

42nd Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 5: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Geneva, 18 September 2019

UN Women Geneva Liaison Office

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.

UN Women welcomes the opportunity to engage in this clustered interactive dialogue and thanks both the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for their reports.

When indigenous women migrate, they are often exposed to social and economic exclusion, exploitation, gender-based violence and human rights violations. Without access to safe and regular migration channels, indigenous migrant women face a heightened risk to being trafficked for the purposes of forced and exploitative labour and sexual exploitation. At all stages of migration, indigenous women often lack access to health services and protection services, including safe houses for those who may be fleeing from violence or persecution.

In her report, the Special Rapporteur highlighted that indigenous women also often lack access to justice and reparation, in both ordinary and indigenous justice systems. The Special Rapporteur also reported that the large majority of prison systems lack programs that address the gender-specific needs of indigenous women and their cultural, spiritual and religious requirements.

Madam Vice-President,

Addressing these issues is critical in fulfilling Member State's pledge in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. We encourage all to listen to what indigenous people have to say and pay close attention to their concerns. UN Women will be calling on the game-changing activism of indigenous women over the next year as we work to build Generation Equality, our global movement to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and ensure a future of equality for all people.

We also look forward to further engaging with the Special Rapporteur to continue highlighting the situation of indigenous women and girls.

Thank you.