

Report¹

Global Preparatory Meeting for Indigenous Women

Organized by the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus

Hosted by the American Indian Community House

**Haudenosaunee Traditional Territory
New York City, March 27-29, 2013**

¹ This report was prepared by Sylvia Escárcega and Eve Reyes-Aguirre, GIWC Rapporteurs, using their own notes collected at the meeting, and also those taken by Erin Konsmo and Danika Littlechild.

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Opening & Approval of Meeting Agenda

The Global Indigenous Women's Caucus (GIWC) hosted a Global Preparatory Meeting for Indigenous Women on March 27-29, 2013. Our meeting took place in traditional Haudenosaunee territory at the American Indian Community House.²

The Agenda was presented by the GIWC co-chairs and it was approved by the Caucus. Please see Appendix 1.

List of Participants

GIWC Global Coordinating Group Representatives

- Alyssa Macy - Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon; International Indian Treaty Council

Youth Caucus

- Erin Konsmo - Métis, Native Youth Sexual Health Network
- Tania Pariona - Quechua, Comisión de Niñez y Juventud Indígena

African Region

- Maria Uazukuani - Nama (Khoisan), !Garib Nama Heritage Foundation

Arctic Region

- Hanne Grethe Pedersen – Inuit, Greenland
- Vibeke Larsen - Sami, Sami Parliament of Norway

North American Region

- Tia Oros - Zuni, Seventh Generation Fund

GIWC Advisers

- Myriam Sánchez - CEDHIFA, Comunidad Integradora del Saber Andino (CISA), Consejo Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas del Ecuador (CONMIE), Comisión Internacional de Arte de los Pueblos Indígenas (CIAPI)
- Dea Thiele - Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney
- June L Lorenzo - Pueblo of Laguna/Dine, American Indian Law Alliance, Laguna Acoma Coalition for a Safe Environment
- Tonya Gonnella-Frichner - Haudenosaunee, American Indian Law Alliance

GIWC officers

- Sandra Creamer - co-chair - Aboriginal

² Co-sponsors: Indigenous Global Coordinating Group for the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014, Ford Foundation, Seventh Generation Fund, American Indian Law Alliance, Southern Diaspora Centre, Flying Eagle Woman Fund for Peace, Justice and Sovereignty, and the Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation, American Indian Community House, Madeline Newman Ríos, Dea Delaney Thiele.

- Lobna Rouhani - co-chair
- Eve Reyes-Aguirre co-rapporteur - Izkaloteca, Tonatierra
- Sylvia Escárcega - co-rapporteur - Abya Yala Nexus

Other participants

- Murielle Borst Tarrant - Kuna/Rappahannock, American Indian Law Alliance
- Yolanda Terán - Kichwa, Organización Indígena Andes Chinchasuyo, Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad para América Latina y El Caribe
- Danika Littlechild - Ermineskin Cree Nation (Neyaskweyak), Treaty 6 (Canada), International Indian Treaty Council
- Sandra Nelson Zongo - Cherokee Bright Star Band, Amhara Ethiopian, Longhouse Treaty Nations
- Lobi Redhawk - Creek, Cherokee, Longhouse Treaty Nations

Other invited delegates unable to participate

- Eleanore Dictaa-Bang-oa (Asia Region)
- Erity Teave (Pacific Region)
- Victoria Kallenbach (Russia & Eastern Europe Region)
- Myrna Taylor (Latin America & Caribbean Region)
- Florina López (Latin America & Caribbean Region)
- Kamira Nait Sid (GIWC Representative to the GCG)
- Vicky Tauli-Corpuz (GIWC Representative to the GCG)
- Tarcila Rivera Zea (GIWC Representative to the GCG)

Decision regarding a Guiding Principle for the work of the GIWC

Approved via consensus by the GIWC on March 29, 2013.

The GIWC has decided to have a guiding principle in its work and to be part of the mandate of all of its representatives in the HLP/WCIP process, as follows:

The Global Indigenous Women's Caucus (GIWC) agrees to work together under the definition of self-determination contained in article 3 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in the proceedings of all matters regarding the UN general Assembly High Level Plenary to be called the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (HLP/WCIP). This definition of self-determination maintains the right to be referred to as Indigenous Peoples, not communities or populations. As Indigenous Women we reaffirm that our inherent rights and customary laws are non-negotiable, as well as our right to language, culture and identity and to free, prior and informed consent. Our GIWC representatives expect to work in a safe environment. As such, we also understand that self-determination is indispensable for the autonomy of our bodies and

environmental and reproductive justice, which are important conditions for our physical, spiritual and cultural wellbeing.

Decisions regarding the HLP/WCIP

Outcome of the HLP/WCIP

- It was decided to analyze carefully what is a high-level plenary meeting and its implications for UNDRIP and for the outcome document. Danika Littlechild offered to work on a short paragraph explaining the specific meaning and scope attributed to a high-level plenary meeting vs. a world conference.
- It was decided to look at the outcomes of the Commission of the Status of Women and see how they may affect HLP/WCIP.

Indigenous participation at the HLP/WCIP

- It could be that the informal roundtables will not be a part of the official record of the United Nations. It was decided that the GIWC's goal is to be a part of the formal record. The GIWC would like to find out if the outcome documents coming out of preparatory meetings will be part of the official record.
- It was decided to find out other examples of HLP meetings and the participation of civil society in them. What procedures have been used in the past? What does the GA see as the role of the high-level meeting?
- Side/Parallel Events: There could be side events in the week leading up to GA and parallel activities during the HLP/WCIP. It was decided that it could be strategically significant for the GIWC to start thinking now of organizing a side event and to invite State delegations. Additionally, the GIWC decided to evaluate how any of these events could affect the high level meetings and the conventions or documents that come out from them.

Decisions regarding the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group (GCG)

GCG roadmap

- Concerns were expressed that women and youth are not fully included on the GCG roadmap. It was decided that they need to be in the language, roadmap, and official documents.

- It was decided to develop strategies for collaboration between the GIYC and GIWC in their work at the GCG in order to advance the full and effective participation of Indigenous women and youth.
- A suggestion was made seek a proactive route to guarantee wide participation through the regional delegations, to seek equal participation in terms of gender and generations, as a way to struggle together to find common positions.

Lobbying

- It was decided to have a GIWC collective position statement that can be used when lobbying.

Decisions regarding the GIWC Representatives to the Global Coordinating Group

Terms of Reference

- It was reminded that the collective is the one that provides the framework for work and the mandate to all of its representatives.
- Taking into consideration all its needs and guiding principles, the Caucus discussed, decided, and approved the *Terms of Reference for the GIWC Representatives* (see Appendix 2).

Nomination and Selection Process³

- The Caucus decided by consensus to recognize with gratitude the service of our sisters who have served as GIWC GCG main and alternate representatives. The 4 GIWC representatives to the GCG from May 17, 2012 to March 27, 2013 were: Tarcila Rivera Zea (main representative); Alyssa Macy (main representative), who attended 2 GCG formal meetings (New York- August 2012, Chiang Mai- October 2012) and will attend the one in Alta (April 2013); Vicky Tauli-Corpuz (alternate representative), who attended the GCG informal meeting in New York (January 2013); and Kamira Nait Sid (alternate representative).

³ Tania Pariona has asked to put in the record that she was not present at the session when the decisions in relation to the GIWC representatives to the GCG and the TORs were made (March 27, 2013) and that she has a different and impartial opinion regarding the procedures for decision-making and on the criteria used.

- In view of the need to move forward in our work, the Caucus renewed a call for GCG representatives to take up the work of engaging with the GCG according to the terms of reference of the GIWC and of the GCG. Nominations were made and discussed in terms of the TORs and the following persons were selected as main and alternate representatives: Alyssa Macy and Myriam Sánchez – main representatives; Sandra Creamer, Maria Uazukuani, and Tia Oros – alternate representatives.

Lobbying and Position Statements

- It was decided that the GIWC Representatives at the GCG can and must carry out lobbying efforts based on the Guiding Principle, the Outcome Document from the GIWC preparatory meeting, and GWIC position statements, which will be developed by the collective on a consensus basis. The Caucus members should share through the online listserv research documents and other relevant statements regarding the situation of Indigenous Women and Girls.

Decisions regarding the GIWC representatives to the GCG Drafting Committee

Draft Terms of Reference for GWIC Representatives to the GCG Drafting Committee⁴

- It was stated that the Caucus would finalize full responsibilities and the mandate of the GIWC Representatives to the Drafting Committee at the Global Preparatory Meeting for Indigenous Women. However, due to time issues, this was not possible. It was decided that until then, the Draft Terms of Reference are a good guiding framework for the work of the GIWC representatives to the GCG Drafting Committee and they should be used until fully approved TORs replace them.
- It was decided that for the GIWC it is absolutely crucial that all of its main representatives and the alternates work as a team, and it is expected that they will be sharing the workload among themselves, that they will be reporting back

⁴ The nomination/selection process for the GIWC Representatives to the GCG Drafting Committee, including criteria and draft terms of reference, took place prior to the preparatory meeting on March 7-13, 2013, via the online listserv. The following persons were selected for the GCG Drafting Committee: Sandra Creamer & June Lorenzo, main representatives; Eve Reyes-Aguirre, Dea Thiele, Eleanore Dictaa-Bang-oa & Yolanda Terán, alternate representatives.

to the whole Caucus, and that they will be making consultations with the Caucus and its officers in a timely manner.

- It was decided that the selected representatives and alternates would automatically be part of the GIWC drafting team to work on the outcome document. This GIWC drafting team will also include others who have stated their willingness to help in the process.
- It was decided that this team would be collecting information at the GIWC Global Preparatory Meeting for Indigenous Women (March 27-29, 2013), through online consultations afterwards, and at the UN Permanent Forum (May 20-31, 2013).

Designation of GIWC representatives to the Global Preparatory Indigenous Peoples' Conference in Alta

- The Caucus was informed that the GCG has not allocated seats/funding for the representatives of the GIWC and of the GIYC, despite the request made via a joint letter in December 2012.
- It was decided that the GIWC should communicate to all parties involved that it expects to have full and active participation, and that it should be treated without discrimination.
- It was decided that the GIWC Rapporteurs would write a letter to the Sami Parliament requesting funding for GIWC representatives. It was also decided that a follow up letter would also be sent to the GCG to be added to their agenda at their upcoming meeting in Alta.⁵
- It was decided to give the mandate to our GIWC GCG Representatives to lobby on its behalf for funding purposes.

Criteria for the GIWC delegation to the Alta Conference

The following criteria were decided and approved:

1. Must be an Indigenous woman
2. Has participated actively in the GIWC meetings
3. Knows, honors, is accountable to and upholds the GIWC

⁵ These letters were sent via email on March 31, 2013 and they were distributed through the listserv.

4. Will work closely in a respectful manner with the GIWC leadership and the collective
5. Has experience as Rapporteur or drafting UN documents in relation to the rights of Indigenous Women
6. Is familiarized with the HLP/WCIP process
7. Has the ability to travel and to obtain a visa
8. Can take some responsibility for fundraising

In addition, the GIWC is committed to strive at having a regional and intergenerational balance in its delegation.

Nomination process⁶

- The Caucus nominated and decided to give priority to the GIWC Representatives as follows: GIWC Co-chairs and Rapporteurs (the ones that are chosen at the next GIWC preparatory meeting at the UNPFII - May 17, 2013), GIWC GCG Representatives, GIWC Representatives to the GCG Drafting Committee.
- It was decided that the rest of nomination and the selection process would be done via the online listserv and should be continued immediately after the GIWC preparatory meeting.
- It was decided that only those representatives who have the GIWC mandate could speak on behalf of the GIWC.

Designation of GIWC representatives to the GCG Negotiating Team

- The Caucus was informed that the GCG has suggested the need to have a negotiating team in New York during and after the interactive hearing (June – September 2014), made up of people from the different regions and global caucuses. The GCG has not yet created a TOR for the negotiating team.
- For the nomination/selection process, the GIWC considered a few initial criteria, such as having experience lobbying and having some influence on the UN floor.
- For her great experience at the UN, her access to the UN, and her residency in NY, Tonya Gonnella-Frichner was nominated to be part of the GCG negotiating team in NYC on behalf of the GIWC. She accepted the nomination. A second

⁶ Tania Pariona has asked to put on the record that she has a different and impartial opinion regarding the procedures for decision-making and on the criteria used.

nomination was made for Murielle Borst to work alongside Tonya as part of the negotiating team. It was recommended to include other women from different regions as well and for the GIWC to provide a clear mandate.

- However, the discussion was tabled for a later time since there was little information on the roles and responsibilities of the negotiating team. It was decided it might be too early to make any final decisions. Nominations were noted on record.

Decisions regarding Communications

- In order to facilitate the information flow between the Caucus and the GIWC Representatives (including co-chairs, rapporteurs, GCG representatives, and Drafting team members, and future representatives), and among Caucus members, a *Communications Protocol* was discussed, approved and adopted (see Appendix 3).
- Regarding the GIWC online listserv, it was discussed that while its membership is open to any Indigenous Woman, the discussions are private. Therefore, it was decided that the exchanges should not be forwarded to other lists, fora, or spaces without knowledge and approval of the Caucus members. Likewise, a link cannot be posted in other websites to the open archives.
- In addition, it was recognized that the approved communications protocol carried budgetary implications especially regarding the provision of translations. It was noted that it might be possible to seek assistance at Humboldt University for translations into most languages, except Arabic.
- The GIWC has its own website but it has not been developed. Decisions regarding this remain to be made.
- The GIWC also has a Facebook page where members can post information about what is going on around the world regarding issues of interest for Indigenous Women and Girls. Members can also post photos and videos.

Decisions regarding the GIWC Outcome Document

- The GIWC Drafting team has been entrusted with writing the GIWC Outcome Document from its Global Indigenous Women's Preparatory Meeting.

- In addition, a call will be made via the online listserv for Caucus members to send language on the approved themes and issues.
- Mindful that the HLP/WCIP is intended to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; firmly believing that this process cannot be allowed to undermine the minimum standards that are already set in the UNDRIP; and concerned that Indigenous Peoples will not be able to participate fully and effectively at the HLP/WCIP, the GIWC has decided that the following will not be suggested as possible themes for consideration: the right to Self-Determination, Articles 3 and 46 of the UNDRIP, the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, and the right to self-identification.
- Once the drafting committee has finalized a draft outcome document, it was decided that it must be sent out via the online listserv for its review and final approval. Final approval rests on the Caucus. Only after the Caucus has approved the draft, the GIWC Outcome Document can be delivered to the GCG and presented at the Madrid meeting of the GCG Drafting Committee (May 6-7, 2013).

Themes and issues to be proposed

It was decided to organize all the issues recommended in thematic areas from Indigenous Women's perspectives. A second recommendation was made to tie the themes and issues below to specific articles of UNDRIP (except Art 3 or Art 46) since one of Indigenous Women's concerns is the lack or weak implementation of the Declaration. A third recommendation was to send suggested language on the themes below to the GIWC Drafting Committee.

1. Right to Identity, Right to Culture
 - a. Right to culture - SUGGESTED TO BE PRIORITIZED
 - b. Right to language
 - c. Traditional, ancestral and sacred knowledge. Traditional knowledge across borders.
 - d. Preservation of sacred sites
 - e. Schooling with identity
 - f. Interculturalism
2. Rights of Mother Earth and Our Relationship to Mother Earth

- a. Environmental racism and environmental justice
- b. Violence against Mother Earth
 - i. Protection of and access to water. (Proposed language: The GIWC recommends that the Outcome Document take a position against Aquacide: the killing of the waters by dams, diversions, privatization, deprivations, extractive industrial and mega-agricultural developments, hydraulic-fracturing, toxins, and pollution, and other ways that inhibit or preclude Water's ability to nurture and support Life. This includes working to immediately halt Aquacide by all forms of exploitation, commodification, and other assaults that impede or destroy the life giving quality of Water.)
 - ii. Extractive Industries' impact on our access to genetic resources and benefit sharing
- c. Food security and sovereignty
- d. Sumak Kawsay (Ecuador's Constitution) and Suma Qamaña (Bolivia's Constitution)--which could be translated from Quichua and Aymara as Buen Vivir, Living Well--as a right and as an ethical and political principle guiding us to life plenitude
- e. Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Nagoya Protocol should make reference to Indigenous Peoples not simply Indigenous communities

*Report to Reference: International Indigenous Women's Environmental and Reproductive Health Symposium - Declaration for Health, Life and Defense of our Lands, Rights and Future Generations.

3. Millennium Development Goals

Proposed language: "Enabling Environments that are: Global in Nature, Sustainable in Value"

- a. Indigenous Women have the Right to Self-Development
- b. Linkage to Sustainable Development Goals (Rio +20) and how to define the paradigm shift as Indigenous Women
- c. Poverty eradication
- d. Sumak Kawsay and Suma Qamaña (Buen Vivir, Living Well) as a model for development with culture and identity

4. Autonomy and Integrity of Indigenous Women and their Bodies

- a. Violence against women and girls. Need to define violence from the perspective of Indigenous Women. We also need to bring back the attention of UN agencies to the violence against Indigenous Women.

- i. Issue of missing and murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- ii. Women and children in conflict zones
- iii. Human trafficking
- iv. Police violence and brutality against Indigenous Women and Girls, including sexual assaults, beatings, etc.
- b. Apprehension of children in state custody
- c. Forced Displacement
- d. Culturally safe health care that takes that addresses our unique histories and cultures
- e. Reproductive justice
- f. Violence against Human Rights defenders

*Report to reference: Breaking the Silence on Violence against Indigenous Girls, Adolescents and Young Women: an overview of existing knowledge and a call to action. (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/129338019/Final-Executive-Summary-With-Logos>)

5. Indigenous Women's Leadership and Political Participation

- a. Indigenous Women have the Right to Self Representation
- b. Full and effective participation of women on local, regional, national and international levels
- c. Training women. Capacity building for Indigenous Peoples. Adequate methodology to incorporate this
- d. Capacity building and skills development. Programs to empower women and develop own school programs. Lack of recognition
- e. Interculturalism - infusing our doing politics with our own perspectives as Indigenous Women and demanding this is respected

6. Indigenous Economy

- a. Trading
- b. Commerce
- c. Training Indigenous Women to manage finances

Decisions regarding Fundraising

- The GIWC recognized the need to have a fundraising committee in order to be able to better participate in the HLP/WCIP process and in light of the lack of available funds. For example, it was suggested that as possible, it would be better if two delegates at present at all GCG meetings because they would be able to offer different but complementary views on issues.

- It was decided to begin drafting language regarding the establishment of a fundraising committee or group for the GIWC, and to share via our listserv for feedback.
- It was recognized that the GIWC as a whole should take responsibility for finding funding for its main and alternate delegates, translation, other activities and meetings, and its website. It was decided that no criteria are needed to be part of a fundraising committee, however criteria should be discussed and decided for fundraising.
- An issue was raised that since we are not a legal entity who can accept the funding, we need to decide from whom we will take funding. It was decided that the GIWC should not accept funding from States, extractive industries, or private sector that infringe on the rights of IPs, including but not limited to the World Bank.
- The commitment made in the *Communications Protocol* that the GIWC shall make all possible efforts to provide timely translations of documents and email exchanges has budgetary and fundraising implications and this has to be discussed.

Other matters

Meeting with the World Bank

- Sandra Creamer and Lobna Rouhani, GIWC Co-Chairs, were invited to and attended a dinner with World Bank representatives on March 26th. They reported that the World Bank is thinking about making policies around Indigenous Peoples.
- Concerns were expressed about the lack of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of the World Bank in Indigenous communities. The GIWC should be very concerned about the actions, activities, and policies of the World Bank.
- Why is the World Bank seeking the spaces where Indigenous Peoples are meeting (e.g. the GIWC and the Latin America and the Caribbean preparatory meetings)? The approach made by the World Bank has caused division in some of the regions because of differences in perspectives regarding the World Bank.
- It was advised that the World Bank should make it clear why they are interested in participating at events by and for Indigenous Women. It was also decided that

any meeting with the World Bank should be open and transparent and should not occur during the meeting times dedicated for Indigenous Women.

Letter from Caribbean Indigenous Women to the GIWC

- Indigenous Women from the United Confederation of Taíno People (UCTP), the Bohio de Atabei Caribbean Indigenous Women's Circle, and the Caribbean Amerindian Development Organization (CADO) sent a letter to the GIWC during its preparatory meeting (Appendix 4 as separate pdf).
- It calls our attention to the need of Caribbean Indigenous Women to be adequately represented not only at the GIWC, but also within their region (Latin America & the Caribbean) and throughout the HLP/WCIP process. It calls the GIWC to consider having Caribbean Indigenous Women in its delegations. Furthermore, it points to the fact that in the GCG process towards the HLP/WCIP, the Caribbean Peoples have been de facto erased or excluded by not including explicit references to them. For this reason, it was decided that any reference made to Latin America must include a reference to the Caribbean since their sub-region is included officially in that larger region.

GIWC Roadmap – Plan of Action

Based on the discussions at the GIWC Global Preparatory Meeting for Indigenous Women, the following is a live road map towards the HLP/WCIP. This needs to be updated periodically.

GIWC Delegation for Alta

Deadlines: April 15th to send names of delegates; May 1st to register

Actions:

Letter to Sami Parliament (Rapporteurs) – Sent on March 29, 2013

Letter to the GCG (Rapporteurs) – Sent on March 29, 2013

Initiate Nomination/Selection process through the listserv

Strategy for participation in Alta, considering possible lack of funds

Drafting of the GIWC Outcome Document

Deadlines: the final GIWC Outcome Document has to be ready well in advance the Madrid Meeting on May 6th.

The GIWC Drafting Committee is in charge of writing the document.

TORs for GIWC Drafting Committee

Deadline: As soon as possible

The final TORs have to be finalized, reviewed, and adopted by the Caucus.

Collection of Relevant Information – Position Statements

Deadline: ongoing

The listserv could be used to send relevant information to be considered by the GIWC.

Suggested language can also be sent via that way.

Fundraising

Deadline: As soon as possible

It was agreed to draft criteria for fundraising.

GIWC Representatives at the GCG Negotiating Team

Deadline: Ongoing

Need to develop criteria and follow on the nomination/selection process

Side / Parallel Events to the HLP/WCIP

Deadline: Ongoing

Need to discuss whether this is something that the GIWC would like to do.

Appendix 1. Agenda

GLOBAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S PREPARATORY MEETING
Regarding the UN High Level Plenary to be called the
WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
March 27-29, 2013

VENUE: American Indian Community House
New York City, Haudenosaunee Traditional Territory

1. Opening Protocols and Welcome
2. Opening Remarks, brief history of GIWC
3. Overview of Meeting Agenda by GIWC Co-Chairs/Coordinators
4. Overview and Background of the WCIP
5. Status of the work of the Global Coordinating Group (GCG) and of the Co-Facilitators of the WCIP
6. GIWC representatives to the Global Coordinating Group
7. Overview, Discussions, Criteria, Terms of Reference regarding:
 - A. GIWC representatives to the GCG Drafting Committee (TOR)
 - B. The designation of GIWC representatives to the Alta Global Indigenous Peoples' Preparatory Conference; Seats allocated to the GIWC from other regions
 - C. Criteria for the selection of GIWC representatives to the GCG Negotiating Team
 - D. Criteria for the selection of GIWC representatives to WCIP
8. Discussion of the themes and issues to be proposed by the GIWC for the WCIP
9. Input from the regional and youth caucus representatives regarding issues related to Indigenous Women and the WCIP
10. Fundraising update and future planning
11. Update on GIWC meeting for UNPFII (May 2013)- announcement, provisional agenda
12. Other matters to be determined
13. Draft and Review of GIWC Preparatory Meeting Report/Statement regarding the WCIP
1Closing of Meeting

Appendix 2. Terms of Reference for the GIWC GCG Representatives

Approved via consensus by the GIWC on March 29, 2013 at its Global Preparatory Meeting for Indigenous Women

Guiding Principle: The Global Indigenous Women's Caucus (GIWC) agrees to work together under the definition of self-determination contained in article 3 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in the proceedings of all matters regarding the UN general Assembly High Level Plenary to be called the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (HLP/WCIP). This definition of self-determination maintains the right to be referred to as Indigenous Peoples, not communities or populations. As Indigenous Women we reaffirm that our inherent rights and customary laws are non-negotiable, as well as our right to language, culture and identity and to free, prior and informed consent. Our GIWC representatives expect to work in a safe environment. As such, we also understand that self-determination is indispensable for the autonomy of our bodies and environmental and reproductive justice, which are important conditions for our physical, spiritual and cultural wellbeing.

The GIWC GCG representatives shall do the following:

1. The GIWC GCG representatives first mandate is to the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus, and they shall represent the GIWC at all times.
2. Be active participants in the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus in order to be informed of the positions and directions given by the Caucus.
3. Have the ability to travel, obtain visas and fulfill the mandate as put forth by the GIWC.
4. The main representatives shall share the responsibilities of the work mandated by the GIWC at the GCG, as well as the available funding and resources in order to be able to participate in that work. The alternates shall be kept fully informed of the work of the GCG and its committees, and of all the communication between the main delegates, and shall fully engage in the discussions and decisions.
5. Establishing and maintaining working relationships with governments and permanent missions at the UN in order to promote Indigenous Women, Young Women and Girls' rights.

6. Lobby governments, intergovernmental agencies, UN agencies, and civil society groups, as long as they stay within the mandate of the GIWC, to achieve the goals and objectives of Indigenous Women for the HLP/WCIP 2014.
7. Communicating and collaborating with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus GCG representatives before/after GCG meetings in order to identify common issues and possible common positions to bring forth. Possible joint actions will be decided collaboratively between the GIWC and the GIYC.
8. Sharing and coordinating information with other regional representatives.
9. Distributing information about the HLP/WCIP 2014 to the GIWC in a timely manner according to the communications protocol.
10. Informing and reporting back to the GIWC the discussions and decisions made at the GCG meetings and its committees, and at any other meeting in which they participate as GIWC representatives, following the communications protocol.
11. Providing feedback to the co-facilitators of the HLP/WCIP 2014, on the basis of timely consultations with the GIWC according to the communications protocol.
12. Making recommendations for consideration to the GIWC in a timely manner following the communications protocol.
13. Communicating and coordinating with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on issues related to Indigenous Women and Girls regarding the HLP/WCIP 2014.
14. Securing adequate funding from the GCG, and work in coordination with the GIWC fundraising committee, for the participation of representatives of the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus in the HLP/WCIP 2014 process at all levels, including meetings of the GCG, global preparatory meetings, the Indigenous Peoples Global Preparatory Conference in Alta, Norway 2013 and the HLP/WCIP 2014 itself. This includes lobbying efforts within the GCG, other funding sources.
15. Communicating input from the GIWC to the GCG in order to ensure full, equal and meaningful Indigenous Women's participation through every aspect of the HLP/WCIP 2014 process.

16. Advancing the decision of the GIWC to have funded delegations of Indigenous Women and Indigenous Youth selected by the GIWC and the GIYC at the Indigenous Peoples' Global Preparatory Conference in Alta, Norway 2013. These delegations shall be over and beyond any Indigenous Women and Youth selected by the regions to participate at the conference in Alta.
17. Cooperating and planning with the organizers in order to secure the full and effective participation of our representatives without sexual harassment and discrimination.

Appendix 3. Communications Protocol

Approved via consensus by the GIWC on March 29, 2013 at its Global Preparatory Meeting for Indigenous Women

All GIWC representatives:

1. Shall have active communication with GIWC at all times in regards to any matters involved with the High-Level Plenary Meeting to be know as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.
2. After each meeting attended, (formal or informal), shall write a report no later than 2 weeks after the meeting, with the goal of submitting the report as soon as possible, detailing the discussions and decisions reached, and outlining course of action.
3. Any discussions, communications, negotiations had in regards to fundraising developments shall be communicated to the GIWC co-chairs immediately. It will be the co-chairs responsibility to send out information to GIWC or its advisers if it needs to go out and have input.
4. Shall provide updates on communications with the GCG representatives of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus.

Other matters:

Any requests from media--including radio, television, newspaper, blogs and all other forms of media--must be approved by the GIWC. If this approval cannot be obtained, GIWC representatives can only speak to the mandate of the GIWC.

The GIWC shall make all possible efforts to provide timely translations of documents and email exchanges.

Appendix 4. Letter from Caribbean Women to the GIWC

See separate PDF.