

## *DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE*

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# "Indigenous Women: Key actors in achieving the 2030 Agenda" (Implementing SDG 5)

March 15 2018

6.30 pm to 7.45 pm

Conference Room D, Conference Building, UN

### **Background**

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The indigenous women movement has growth and strengthened in the last twenty years for the joint efforts and alliances among different key actors. There are important milestones that have allowed the inclusion of the perspectives of indigenous women in international discussions on human rights. One of them is the Fourth World Conference on Women organized by the United Nations in Beijing in 1995.

After this, indigenous women have been active in follow-up meetings as well as in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). As a result of their advocacy, two resolutions concerning indigenous women have been adopted by the CSW: **resolution 49/7**, entitled *Indigenous women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*; and **resolution 56/4**, entitled *Indigenous women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication*, which was a landmark achievement in terms of the recognition of the role of indigenous women in poverty eradication. In addition, references to the situation of indigenous women have been reflected in the CSW Agreed Conclusions in 2013, 2016 and 2017.

Also, it is important to mention that the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development offers a new opportunity to promote the rights and well being of indigenous peoples, which were mostly invisible in the Millennium Development Goals. If all the goals are very relevant for the demands of indigenous women, we have found that Goal 2 "Ending hunger" and Goal 5 "Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls is relevant for indigenous women" are strongly interconnected with the resolutions adopted by the CSW.

Despite the international recognition of women's equal rights to economic resources, complex challenges remain. In many cases, indigenous women face loss of ancestral lands and natural resources, which leads to economic insecurity, and challenges the rights to traditional livelihoods, cultural identity and development. This structural injustice keeps indigenous women impoverished, dependent and in vulnerable conditions.

Therefore, FIMI would like to take advantage of this strategic moments in 2018, such as the Commission on the Status of Women which has decided to review as priority theme the "*Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls*" and during the meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development it will approached the "*Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*", in order to promote a continuously dialogue among stakeholders to have a route where indigenous women are considered as agents of change and the implementation of international commitments

are realized accordingly with the world view of indigenous peoples, including the struggle to achieve social and economic empowerment, combat violence and discrimination and achieve participation in decision-making.

## **Objectives**

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Taking into consideration the theme of CSW62, “the empowerment of women in rural areas” this event will aim to:

Highlight and analyze advances and challenges in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of indigenous women and girls in their different and specific circumstances, demonstrating the particularities of indigenous women beyond rural areas in order to achieve the Agenda 2030

Specifically, the side event will approach the identification of policies, ideas and measures to support the empowerment of indigenous women and girls in the context of national and global level in terms of:

- a. Impact of climate change to indigenous women related to the access to food and adequate water
- b. Role of Indigenous women defending indigenous lands and territories, challenges and opportunities
- c. Economic empowerment.

## **Co-Sponsors:**

- International Indigenous Women’s Forum (FIMI)
- Secretariat of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
- Indigenous Peoples Major Group on SDG
- Asia Indigenous Women’s Network / Tebtebba

## **Format and Participation**

It is expected the active participation of indigenous women leaders attending the CSW62, representatives from States, United Nations agencies and other key allies in order to exchange good practices of empowerment of indigenous women, challenges and lessons learned towards a sustainable living.

The International Indigenous Women’s Forum will organize a spiritual ceremony inviting different cultural and spiritual expressions of indigenous women attending the session. This will be followed by an opening remark presenting the overview and context of the event, and we shall proceed with presentations from the speakers representing the different region in the world. Lastly we will have a closing remark from the UN Women Representative, highlighting the commitments and further steps to ensure gender equality for indigenous women.

## **Languages**

The event will be conducted in English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation during the interventions.

### **Agenda proposal**

Moderator: *Ms. Chandra Roy-Henricksen*, Chief, and SPFII/DSPD/DESA

**OPENING:** *Ms. Teresa Zapeta*

### **SPEAKERS**

1. *Ms. Alice Lesepe*, Indigenous woman from Africa (Impact of climate change to indigenous women related to the access to food and adequate water).
2. *Ms. Indira Vargas*, Indigenous woman from Ecuador (Role of Indigenous women defending indigenous lands and territories, challenges and opportunities)
3. *Ms. Eleanor P. Dictaan-Bang-oa*, Indigenous woman from Asia recommended by Tebtebba (Experience on economic empowerment).
4. *Ms. Joan Carling*, Co-convener of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group on SDGs, Philippines (Advances and challenges for indigenous women in the accomplishment of the Agenda 2030)

**Open the floor for comment questions and answers.**

### **CLOSING**

- *Ms. Tarcila Rivera* (Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Peru)