experience in Bringing the Platform for Action Home and Fighting for Implementation*, in order to provide a framework for the creation of realistic, concrete strategies that support local programs and policies on sustainable development in regions represented at the conference.

FIMI was able to build the organizational capacities of the groups that make up IIWF/FIMI and strengthen the IIWF/FIMI network by:

- Offering trainings (as described earlier, on topics including international law, the UN system, and the mechanisms that exist to hold governments accountable to their rhetoric and responsibilities) that deepened the expertise of leaders and organizations;
- Facilitating face-to-face exchanges between leaders and organizations from different regions that allowed them to better understand the concerns of each other's communities and work through conflicts directly;
- Offering improved opportunities for networking and face-to-face communication between Indigenous and non-Indigenous B+10 participants; and
- Multiplying the number of us that have the tools and skills needed to advocate on behalf of our communities, leading to our full inclusion in the development and implementation of programs that serve Indigenous Peoples.

D) Finally, FIMI was also able to:

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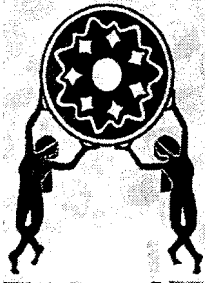
- Contribute to the creation of clear, cohesive sustainable development agendas for the Indigenous women's movement that reflect the capacity-building provided by the conference;
- Amplify Indigenous women's voices in the international arena and the global women's movement, through interaction with government representatives and UN staff as described earlier;
- Reinforce the work being done at the UN during B+10 and create a synergy between the IWFF/FIMI conference and the B+10 process, by holding the conference in New York concurrent with B+10; and
- Empower Indigenous women to introduce language that expressed our communities' concerns into the Final Declaration, the outcome document of the B+10 process.

⇒ Thank the Agencies for the
promising Speeches - ~~and~~
bring clear plans concern
that lead to future plan
inclusion of Indigenous
Peoples and in the
work plans.

Thank our
Friends - CIDA, MASH
NCIV, PF, large projects
and others HILOS
international Alliance
of Ind & Tribal Peoples
New York
Recommendations

- ① Inclusion of Indigenous women in the Develop
Process.
- ② - Here activities/projects on the area of
Education - children, Health, environment etc.
- ③ - Data - collection to get more
- ④ - PF to be fully involved in processes at the
UN road to make sure the agenda of
IPs is visible.

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International Indigenous Women's Forum:

BRINGING INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES TO THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

The International Indigenous Women's Forum at Beijing+10

In preparation for Beijing+10 (B+10), the International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF/FIMI) organized a conference in New York City: *Bringing Indigenous Perspectives to the International Arena: An Indigenous Women's Conference*. The conference aimed to enable Indigenous women to integrate agendas, strengthen unity, further develop leadership and advocacy skills, and enhance their participation in decision-making processes in the international arena. More than 110 women from 22 countries representing every region of the world took part in the conference. Speakers included internationally recognized Indigenous leaders and human rights advocates as well as women whose community-based work offered insights, strategies, and questions for the gathering to address.

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- advancing, rather than merely defending, a women's human rights agenda by urging governments to reaffirm the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and commit to stronger actions to respect, protect, and fulfill women's human rights;
- promoting a critical understanding of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) currently at the center of the UN agenda and arguing for a mutually reinforcing relationship between the MDGs and the BPFA;
- and denouncing violations of women's human rights in the name of national security or culture.





We, the women of the International Indigenous Women's Forum, have come together in New York on February 26 and 27 and March 12, 2005, for a three-day conference beginning just prior to the 49th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, in which we will take part. Our purpose in gathering is to strengthen our skills, strategies, and advocacy work on behalf of ourselves, our Peoples, our communities and Women's human rights globally.

WE NOTE that there have been qualitative and quantitative advances, but today, 10 years after the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, half-way through the decade devoted to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Women continue to face a crisis stemming from: unbridled and escalating militarism; gender-based violence, which includes rape and trafficking of women within our own communities and as a tactic of armed conflicts; and macro-economic policies that disregard collective rights and deny us our livelihoods and basic services, including safe potable water, health care, and culturally appropriate education and institutions.

WE CALL ON our governments to reaffirm and fully implement the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) on the occasion of the Ten-Year Review and Appraisal of implementation of the BPFA and to commit to stronger action to advance Indigenous Women's human rights at this critical juncture.

WE NOTE with disappointment that the process of full recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights has taken a slow process; we urge governments to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Peoples' Rights are Indigenous Women's Rights

WE AFFIRM that Indigenous Peoples have fought for centuries against genocide, displacement, militarization, colonization, and forced assimilation, preserving our cultures, identities, languages, and ways of life as distinct Peoples.

WE RECOGNIZE that the colonial and neoliberal policies directed at Indigenous Peoples have left Indigenous Communities among the poorest in the world, alienated from political decision-making processes, disenfranchised by national governments, and subjected to grave and pervasive human rights violations. In addition, the protection and promotion of individual human rights remains key for Indigenous Women, including the right and fundamental freedom to live free from violence.

WE MAINTAIN that the advancement of Indigenous Women's human rights is inextricably linked to the struggle to protect, respect, and fulfill both the rights of our Peoples as a whole and our rights as women within our communities and at the national and international level. We recommend, in keeping with the third report of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, that Indigenous Women's issues be mainstreamed throughout the United Nations system.

WE NOTE that impoverishment, gender, ethnical and racial discrimination causes an increase in Indigenous Women's risks of becoming ill and being denied medical treatment. We call on governments to meet their obligations to ensure access to high quality, culturally appropriate health services, including full-spectrum reproductive and sexual health services. We call on governments to undertake a concerted global response to the AIDS pandemic and to pursue strategies for prevention and universal treatment of diseases disproportionately impacting marginalized communities.

WE AFFIRM the centrality of individual and collective rights, including sovereignty and self-determination, to the fulfillment of Indigenous Peoples' human rights and the preservation of Indigenous Peoples' natural resources and territories.

WE AFFIRM the adoption of a resolution by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for a second Decade of Indigenous Peoples. In order to ensure that adequate attention is paid to Indigenous Women's human rights, we recommend that in the implementation of the resolution there should be a special focus on Indigenous Women.

“ . . . the advancement of Indigenous Women's human rights is inextricably linked to . . . both the rights of our Peoples as a whole and our rights as women ”



Sustainable Development

WE AFFIRM that Indigenous Peoples are united by our lands, natural resources, and traditional knowledge, which are the foundations of Indigenous Wealth, Strength, Identity, and Culture.

WE RECOGNIZE that, traditionally, Indigenous Women have played an integral role in preserving our cultural heritages, are important producers of food in our communities and the custodians of biodiversity for many of the world's ecosystems. We are practitioners of medicine, pharmacology, botany, nutrition, and the keepers of agricultural technology that sustains the polycultures critical to maintaining biodiversity. Moreover, Indigenous Women are the custodians and have the right to be titleholders to land.

WE AFFIRM that, in addition to being the stewards of our lands, environmental, technical, scientific, and custodian of our cultural and spiritual knowledge, Indigenous Women are the primary transmitters of this knowledge to younger generations.

WE THEREFORE AFFIRM that Indigenous Women are knowledgeable about the struggle against poverty in our communities and creating strategies for sustainable development in our communities and beyond.

WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND that Indigenous Women's expertise be reflected in all national and international development strategies and that Indigenous Women, in consultation with their communities and organizations, be part of the formulation and decision-making processes of sustainable development initiatives.

Collective Rights, Indigenous Resources, and Economic Justice

WE RECALL that Indigenous Peoples' extensive knowledge of the plants and animals on our lands has historically been developed, shared, and used collectively, and has been systematically robbed most recently via international trade rules like the World Trade Organization's TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights), which fail to recognize collective intellectual property rights and facilitate the piracy of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge by individuals and corporations.

**"We therefore
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WE RECOGNIZE that a wasteful and short-sighted pursuit of profit at the expense of nature has contributed to global climate change, an issue which literally threatens the Earth, with particular implications for Indigenous Communities. We note that deforestation, desertification, flooding, melting of sea ice, land erosion, pollution, and the toxic contamination of lands and waters are robbing Indigenous Peoples of our way of life, identity, and wealth.

The Millennium Development Goals

WE RECOGNIZE the importance of the MDGs as a tool for advancing strategies for sustainable development and women's human rights. We call on all governments to uphold their commitments to realizing these goals, with an emphasis on Indigenous Women's full participation.

WE ENDORSE the indicator for Goals 1 and 3 ("the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary school education"). However, we recall that the Western paradigm of schooling has impoverished Indigenous Peoples culturally, spiritually, and economically. We therefore hold that the needs of our Peoples be addressed in educational policies for meeting this goal.

WE FURTHER CONTEND that Goal 3 (gender equality) cannot be met with a singular focus on girls' education. We echo the demands of our sisters throughout the global

women's movement for an expansion of Goal 3 to address: reproductive and sexual health and rights, violence against women, women's labor and property rights, and the reduction of women's work burden by guaranteeing access to resources such as technology, sanitation, water, housing, electricity, and transportation.

International Indigenous Women's Forum Declaration, February 27, 2005 - New York City

IIWF/FIMI at the 4TH Session of the Permanent Forum

Intergenerational Indigenous Women's Dialogue on the MDGs and the UN Reform Package

Organized by MADRE, IIWF/FIMI, NWAC and SPFI

This panel will present an opportunity for Indigenous women to share insights and strategies concerning the Millennium Development Goals and the UN reforms and open the dialogue to intergenerational perspectives.

Although the Secretary General's report, "In larger Freedom," recognizes the necessity "to increase countries' indigenous capacity for science and technology," it does not mention Indigenous women or their important role in achieving sustainable development. This panel will explore the possibilities of including Indigenous women's perspectives in this report and look at how Indigenous women's perspectives can contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.



WHEN: Monday, May 16 from 1:15pm to 2:45pm

WHERE: UN Headquarters, New York City, Conference Room 2

MODERATOR: Yolanda Teran, *Fundación Indígena Andes Chinchasuyo (Ecuador)*

SPEAKERS: Tarcila Rivera, *CHIRAPAQ (Perú)*; Lucy Mullenkei, *IIN (Kenya)*; Miran Masaquiza, *UN Secretariat of the PFII (Ecuador)*; Viviana Figueroa, *Asoc. de la Juventud Indígena Argentina (Argentina)*

Translation will be provided.

Looking Forward

IIWF/FIMI future activities will aim to:

- enhance the professional capacity of Indigenous Women lawyers and professionals;
- provide information on international human rights instruments and humanitarian law to local activists;
- create the foundation for a common understanding among regional agencies working with Indigenous women worldwide;
- help these agencies develop and implement national plans of actions;
- create a fund for Indigenous Women;
- and develop an advocacy/public education program focusing on regional priorities.

IIWF/FIMI's activities will be facilitated by MADRE, an international women's human rights organization.

Contact IIWF/FIMI

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MADRE, An international women's human rights organization

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