

The Permanent Forum pointed out (paragraph 13) that violent conflicts and militarization fundamentally affect the lives of indigenous women and their families and communities, causing violations of their human rights and displacement from their ancestral lands. Yet indigenous women do not see themselves as passive victims but have taken up the roles of mediators and peace builders. Recognizing the profound concerns of the impact of conflict situations on indigenous women, the Forum recommended:

- (a) That IOM and other relevant United Nations entities incorporate the needs and priorities of women and girls as ex-combatants in the design and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, and ensure their full access to all resources and benefits provided in reintegration programmes, including income-generation and skill-development programmes;**
- (b) That UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme, and other field-based agencies collect data on the situation of indigenous women living in conflict areas. Such data would be valuable for analysis and programme development;**
- (c) That IANWGE integrate indigenous women issues into its strategies on women, conflict, peace and security;**
- (d) That the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations human rights bodies ensure that statutory provisions prohibiting war crimes and crimes against humanity cover criminal acts perpetrated on a gender basis since their occurrence remains particularly acute, especially the high incidence of mass rape and mutilation during armed conflict;**
- (e) That UNHCR give priority to indigenous women and their families who are displaced internally and externally by force due to armed conflict in their territories.**

In addition, the special rapporteurs, as well as other mechanisms relevant to the Commission on Human Rights, are encouraged by the Forum (para 50) to study the effects of armed conflict on the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, especially on women and children.

The Forum expressed its great concern about the effects of armed conflict on indigenous women and children (para 51), and recommended that a workshop be convened with the framework of the 10-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in order to formulate strategies to protect vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, especially taking into account the vulnerabilities of indigenous women and children. These strategies should incorporate capacity-building of indigenous women living in areas of armed conflict or in precarious circumstances.

Finally, the Forum (para 67) invited those United Nations agencies, funds and programmes working in areas of conflict to consider the special needs of indigenous peoples in their work.