

Statement made by Ms. Erika Chad, UN Women Brazil at the 16th Session of the UNPFII, Agenda Item 3: Empowerment of Indigenous Women

Thank you madam chair,

UN Women Brazil is honored to present an example of its work with indigenous women.

Brazil is a country of continental dimensions with a population of 900 thousand indigenous men and women, of 305 ethnic groups, speaking more than 200 languages.

UN Women is committed to empowering indigenous women as decision makers on all aspects that affect their lives. We have therefore instituted the *Voice of Indigenous Women*, a project implemented by UN Women with the support of the Government of Norway. The project provides a unique opportunity translate the principle of participation into reality through programming. Five indigenous women are part of a Reference Group that has coordination and decision-making power. Twenty-four leaders act as multipliers. In a consultation process, they collected the perception from over 100 peoples on the main issues and demands of indigenous women in Brazil. They also acted as community mobilizers, ensuring the participation of indigenous women in various decision-making spaces.

The *National Agenda of Brazilian Indigenous Women* is the first document of its kind, a result of this consultation. Last year, for the first time in history, the indigenous women leaders ensured a space in the official programme of the *Acampamento Terra Livre*, the main indigenous peoples assembly in Brazil, which brings together more than 1 thousand participants every year. There, they approved the National Agenda, that has since served as an advocacy tool to support indigenous women's participation in national and international fora.

The Project is now aligned with the National Agenda, aiming to:

1. strengthen the participation of indigenous women in **national and international fora**;
2. support the organization of the **First March of Indigenous Women**;
3. create an urgent response mechanism to guarantee the safety of indigenous women human rights defenders.

Two Brazilian leaders, who participated in the Project, Cristiane Pankararu and Rayanne Baré, are here today to echo the Voice of Indigenous Women, in Brazil, in our region, and in the world. We are proud to make this journey by your side.

Thank you.