

51st Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

Geneva, 28 September 2022

UN Women Liaison Office in Geneva

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Madam Vice President,

Allow me to initiate this intervention by reaffirming UN Women's engagement with indigenous women's rights as a key priority.

The interconnected crises that we all face, have a greater impact on groups that confront multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as indigenous women. Centuries of exclusion, inequality and discrimination have prevented them from fully exercising their rights.

As stated by the Special Rapporteur in his report, women's knowledge is critical to maintaining cultural identity; creating solutions to conflict through indigenous justice; managing the risks and impacts of climate change; protecting biodiversity; achieving sustainable development and building resilience. However, the role of indigenous women in developing, transmitting, producing, and applying knowledge continues to be hindered by racism, gender discrimination, and violence. Moreover, the lack of disaggregated data on indigenous women hampers research and impedes the design of policies and programmes that address the overlapping and interdependent forms of discrimination they face.

In this context, UN Women would like to express our special concern about the misappropriation of indigenous women's knowledge and highlight the Special Rapporteur's recommendation to recognize indigenous women as the legitimate rights holders of their knowledge and adopt, in consultation with indigenous peoples and in accordance with international human rights standards, national legal and policy frameworks that protect indigenous women's knowledge and

intellectual property, , and establish safeguards against the misappropriation of their knowledge and lack of benefit sharing.

Thank you