



INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN

SHARING STRATEGIES FOR NEW CHALLENGES

LIMA, April 14-16

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To recognize that the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly in September 2007 establishes a framework for Indigenous Women to continue to fight for the full exercise of the rights of our peoples.
2. To actively commit to working at the international, national, and local levels for the implementation of rights recognized in the Declaration and other instruments.
3. To invite the entire international community, social movements, women's organizations, United Nations agencies, international cooperation, academics, communication media and other entities to utilize the framework established by the Declaration in its policies, programs and projects and their relationship with Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Women.
4. To publicize and disseminate international conventions, instruments and treaties relevant to Indigenous and Afrodescendant Peoples such as the reports produced by countries and recommendations carried out by committees – including the ILO Convention 169, CERD, CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Indigenous Peoples, the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. To produce communication strategies to reach governmental institutions, officials, and government employees, especially judges and suppliers of services, civil society, and Indigenous and Afrodescendant Peoples, and considering the production of popular versions, in diverse indigenous languages, and broadcasting through local radio programs and other traditional and communal modes of communication.
6. To raise public awareness of the situation of indigenous peoples in general and of Indigenous Women in particular developing campaigns national and local levels to promote the culture of respect for diversity and differences within the framework of recognition of the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples.

7. To implement mechanisms by consensus to guarantee the full participation of Indigenous Peoples, in particular Indigenous Women, in the processes that directly or indirectly affect them and promoting access to spaces of decision and power.
8. To implement mechanisms by consensus to guarantee the principle of free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples with special participation of women in the processes that directly or indirectly affect them, including mega development projects, social programs, and measures of promoting gender equity.
9. To promote processes of capacity-building and training particularly designed by and for Indigenous Women to acquire a greater knowledge about international rights instruments and how to use them, to improve the capacity of indigenous organizations to document the cases of violations of their rights and to improve the capacity to demand to the State the fulfillment of laws and rules.
10. To consolidate and promote alliances with diverse sectors of civil society and other social movements, including movements of human rights, of women, of Afrodescendant Women, of rural women- from the standpoint of equality in dialogue and respect for differences.
11. To work towards the recognition of interculturality as a right for all, not only for Indigenous Peoples, and as a tool for the construction of a new concept of social participation.
12. To actively contribute to the unity of the Indigenous Women's movement in the context of the Indigenous Peoples' movement on all levels, consolidating existing networks and linkages with the recognition of diversity and autonomy of the distinct processes.
13. To establish monitoring and follow-up mechanisms such as observatories of Indigenous Peoples, interethnic commissions, bodies of vigilance, national forums on the fulfillment of the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women, monitoring not only initiatives of governments at the national and local levels, but also of the United Nations and other relevant institutions.
14. To participate in processes of production and establishment of the systems of statistical indicators and the breakdown of data to be able to document good practices and obstacles to the fulfillment of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in general and of Indigenous Women in particular.
15. To give special attention to Indigenous and Afrodescendant Peoples, particularly those in situations of vulnerability, such as displaced persons, elderly women, border peoples, female domestic workers, Indigenous girls, boys and youth, elders, peoples in voluntary isolation and peoples in contexts of armed conflict.

THEMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

THEME 1: Measures to Strengthen the Indigenous Women's Movement.

- a. To celebrate the diversity of Indigenous Women's organizations on several levels, to assume the commitment to continue developing our capacities and processes of dialogue, exchanges and mechanisms to promote our joint struggles in the framework of diversity.
- b. To recognize the trajectory of Indigenous Women leaders that have worked throughout the years in diverse spaces and on distinct levels, opening doors and advancing in the recognition and fulfillment of Indigenous Peoples' rights.

- c. To work toward the establishment of a leadership training program for Indigenous Women, recognizing the importance of intergenerational dialogue and strengthening new generations.
- d. To recognize and support the role of the International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF/FIMI) as a specific space to strengthen our capacity of political lobbying and to continue contributing to its consolidation from the perspective of our organizations and capacities.
- e. To celebrate the establishment of the International Indigenous Women's Fund as an instrument of FIMI to strengthen our advocacy and to make our dreams into a reality. We ratify the principles of intercultural philanthropy based on the indigenous philosophy of intergenerational vision, reciprocity, and complementarity. We commit to participate in the process of building and consolidating the Fund.
- f. To invite agencies, allies, donors, and women's funds to contribute from different arenas to the consolidation of this fund without limiting the contributions that they are already making in their specific policies directed to Indigenous Women and Peoples.

THEME 2: Territory, Environment, and Natural Resources.

- a. To promulgate and implement public policies formulated in the framework of international conventions and treaties related to Indigenous Peoples in order to face: the alteration of biodiversity through the expansion of single-crop farming, forestry expansion, climate change and migration to cities for environmental degradation.
- b. To protect our territory through the practice of indigenous law.
- c. To establish means to monitor mega projects in indigenous territories.
- d. To create strategies to confront the extractive activities in indigenous lands and territories, including mining practices and oil extraction.

THEME 3: Climate Change and its Implications for Indigenous Peoples

- a. Taking into account that measures to mitigate the effects of climate change negatively affect the lives of indigenous peoples, we Indigenous Women commit ourselves to guaranteeing the continuity of our cultures and ways of life, including traditional productive practices.
- b. States and agencies support the projects of Indigenous Peoples to implement measures of mitigation.
- c. To develop technical capacities and capacities for negotiation among Indigenous Peoples and in particular among Indigenous Women in order to foster the equal conditions necessary for the participation of Indigenous Women in the processes of analyzing and defining measures of mitigation.
- d. To recommend that the Special Rapporteur for the rights of indigenous peoples produce a report on the impact of climate change on Indigenous Peoples.

THEME 4: Intellectual Property, Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity.

- a. To recognize and respect collective and transgenerational intellectual property of Indigenous Peoples regarding their wisdom, innovations and practices, according to their customs.

- b. To define the criteria of protecting the traditional knowledge and intellectual property of Indigenous Peoples divided by state borders.
- c. To implement strategies to ensure intergenerational dialogue and respect among women, grandmothers, men and children, recognizing the importance of work in the family and community to maintain intellectual property and knowledge systems.
- d. To respect and apply national legal systems and international law in regard to biodiversity (land, territories, waters, cultures, cemeteries and spirituality) including the implementation of measures to eliminate judicial inconsistencies and contradictions on the local, regional, and international levels.
- e. To promote our food sovereignty, supporting production to guarantee our peoples' right to food, including the cultivation and preservation of our seeds and native, nutritious plants.
- f. To work towards the recognition of sacred places as an inherent part of the territories of traditional use of Indigenous Peoples.
- g. To create capacity and strengthen the ability of indigenous organizations to exercise the administration and control of records of knowledge.
- h. To debate the implications of declarations of inheritance of humanity by UNESCO without indigenous consent.

THEME 5: Communication and Information Technology

- a. To strengthen the initiatives and advances achieved in communications and access to new information technologies and recognize that these are rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- b. To promote processes of capacity building and appropriation of communication and information technology for indigenous women, and promote their alliance with existing networks, including the creation of pages and portals.
- c. To promote the creation of new communications media by and for Indigenous Peoples and the participation of women in these media both directly and in partnership, as well as through their own programs.
- d. To promote and foster community emissaries in our villages to strengthen our knowledge, our culture and our spirituality as women and Indigenous Peoples.
- e. To deepen from a communications perspective urgent themes such as climate change, identity and others referring to specific and collective rights of women and Indigenous Peoples.
- f. To promote the adoption of legislation that would grant radio frequencies without restrictions.

THEME 6: UN Reform: Peace Processes and World Security

- a. To involve civil society, especially Indigenous Peoples, in all the levels of the process of United Nations systems reform.
- b. To develop the means of broadening our recommendations so that the processes of UN reform on a global level and in our countries reflect the work of Indigenous Women to elaborate strategies to implement the rights of Indigenous Peoples in general and of Indigenous Women in particular.

- c. To socialize information on UN systems reform through national and regional organizations.

THEME 7: Racism and Discrimination

- a. To revise legislation in consultation with organizations of Indigenous and Afrodescendant Peoples and to promote legislative reforms to penalize discriminatory actions, including the implementation of mechanisms to facilitate the process of denunciation and accusation.
- b. To implement public policies of positive discrimination (policies that promote the advancement of minorities) based in itemized statistical data and developed with the participation and consultation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant Peoples.
- c. To promote the establishment of governmental institutions charged with preventing and eliminating racial discrimination that will have adequate budgets and institutional capacity and will include mechanisms that guarantee the participation and consultation of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Women and Afrodescendant Peoples. In the case of countries that already have these mechanisms, we resolve to work to strengthen them.
- d. To establish methods of participation in the review of the Durban Action Plan.

THEME 8: Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Prevention of HIV/AIDS

- a. To improve the life opportunities of Indigenous girls, adolescents and women and to decrease vulnerability to maternal morbidity and mortality through an increase in marriage age, the reduction of pregnancy rates among girls and an increase in education.
- b. To work to achieve the reduction and elimination of violence against women on all levels and in all forms, including the domestic and community milieus. To study the link between violence against women and alcohol consumption and other processes of social decomposition such as migration.
- c. To work with urgency for the prevention of HIV, and to implement services of rapid detection in rural zones and research the incidence of HIV in indigenous communities.
- d. To link traditional medicine with western medicine in health services and establishments, to guarantee the presence of Indigenous and bilingual people in the health services field and to recognize the value of midwives in reproductive processes such as prenatal monitoring, birth and puerperium.
- e. To promote the participation of indigenous organizations in general and Indigenous Women in particular in community, regional and national monitoring of the quality of health services.

THEME 9: Gender, Culture, Violence and the Role of Human Rights Defenders

- a. To work for the eradication of violence from many different angles to promote long term cultural change involving diverse sectors.
- b. To understand violence against women from a rights perspective and, in consequence, to understand that violence is a human rights violation. To understand that the loss of territory, the loss of identity and the loss of language are also forms of violence.

- c. To promote the documentation of cases and data collection on violence against Indigenous Women.
- d. To strengthen ministries and agencies of defense for Indigenous Women or apply pressure for their creation where they no longer exist with adequate financial, institutional or technical capacities.
- e. To mobilize measures for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and to facilitate access to systems of accusation and punishment on a community as well as a national level.
- f. To mobilize methods for the prevention and elimination of violence against women within their communities and take measures to include the rights of Indigenous Women within the justice systems of these communities.
- g. To mobilize quantitative and qualitative studies on violence against Indigenous Women, its diverse dimensions and methods of preventing and eliminating such violence in determined contexts.

THEME 10: Intercultural Education

- a. To locate education within a human rights framework linked to other indivisible rights like the right to information, health, and political participation and to emphasize the responsibility and duty of states to guarantee the right to education.
- b. To adopt measures to guarantee the access of Indigenous Women to primary, secondary and higher education without condition or manipulation, and to include special programs for the reduction of illiteracy.
- c. To promote interculturality as a policy of the state, considered a transversal component of an educational system from educational and university training on.
- d. To guarantee an adequate legislative, institutional and financial framework to achieve autonomous/intracultural/self- education, for a child even before its conception.
- e. Respecting the organized institutional nature of each indigenous group, to take measures for the adequate implementation of intercultural education through strategies such as:
 - i. Promoting and supporting the construction and elaboration of alphabets or writing systems of indigenous languages, respecting the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples.
 - ii. Elaborating pedagogical materials pertinent to the cultures of Indigenous Peoples and nations while guaranteeing the participation of teachers and of the community as a whole.
 - iii. Promoting workshops for sensitivity to the characteristics of bilingual, intra- and intercultural education to families and communities so that they accept that their children learn the language and culture of their peoples.
 - iv. Promoting the valuation of the differences and the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous groups, incorporating their forms of teaching and learning and recognizing, systematizing and sharing traditional knowledge.
 - v. Supporting workshops for identity reconstruction and the construction of collective self-esteem.
 - vi. Constructing curricula that are culturally adequate to the characteristics of indigenous groups and developing processes of capacity building for practical ends.

- f. To recommend that organizations organize gatherings for capacity building to promote and facilitate the access of Indigenous Women to their programs and scholarships, removing restrictions on age, civil status, number of children and other limitations.

THEME 11: Antipoverty Politics, Access to Credit and Indigenous Women's Initiatives

- a. To recognize that land and territory is the principal basis of identity and spirituality for Indigenous Peoples as well as the principal source of income, and that as a consequence it is necessary to work strategically to safeguard the territories of Indigenous Peoples.
- b. To highlight the need to elaborate a definition of poverty from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples, since, for example, the loss of some values, traditions and customs is considered poverty. To keep in mind already developed concepts such as well being and good living.
- c. To implement measures to facilitate Indigenous Women's access to credit, including very low interest rates and the elimination of requirements for guarantees such as property titles considering the documentation extended by indigenous governments.
- d. To promote alternative, solidary and locally developed economies, retaking and supporting traditional fairs and exchanges, such as the fostering of national and international commercial networks that promote sustainable agriculture.

THEME 12: Dialogue with Other Social Movements: The Feminist Movement, the Afrodescendant Movement and Others

- a. To foster dialogue among women's organizations and networks; indigenous, afrodescendant and rural women's organizations in a context of equality and respect on international, national and local levels in the light of relevant processes such as CEDAW, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals and the Durban Action Plan.
- b. To explore the possibilities of institutionalizing and formalizing alliances, discussing what items of the agenda to work on together and which ones separately, establishing transparent rules.
- c. To achieve recognition within communities and groups, establishing alliances with mixed indigenous organizations, since it is very important for indigenous women to work both for the rights of Indigenous Women in particular and for the rights of Indigenous Peoples in general.
- d. To articulate the diverse existing networks and to explore the possibility of creating active, worldwide mechanisms of coordination.
- e. To generate mechanisms for the greater participation of indigenous youth in international and national processes.

THEME 13: Dialogue with Organizations of International Cooperation

- a. To establish adequate mechanisms to share information on international cooperation, and to make that information accessible to social movements. To facilitate the identification of different types of donors and promote capacity building in all countries on the policies of donor organization and practical ways of accessing these resources.
- b. To work together to establish consensual mechanisms that enforce the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent and to work on a global level so that alliances with agencies become more transparent.
- c. Cooperative programs should spring from the necessities and demands of indigenous groups and not from the agendas of organizations of international cooperation. The processes of implementation, monitoring and evaluation should count on the full participation of Indigenous Peoples, who should be protagonists in these initiatives.
- d. To generate the capacity of Indigenous Peoples and of Indigenous Women in particular to guarantee an equal dialogue and exchange experiences and processes already begun by indigenous organizations.
- e. To explore possible mechanisms for the control of private sector donors.

THEME 14: The Spiritual Health of Indigenous Women

- a. To guard our heritage and to strengthen spirituality in the light of systems of globalization that threaten it.
- b. To consider health a right of Indigenous and Afrodescendant Peoples and a mandatory right that the state must guarantee.
- c. To strengthen mechanisms for access to information and for participation of Indigenous Women that allow them to generate proposals to protect the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.
- d. To guarantee the participation of spiritual guides in Indigenous Women's events on all levels, and to look for adequate locations for spiritual ceremonies to take place.
- e. To fight for the preservation of sacred plants, especially coca leaves.
- f. To guarantee the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in the light of any health project and/or pharmaceutical enterprise that directly or indirectly affects Indigenous Peoples in general and Indigenous Women in particular, including penalties for corporations and religious movements that appropriate indigenous knowledge.

THEME 15: Political Participation and Visibility

- a. To design a strategy for the political participation and visibility of Indigenous Women in diverse arenas of political power.
- b. To demand statutory reforms from political parties through affirmative actions that guarantee the participation of Indigenous Women in executive bodies in conditions of equality and equity.
- c. To develop a more participative attitude on the political plane, and to see it as an opportunity for political participation in areas of development such as, for example, specific programs on violence, education, access to credit policies and others.
- d. To increase the sensibility of men in general, and in particular of those men in positions of power, in order to achieve a strategic alliance that permits the full participation of Indigenous Women.
- e. To promote and strengthen the link between officials in positions of political power and grassroots organizations to form the basis of a new kind of exercise of power from an Indigenous Women's perspective.
- f. To promote and strengthen the political formation of indigenous leaders through the establishment of a leadership school that has sufficient institutional and financial resources to function on a long term scale.
- g. To explore the possibilities for recognition of the trajectories and knowledge of leaders that they have acquired through experience and daily practice, so that they may be taken into consideration in the context of the validation of the system of formal academic titles.

THEME 16: Indigenous Peoples, the UN System and the Organization of American States

- a. To involve leaders who have already been trained in United Nations processes so that their knowledge plays a role in the formation of new participants having to do with the mechanisms and modalities of specific interventions.
- b. To know, disseminate and follow up on recommendations adopted by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, consulting the data base elaborated by the secretariat of the forum available on its web page.
- c. With respect to the members of the Forum, the Indigenous Women's movement needs to develop a process to select experts that can represent the movement for the period from 2011 to 2013. We should consider people from Central and South America that will represent the Indigenous Women's movement.
- d. To utilize the Permanent Forum to follow up on advances, obstacles and lessons learned in the implementation of the Declaration by the UN, countries and organizations.
- e. To utilize the space of the Permanent Forum to foment the creation of new alliances, to form working groups, and to lobby government representatives, UN agencies and donors.

- f. To consider the Forum a platform to increase the visibility of the violations of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in general and of Indigenous Women in general, perpetrated by nation states, governments, transnational corporations and others.
- g. To facilitate the prior preparation of organizations and Indigenous Women to achieve full and effective participation during the sessions of the Permanent Forum, including the study of the agenda, follow up on prior recommendations, the study of reports presented, preparatory regional meetings and thematic meetings, etc.