

CSW60

DRAFT Internal Concept Note

Indigenous Women and Girls: Pathways to Equality

Hosted by: Canada, UNPFII Secretariat, USA, GoF of Indigenous (TBC)

ECOSOC Chamber

17 March 2016

13:15-14:45

Background

Globally, Indigenous women and girls face significant challenges to the full enjoyment of their human rights. They also experience multiple forms of discrimination, including lack of access to education, housing, health care, and are more likely to live in poverty. Moreover, the international community has worked to increase attention and action to address the fact that Indigenous women and girls continue to experience high rates of violence and abuse.

The purpose of this side-event is to examine the underlying factors that contribute to Indigenous women and girls' vulnerability to abuse, including the longstanding impacts of colonialism, racism and sexism.

The panellists will also discuss promising holistic, Indigenous-led approaches to addressing the ongoing discrimination experienced by Indigenous women and girls, including violence and abuse.

Indigenous women are a powerful and compelling voice in Indigenous and women's rights movements. This work is critical to continuing to promote conditions for the improvement and better enjoyment of their rights on the basis of equality, while continuing to respect Indigenous cultures and values. Member states have started to meaningfully recognize that the lack of Indigenous women in power and decision-making positions poses an impediment to raising awareness and developing concrete solutions to the multiple forms of discrimination that they experience. An **Indigenous-women only panel** would be best placed to discuss these issues.

Format

The event will be in the form of a panel presentation, with presentations by key activists and member state representatives. The presentations will be followed by questions from the audience, which will consist of approximately 600 member state

representatives, observers, relevant agencies, and NGOs. As the event is taking place in the ECOSOC chamber, webcasting the event is also possible. The event could be moderated by Canada's Minister of Justice, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, former Regional Chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations.

Run of Show

- 1:15-1:20 Indigenous welcome ceremony
- 1:20-1:25 Opening Remarks by Moderator
- 1:25-1:35 Panellist: Representative nominated by UNPFII (TBC)
- 1:35-1:45 **Dawn Lavell-Harvard**, President Native Women's Association of Canada
- 1:45-1:55 **Betty Lyons**, President of the American Indian Law Alliance (TBC)
- 1:55-2:05 Panellist: Representative nominated by FIMI (TBC)
- 2:05-2:35 Questions from the audience, interventions from the floor
- 2:35-2:45 Closing remarks