



2ND WORLD CONFERENCE OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Together for wellbeing and Mother Earth





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Global Political Declaration of Indigenous Women

“The Earth is our mother. From her we get our life, and our ability to live. It is our responsibility to care for our mother and in caring for our mother, we care for ourselves. Women, all females, are a manifestation of Mother Earth in human form.”

- Indigenous Women on the Beijing Declaration (1995)

We, more than 500 Indigenous Women, from the seven sociocultural regions of the world, including elders and youth, urban and rural dwellers, knowledge holders and healers, Indigenous Women with disabilities, leaders, activists and artists, members of the LGBTQ+ community, Indigenous Women in government and UN agencies, with observers from various support groups, met at the Second World Conference of Indigenous Women, with the theme, “Together for wellbeing and Mother Earth,” from August 12 to September, 2021.

The Conference aimed to further strengthen the global Indigenous Women’s movement and agree on a global agenda that would safeguard our well-being by advancing the recognition and realization of our collective and individual rights. The Second World Conference of Indigenous Women was organized with the active participation of regional networks of Indigenous Women who led broader consultations with their members and networks in preparation for their effective engagement in the Conference.

The Lima Position Document and Plan of Action, an outcome of the World Conference on Indigenous Women, adopted in October 2013 in Lima, Peru, provided a road map that played a key role in the inclusion of Indigenous Women both at the United Nations and within the Indigenous Peoples’ movement. This process contributed to inclusion of the Indigenous Women’s agenda regarding data disaggregation, access to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive health rights, capacity building, empowerment of Indigenous Women, and addressing violence and discrimination against Indigenous Women in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, 2014, among others.

It has been almost eight years since the World Conference on Indigenous Women and 26 years since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. During that entire time, Indigenous Women throughout the globe have continued working, advocating, and bringing to light the challenges that still pose a threat to us, to our children, and to future generations. And we have unified our efforts to help one another in new, creative and non-harming ways to find solutions to these issues.

¹ North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Pacific and the Arctic

² Network of Indigenous Women in Asia (NIWA), Asia Indigenous Women Network (AIWN), Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA), Alianza de Mujeres Indígenas de Centroamérica y México (AMICAM), African Indigenous Women’s Organization (AIWO), Saami Women’s Forum (SNF), National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Alliance (Natsiwa)

³ Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/69/2>



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While we acknowledge that some progress has been made in the engagement of Indigenous Women and Indigenous Women with disabilities in political processes on local, national, and international platforms, we are a long way from “full and effective participation.” We are still far from being included in decision-making processes in all matters that impact us. As Indigenous Women, we continue to face obstacles that limit us from fully and effectively exercising our rights. In particular, we are still experiencing multiple levels of structural and systemic violence; marginalization, discrimination, and racism; increasing aggressive appropriation of our territories by states, transnational corporations, and the private sector; environmental violence by contamination of soil, air, and water sources with chemicals that affect our health and biodiversity; the prevailing impact of colonization; globalization; militarization of territories; forced displacement and migration; criminalization and repression of social dissent and of human rights defenders; gender-based violence; exploitation and trafficking, missing and murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; and inaccessibility to justice.

Adding to those challenges, we have faced deadly and intensifying natural disasters caused by climate change as well as human-induced disasters, such as from mining, logging, dams, etc. which exacerbate the impacts of climate change, threatening our lives and ways of life, including our livelihoods, shelter, culture, traditions and Indigenous medicines.

The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the great disparities that exist among civil society and the Indigenous Peoples of the world. The digital divide, the lack of effective, culturally relevant and well-equipped health facilities in remote areas and Indigenous communities, and limited access to appropriate information and medicines, have created a heavier burden for Indigenous Women.

On a positive note, this situation has brought to light the importance of our roles as knowledge holders, and how this knowledge, along with intergenerational dialogue and transmission, has been pivotal for the survival of Indigenous Peoples. When our lands and territories are at risk, our medicines and our own survival are as well.

It is important for us to express our concern over the formation of alliances and other mechanisms, between corporations and UN bodies, mechanisms and agencies, which undermines the rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly of Indigenous Women and Girls, and which fail to reflect equitable participation in these spaces, where policy and decision-making take place.

The evident cumulative effect of these issues is leading us away from the fulfillment of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and from each of the Objectives of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, with its main purpose of leaving no one behind.





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We assert our rights to self-determination and our rights to equal access to resources and opportunities. We endorse the principle of “Nothing About Us, Without Us,” particularly within the framework of the upcoming Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022 - 2032).

In the spirit and resilience as Indigenous Women, we present the following recommendations:

We encourage Member States, UN Agencies and Mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ILO Convention 169; the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women; the ICPD Program of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; ratification of Treaties and Conventions; uphold Free, Prior and Informed Consent; and the Equal, Effective and Meaningful participation and representation of Indigenous Women, Girls, including those with disabilities/functional diversity and members of the LGBTQ+ community, on all matters impacting our lives, our communities and the future generations.

We call on states to include, “ensure that Indigenous Women and Girls have equitable access to and benefits from the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as informed and effective participation at all levels of policy and decision-making related to biodiversity” as one specific target in the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

We urge those States, who, in the past may have either abstained or presented reservations on any given international convention to reassess their positions, as allowed by the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, by taking into consideration the time that has elapsed.

We encourage the CEDAW Committee to fast-track the work on the new General Recommendation on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls as a tool to halt marginalization and discrimination and ensure we are not pushed further behind.

We highly value the historic success of the Generation Equality Forum, in obtaining more than \$40 billion dollars in financial commitments from UN member states, other institutions, and the private sector to advance the attainment of gender equality throughout the globe. For this, we demand that resources be distributed in such a manner that Indigenous Women, Youth and Girls, including those of us with disabilities, be recipients in the disbursement and/or funds allocation process for programs, capacity building, and training, to address the digital divide and support activities that empower us for the benefit of our communities, lives, preservation of our ways of life, and cultural survival, including the education of Indigenous Women for political representation and policy making.





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We further call for a power shift, where the paternalistic and racist approach would be replaced by one of equitable collaboration between States, United Nations Bodies, Mechanisms and Agencies, other stakeholders, donors with Indigenous Women's organizations, Indigenous-mixed organizations, and Indigenous Peoples' self-governance structures, and by funding programs based on the needs expressed by the particular communities, in order to ensure the advancement of the social, cultural and economic development of Indigenous Women and Girls.

We call on all States to adopt specific, inclusive and accessible measures such as targeted affirmative actions and programs to address the conditions of Indigenous Women who experience multiple instances of intersectional discrimination and violence, so that we are able to mainstream our rights in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for inclusion of Indigenous Persons with disabilities.

We call on all States to integrate the comprehensive understanding that discrimination and violence against Indigenous Women, Girls and Women with disabilities, LGBTQ+ are multidimensional, and that such an understanding is intimately intertwined with their cosmovision, the rights of nature, and their role as environmental defenders and ancestral guardians of Mother Earth.

We call on all sectors and stakeholders to recognize, promote, and protect Indigenous healing practices, medicinal knowledge, and intellectual property through awareness, training, and government support at all levels.

We call on all States to amend and revise existing laws, policies, and rules, and/or establish new ones, so that they are fully in line with their commitments under international instruments, and to recognize and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Women to access, own, control, and use their customary lands and resources. This includes the operationalization of the UN Women's Strategy for Inclusion and Visibility of Indigenous Women and ensuring its effective implementation at the community level.





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We call on all States to integrate appropriate processes and mechanisms that reflect the collective dimensions of the right to equality, non-discrimination, and self-determination; social and economic rights, including the right to decent work and the right to land, territory, and resources; rights to water and food; cultural rights; civil and political rights; the right to live free from any form of violence, and the right to access the justice system without fear of reprisal for those Indigenous Women and Girls who report violations of their rights.

The pathway to succeed in such an endeavor requires a close partnership with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, allies, donors, and different movements who walk by our side in mutual solidarity to eradicate inequalities and violence.

This Second World Conference of Indigenous Women, held on a virtual platform, allowed us Indigenous Women of the world to recognize the path walked by our elders, to exalt the importance of our knowledge and contributions to society and the world as a whole through our science, spirituality, art, health, and economic systems. It allowed us to address our dreams, proposals, concerns and values, and arrive at a reaffirmation of our solid commitment to the advancement of our rights, our cultures, our livelihoods, and the great responsibility of continuity that we owe the future generations and our peoples. We have resiliently unified our voices from all corners of the world to state once again that we stand “Together for wellbeing and Mother Earth.”

Approved and signed on September 2, 2021

