

## EMPOWERMENT OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN



Wednesday, 16 March 2016  
6:20 pm-7:40 pm  
Conference Room 7  
UN Headquarters, New York

### PROGRAMME

Remarks by *Ms. Begoña Lasagabaster*, Chief of the Leadership and Governance Section, UN Women

#### Panelists:

- *Ms. Valerie Kasaiyan*, Indigenous Information Network, Kenya
- *Ms. Ingeborg Larssen*, Saami Parliament, Norway
- *Ms. Teresa Tepania-Ashton*, Maori Women's Development Inc., New Zealand
- *Ms. Nuvia Mayorga Delgado*, Director General of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI), Mexico

#### Questions and Answers

#### Closing remarks by

*Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea*, President, International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI)

#### Moderator:

*Ms. Chandra Roy-Henriksen*, Chief, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Interpretation will be available in Spanish and English

#CSW60, #WeAreIndigenous

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#### Organizers:

International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI/IIWF)  
Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples  
UN Women  
Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII/DSPD/DESA)

## ABOUT THE EVENT

For more than two decades, indigenous women worldwide have been working to position their perspectives and demands at international arenas where decisions are made.

In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, organized by the United Nations in Beijing, marked a turning point in the indigenous women's movement. Since then, indigenous women have been active in its follow-up meetings as well as in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Indigenous women have asserted their demands for greater participation, beginning with their own institutions and extending to the level of the international community in line with articles 5 and 18 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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 October 2013, indigenous women from Africa, the Arctic, Asia, Latin America, North America, the Pacific and Russia met together in Lima, Peru, in the framework of the World Conference of Indigenous Women. As a result, they agreed a Political Position Document and Plan of Action regarding priority issues such as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), the Cairo+20, Beijing+20 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This conference allowed a global overview on the situation of indigenous women, their demands and commitments. In 2014, the Outcome Document of the WCIP refers to indigenous women in paragraphs 10, 17, 18 and 19. Recently, indigenous women have been active in ensuring that indigenous peoples' rights are at the center of the 2030 Agenda.

Lastly, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommended at its 14th session that the Commission on the Status of Women consider the empowerment of indigenous women as a priority theme of its sixty-first session, in 2017, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## OBJECTIVE

Through the exchange of experiences, learning and good practices, the discussions will highlight the unique situation of indigenous women, their achievements and their challenges. The side event aims to:

- Raise awareness and recognition of indigenous women leadership as key actors in political participation, combating violence, eradication of poverty and highlight the importance of their empowerment at all levels.