

Beijing Caucus
*3rd session of the UN Permanent
 Forum on Indigenous Issues*

New York, May 2004



Context:

The 1995 *Beijing Declaration of Indigenous Women* is a milestone declaration at the global level. It was simply the only international public declaration by Indigenous women with a specific reference to self-determination. This document was discussed, approved, and signed in Huairou (Beijing) by 110 Indigenous women representing over 100 organizations from 26 countries during the Fourth World Conference on Women (UN Commission on the Status of Women) in September 1995. The Beijing Declaration on Indigenous Women is a critical alternative to the mainstream women's Beijing Platform for Action, which is perceived as keeping Indigenous women invisible with a Neo-europeas stance (articles 10-16). It is especially critical of the 'New World Order' (article 17), left over in the Beijing Draft Platform for Action. The Indigenous women's proposals and demands emphasize, above all, self-determination.

Indigenous women from all around the world took the opportunity at the Permanent Forum to prepare a response to the next Beijing+10. That was also part of a recommendation coming from the Lima Conference of the Americas (Spring 2004).

Recommendations:

1. Permanent Forum should support as its future work the continuous participation of indigenous women from all regions in all the UN Conference and Process by setting up a Gender desk in the Secretariat of the PF.
2. Permanent Forum requests UN Agencies- UNDP, UNIFEM and Commission on the Status of women to provide funding for Indigenous women participation to the preparatory processes to Beijing+10 Conference and to follow up.
3. Recognised the Indigenous Women Beijing+10 Coordination Committee, which has already been formed by Indigenous women at the third session of the Permanent Forum. The coordination Committee is represented by the Indigenous women coming from different regions, the Gender Team of the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of tropical Forest, the Secretariat of PF; the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO).
4. Permanent Forum Gender Focal Point and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues assist the Beijing +10 Coordination Committee.