



Planet 50-50 by 2030  
Step It Up for Gender Equality

# **Contribution of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Questionnaire to UN system**

**To the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Twentieth Session: 19-30 April 2021**

## List of Acronyms

ACIN	Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca (Columbia)
AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
ASOMUC	Association of Women in Construction (Bolivia)
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEMA	Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (Viet Nam)
CONADI	The National Corporation for Indigenous Development
CONAJIS	National Council of Indigenous of El Salvador
CONAIE	Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador
CONAMURI	National Commission for Rural and Indigenous Women (Paraguay)
CODACOP	Corporacion de Apoyo a Comunidades Populares (Columbia)
CSO	Civil society organization
CSAG	Civil Society Advisory Group
CSW 61	Commission on the Status of Women 61 <sup>st</sup> Session (13-24 March 2017)
CSW 62	Commission on the Status of Women 62 <sup>nd</sup> Session (12-23 March 2018)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGE	Fund for Gender Equality
FILAC	Financial Inclusion Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean
FIMI	International Indigenous Women's Forum
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICT	Information and communication technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IIWF/FIMI	International Indigenous Women's Forum
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IWGIA	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MIPY	Indigenous Women of Paraguay
MTM	Mujeres Transformando el Mundo (The Alliance to End Silence and Impunity Guatemala)
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIA	Indigenous Organization of Antioquia (Columbia)
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PWC	Pastoral Women's Council (Tanzania)
RAAN	North Atlantic Autonomous Region
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SVSG	Samoa Victims Support Group
SWAP-IP	System-wide Action Plan – Indigenous Peoples
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPR	Universal Periodic Report

# Questionnaire

The theme of the Permanent Forum's session in 2019 will be:  
"Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection"

## A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

With respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your agency, fund and/or programme:<sup>1</sup>

- i.* Please provide information on measures taken or planned to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your organization.

UN Women has taken or planned the following measures to implement the recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that were specifically addressed to UN Women at the Seventeenth Session:

**Specific recommendation 1.** The Permanent Forum welcomes the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) strategy of inclusion and visibility of Indigenous women, which responds to the system-wide action plan on the rights of Indigenous peoples and the recommendation of the Forum (E/2014/43/Corr.1-E/C.19/2014/11/Corr.1, para. 35) on including the priorities of Indigenous women in global, regional and national programmes. The Forum encourages Member States to allocate sufficient funding for the implementation of the strategy. The Forum **encourages UN-Women to emphasize enhancing the participation and capacities of Indigenous young women and girls and to report on progress made to the Forum at its eighteenth session** (paragraph 85).

As part of its strategy to reach the most marginalized, UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) has **prioritized supporting women's organizations managed by or working for Indigenous women**. Since its creation in 2009, the FGE has awarded grants to 20 projects offering direct assistance to Indigenous women, representing 17% of its global portfolio. In 2018, the FGE funded eight projects aimed at improving Indigenous women's economic and political rights in Benin, Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Samoa and Tanzania, which reached over 24,000 direct beneficiaries.

As part of its work, UN Women has taken measures to enhance the participation and capacities of **Indigenous young women and girls**. For example, UN Women Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean sponsored young Indigenous women from across the region to be part of the Indigenous women's leadership postgraduate training, organized by the Financial Inclusion Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), the National Corporation for Indigenous Development (CONADI) and the University of Tarapacá which emphasized Indigenous women's political participation and the eradication of all forms of violence against them.

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<sup>1</sup> See attached document entitled 'Recommendations addressed to the UN Agencies' to facilitate your responses.

**Reporting on progress made on the previous recommendations made at the last session.** UN Women, as a follow-up to the **factsheet on maternal and child health in Indigenous communities**, in partnership with UNFPA and UNICEF organized a side event on Indigenous women’s maternal health and mortality at the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum in 2018. Furthermore, UN Women, tasked by the United Nations General Assembly to prepare a **Global Study on Indigenous women**, has been making preparations for this first global report in order to highlight progress in the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and prospects for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they relate to Indigenous women and girls, including in matters related to informal work, migration and working conditions. A number of UN Women’s Offices have been undertaken studies on various aspects of the situation of Indigenous women providing valuable input for the development of the Global Study. This includes: a regional study supported by the UN Women’s Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean on Indigenous women, land and territory and a study supported by UN Women Chile, with the University of Chile’s Climate and Resilience Center, on the vulnerability of Indigenous women in northern Chile facing climate change and a gender perspective on mining.

**B. System Wide Action Plan to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Executive summary:

Please provide an overview of actions taken to implement the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This summary will form the basis of the compilation report of UN activities to implement the SWAP and the Declaration. [Word limit: 600]

**Executive summary of UN Women main activities in 2018\***

<b>1. Raising awareness of the UN Declaration</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of CSW 64 (2020) The main focus of which was the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the <a href="#">23rd special session of the General Assembly</a>.</li> <li>• The review included an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Session and its accompanying report highlighted the achievements and challenges faced by indigenous women and girls.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Supporting the implementation of the UN Declaration, particularly at the country level</b>
<p>The following measures are guided by the UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and UN Women’s Strategy for Inclusion and Visibility of Indigenous Women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support governments in review and implementation of laws and policies (e.g. Brazil; Columbia; El Salvador; Honduras; and Paraguay).</li> <li>• Support Indigenous women to advance legislative and policy frameworks (e.g. Bolivia; Chile; Guatemala; Nicaragua; Paraguay; Philippines; and Samoa).</li> <li>• Build capacity of Indigenous women and organizations (e.g. Ecuador; Philippines; and Viet Nam).</li> <li>• Generation of dialogue and mechanisms for the inclusion of Indigenous women in climate decision-making processes (e.g. Ecuador)</li> <li>• Mainstream Indigenous issues in UNDAFs/CCAs (e.g. Chile; Nepal; and Paraguay).</li> <li>• Support consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue (e.g. Columbia; Guatemala; and Nepal).</li> </ul>
<b>3. Supporting Indigenous people’s rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstream Indigenous women’s issues into the new flagship report on SDGs.</li> <li>• Joint work with UNCTs and other UN agencies (e.g. UNDG LAC Regional Inter-Agency Group on Indigenous Peoples).</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical assistance to governments on integrating SDGs into development plans (e.g. El Salvador; Guatemala; and Viet Nam).</li> <li>• Support to Indigenous women groups to participate in implementing SDGs at the national level (e.g. Bolivia; and Chile).</li> <li>• Increase evidence to support the 2030 Agenda for Indigenous people (e.g. China; Chile; and El Salvador).</li> </ul>
<b>4. Mapping of existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued dissemination of the Strategy for Inclusion and Visibility of Indigenous Women.</li> <li>• Support development of guidelines and protocols (e.g. Bolivia; Columbia; Ecuador; and Viet Nam).</li> <li>• Establish training centres for leadership of Indigenous women (e.g. Chile).</li> <li>• Conduct trainings for Indigenous women leaders on various issues such as human rights, vocational training and peace advocacy skills (e.g. Mexico; Peru; and Philippines).</li> </ul>
<b>5. Developing capacities of States, Indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity development of Indigenous women and CSOs (e.g. Regional Office of Americas and the Caribbean; Bolivia; Columbia; Chile; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Nepal; and the Philippines).</li> <li>• Technical assistance to institutions (e.g. National Victim's Units in Columbia).</li> <li>• Capacity development of government actors (e.g. village councils in India and CEMA staff in Viet Nam).</li> </ul>
<b>6. Advancing the participation of Indigenous peoples in UN processes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for Indigenous women participation at preparatory meetings for the Commission of the Status of Women</li> <li>• Support for Indigenous women participation in Sessions of the UNPFII.</li> <li>• Support CSOs in preparing alternative reports to the CEDAW Committee.</li> </ul>

As requested in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014), a system-wide action plan (SWAP) to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted in November 2015, and launched by the Secretary-General at the UN Permanent Forum in May 2016. The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made in the implementation of the system-wide action plan during its 2018 session.<sup>2</sup> For ease of reference, the questions have been framed under the six key elements of the SWAP-Indigenous Peoples as follows:

### 1. Raising awareness of the UN Declaration

Please provide information on any activities that raise awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including key messages, advocacy and other media and outreach initiatives. Please provide information on publications, films, audio material, maps, or other materials that feature or focus on the UN Declaration and on indigenous peoples. Please also provide links to the relevant websites and other sources.

At country level, UN Women planned or took measures to raise awareness through publications, conferences and events that focused on the specific rights of Indigenous women as well as measures to strengthen the advocacy capacities of Indigenous women leaders. These activities included:

<sup>2</sup> See Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2016/43) at para. 73.

In **Bolivia**, the **Fund for Gender Equality** supported an initiative of Taller de Proyectos del Habitat Urbano y Rural (Red Habitat) which won the Local Economic Development and Gender Prize in the category for good practices for gender equality and women's economic empowerment in Latin America and the Caribbean. This prize raised awareness of Red Habitat's work, in partnership with ASOMUC (the Association of Women in Construction) to ensure opportunities for women in the construction industry, a majority of whom are Indigenous women, to access better working conditions and increase their participation in sectoral unions.

UN Women **Brazil** developed and implemented campaign strategies that challenge gender stereotypes with the involvement of the Interagency Thematic Group on Gender, Race and Ethnicity as well as implement "The Brave is not Violent" curriculum in schools in three states and upload contents to an online platform.

Through the Originarias Program, the UN Women Program Office in **Chile** contributed to the promotion and awareness of Beijing +25, participating as facilitator of the Diploma in Strengthening Leadership of Indigenous Women: "Together towards Beijing +25 our progress and challenges", supported by FILAC and UN Women were constituted by modules on Declaration and Beijing Platform of Action and Spheres of violence against women, to promote the adoption of new laws that promote gender equality. This contributed to strengthening leadership, rights and economic development competencies of 1000 women and raised awareness on the invaluable contributions of the cultural heritage of indigenous women to identity and development, through inclusion and participation in national and international events where they promote their cultural knowledge, products and services.

UN Women **Columbia** raised awareness to eliminate all forms of violence against women in Indigenous communities and to promote access to formal and Indigenous justice for women victims of violence. The Office supported the Indigenous Organization of Antioquia (OIA) with building their capacity to engage in advocacy and political dialogue on the issue of violence against women and girls as well as supported awareness forums for counsellors, authorities and Indigenous guards on the prevention of gender-based violence in the Awa territory. UN Women Chile also designed and implemented a strategy for cultural change that transforms the culture of violence normalization against women as a central element for peace and reconciliation construction, including a non-hegemonic masculinities component and with an ethnic perspective.

UN Women **Ecuador** organized a dialogue on "Women's actions for protecting the Paramo and defending water". The meeting was led by Indigenous and rural women who guided urban women in discussing the situation of the Paramo and how cities can be mobilized to protect the environment. The meeting of 60 women from rural and urban areas resulted in a public declaration of commitments in environmental protection, as well as photos and a video which positioned Indigenous and rural women as protagonists of protecting water and the Paramo. In addition, Indigenous and rural women are now part of the "South Agro-ecological Network".

UN Women **El Salvador** focused its communications and advocacy efforts on the principle of leaving no women behind and put at the centre of all effort the rights of the most disadvantaged women, including rural and Indigenous women. This included the communication messages developed for the 16 days of activism and advocacy for the approval of the Policy of Rural, Indigenous and Peasant Women.

UN Women **Guatemala** supported the advocacy efforts of Indigenous, rural and community women to promote laws to advance their economic empowerment and specifically for the creation of a fund for women's initiatives for their economic independence and their agricultural and environmental preservation, which is based on commitments made under the peace accords commitments.

The **UN Trust Fund** supported a pilot project in **India** implemented by Pragma which works in 10 districts across five states on attitudinal changes of deeply-rooted gender norms in tribal societies to address violence against women at the structural level. It aims to create more gender-responsive support structures for addressing violence against women, focusing on state/institutional structures such as Panchayats (village councils) as well as working with local civil society organizations for protection and response. Specific interventions include awareness-raising campaigns, capacity development to empower tribal women leaders, and training and sensitization of tribal leaders. See media story: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2018/11/women-boycott-weddings-with-child-brides>.

UN Women **Paraguay** supported different awareness raising events to highlight the rights of Indigenous women. (1) Jointly with OHCHR, UN Women organized an event in the context of Human Rights Day that launched the results of a series of dialogues aimed at promoting the rights of Indigenous women and girls. (2) As part of the “Democracy’s Week”, UN Women organized a panel discussion with Indigenous women from different ethnic groups of Paraguay. This meeting provided a rich exchange of experiences and highlighted the importance of fighting for Indigenous women’s rights. At the event, Otilia Lux shared her experience in Guatemala and the region. Opportunities to achieve greater representation of Indigenous women in decision-making positions were broadly discussed. The event was organized in the framework of the project “Strengthening political women’s capacities in the context of the 2018 electoral and post-electoral process in Paraguay”. (3) UN Women provided technical and financial support to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Congress of Indigenous Women.

20. The **UN Trust Fund** is supporting a project in **Peru** organized by Red Nacional de Promocion de la Mujer de Peru that seeks to reduce gender-based violence against older women who were victims of conflict-related violence. The project is working in Ayacucho and Huánuco regions that were highly affected by the conflict and where the prevalence of violence against women is among the highest in the country. The project supports awareness raising workshops and communications campaigns to strengthen older women’s awareness of their rights as well as to raise awareness among local officials and advocate for gender and age-sensitive public policies.

21. In **Samoa**, the **Fund for Gender Equality** supported a project implemented by the Samoa Victims Support Group (SVSG) to improve *nofotane* women’s access to sustainable employment and increased their participation and leadership within village decision-making bodies. The term ‘nofotane’ refers to Indigenous women who, after marriage, live in their husband’s village with the husband’s family. Nofotane is an identity that defines their low social stature in the village. Traditionally, they were not allowed to dress as other women in the village and often denied any voice in decision-making within their homes and communities. Through continuous engagement with village leaders in 166 villages in rural Samoa, SVSG and its partners have shifted attitudes and behaviors towards nofotane women. A discussion in the Samoan Parliament about the project triggered a national debate around nofotane rights and harnessed additional political support. Awareness raising and workshops with 630 domestic workers employers resulted in a large majority of them (500 employers) have registered nofotane workers who can now enjoy the benefits of being legally protected under the new Labour and Employment Relations Regulation. A multi-media awareness campaign has sensitized an estimated 6,500 of the general public. In October 2017, SVSG was awarded the Samoa Public Service Innovation & Excellence Team Award for ‘Most Effective Collaborative Partnership’, during the celebration of the Public Service Day. In July 2018, the Samoan Prime Tuilaepa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi acknowledged the transformation operated by this project: “The Nofotane programme changed people’s mentality towards the rights of nofotane women in Samoa.”

In **Thailand**, UN Women reached out to women migrant workers in border communities through local CSOs working on migration, violence against women and human trafficking in Tak and Chiang Rai where a high population of migrants and ethnic tribes from Myanmar and Lao PDR travel through, work and reside. UN Women provided supports to empower women migrants to be equipped with knowledge on safe migration and trafficking.

Vocational skill trainings were provided to improve economic and employment opportunity to prevent risks of being trafficked to seek better income. Host communities were also engaged through capacity building and awareness raising to prevent trafficking and violence against women and provide counseling to women migrants affected by violence.

UN Women **Viet Nam** raised awareness on its work with ethnic minority women and girls in Viet Nam, published on the global UN Women website: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2018/10/recognizing-rural-vietnamese-womens-contribution>. This supported the raising of awareness of ethnic minority issues as well as UN Women’s work at a global level. UN Women also worked with a civil society partner to organize a dialogue, “Seizing our Potential: Dialogue on the empowerment of ethnic minority women in socioeconomic development programmes in Viet Nam”, which brought together over 120 participants from ethnic minority communities in different parts of Viet Nam, other ethnic minority civil society organizations, representatives from the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), UN agencies and media. At the dialogue, ethnic minority women spoke about their experiences in various research and empowerment projects across Viet Nam which have engaged women as active agents of change in their communities (see <http://www.un.org.vn/en/unifem-agencypresscenter2-95/4907-ethnic-minority-women-seizing-their-potential-and-being-counted-in-viet-nam%E2%80%99s-socioeconomic-development.html>). This activity is directly impacting ethnic minority women in communities, as the approaches can be implemented directly by community groups themselves. UN Women has developed a Photobook to document these empowerment approaches which will give a platform to the women who are active agents of change in their own communities. This book is a valuable resource for engagement with multiple stakeholders, and a means of sharing the approaches with a wider audience so that readers and communities of target beneficiaries may be empowered to implement these approaches themselves.

## 2. Supporting the implementation of the UN Declaration, particularly at the country level

Please provide information on actions taken or planned by your agency, fund, programme, entity on the following:

- i. Measures taken or planned to support national partners in reform and implementation of legal frameworks, policies, strategies and plans to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including any joint programming initiatives. Please also include information related to include indigenous women in your responses.*

Measures taken to support national partners in reforming and implementing legal frameworks, policies strategies and plans to implement the UNDRIP are guided by both the UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and the UN Women Strategy for Inclusion and Visibility of Indigenous Women. The Strategic Plan 2018-2021, which includes as one of its guiding principles “leaving no one behind” specifically notes for “Outcome 2: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems” that UN Women will focus its contributions on supporting Indigenous women to reach decision-making positions. The Strategy for Inclusion and Visibility of Indigenous Women supports country offices in bringing their programming to scale following the UN Secretary-General’s System-wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SWAP-IP). Such measures and activities include:

The Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, a global partnership between UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP and the EU, includes references to violence against Indigenous women particularly in Latin

American countries with the focus on femicide. The Spotlight Initiative aims to provide large-scale, targeted support, leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships and galvanize high level political commitments to engender transformative change and tackle the root cause of violence against women and girls.

UN Women's Regional Office for **the Americas and the Caribbean** worked to ensure that one of the priority areas identified in the Regional Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous People was to strengthen the visibility and participation of Indigenous women in the development of public policies with particular attention to eliminating violence against Indigenous women and girls. Expected results of this priority area of work include: the creation of national programmes to address the different forms of rights violation experienced by Indigenous women (e.g. racism, discrimination, criminalization, human trafficking, territorial land grabbing, forced displacement, labour exploitation and lack of access to justice) and the development of mechanisms to generate statistical data disaggregated by gender, cultural identity and age.

In **Bolivia**, the **Fund for Gender Equality** supported Red Habitat to strengthen the grassroots organization ASOMUC to be able to represent the rights of women in the construction industry and advocate for decent work conditions. Fifty women advocates among 180 women leaders helped prepare two draft bills relating to women construction workers' equal opportunities and equal pay, as well as a proposal for a ministerial resolution on construction workers' health and safety. UN Women Bolivia also supported the Plurinational Electoral Body in enhancing the capacity of women's social organizations to develop proposals for the Political Organizations Law, which includes, in part, recognition of Indigenous people's political participation and political plurality in Bolivia.

UN Women **Brazil** planned on providing technical assistance and advocacy to adopt and implement public policies and strategies for women, with special focus on Afro-descendant and Indigenous women.

UN Women offices in **Cambodia, Bangladesh and Viet Nam** engaged in the inception phase of a regional programme on "Strengthening Human Rights and Gender Equality through Climate Change Action and Disaster Risk Reduction, EmPower" funded by Sweden. This programme will include work on enhancing women's leadership in climate change action and disaster risk reduction (DRR) with a particular focus on engaging marginalized women including Indigenous women.

UN Women **Chile** strengthened a dialogue mechanism for the empowerment of Indigenous women and their inclusion in political processes, specifically in supporting national meetings that resulted in the development of the Indigenous Women's Development Policy Agenda.

UN Women **Colombia** provided technical and financial support to national partners, such as the National Victim's Unit, the Ministry of Justice, and Indigenous women leaders, in the integration of a gender and indigenous perspective in the implementation of the legal framework regarding the collective reparation process. The Office also supported research and reports on Indigenous women to strengthen the design of holistic public policies and the integration of an ethnic gender perspective in the work of the National Truth Commission. The **UN Trust Fund** supports a project in **Colombia**, run by Fundación Servicios Integrales para la Mujer, that is working with excluded and underserved groups, such as Indigenous and Afro-descendant women, to build strategic alliances with government actors in order to guarantee comprehensive responses to the needs of survivors of violence against women and girls and to ensure the implementation of the relevant legal framework. By engaging crucial actors at the local level (political actors, women's organizations and institutions responsible for providing services to survivors), the project is building the capacity of the civil society organization and women's networks to advocate for prevention and protection services for women and girls living in Buenaventura.

In **Ecuador**, UN Women worked with its national partners, Indigenous women leaders from the Ecuadorian highlands, to collect information on justice and human rights affecting Indigenous women to develop evidence-informed proposals from Indigenous groups to advocate for reform to the processes and procedures in the formal and traditional justice frameworks. The **UN Trust Fund** in **Ecuador** supports ACDemocracia's project which aims to address the gaps identified in service delivery and the barriers faced by women and girls in accessing justice. The project has adopted a comprehensive approach to improving access to justice for women and girl survivors of violence including by influencing legislative reform; changing cultural norms; working with the Decentralized Autonomous Governments to strengthen the institutional response to violence at the local level; and working with the feminist movement in 10 districts of Ecuador to increase public awareness and mobilize communities to address and prevent violence against women and girls.

UN Women **El Salvador** supported the elaboration of the National Policy for Rural, Indigenous and Peasant Women. The Policy is concrete action aimed at closing gaps and improving the living conditions of women and youth particularly those that due to their origin, social class or belonging to an Indigenous people, are in situations of greater vulnerability. This Policy is based on International Instruments and has five main pillars: social inclusion; economic autonomy; political participation; climate change and food security; and cultural protection. A 'Policy Drive Group' was set up to monitor the development of the law and institutional framework, as well as the content. The Drive Group is composed by governmental stakeholders, (e.g. the Ministry of Agriculture, Land Tenure Institute, Women Mechanism), the United Nations (e.g. UN Woman, FAO) and civil society. The Policy is currently under the revision of the Ministry of Agriculture, in order to be presented to the Technical Secretary of Presidency and is expected to be approved by the President in the first trimester of 2019.

In **Guatemala** efforts were made to support innovative and historic dialogue between Indigenous women human rights defenders, ancestral authorities, and the judiciary, on Indigenous women's access to justice, particularly in relation to violence against them, including conflict and post-conflict sexual violence. This has resulted in strengthened collaboration among the ordinary and ancestral justice systems, placing Indigenous women's rights to justice, redress and reparation at the center, and recognizing their work, leadership, and contributions, both as political stakeholders and as rights' holders. The Office provided support to the National Congress and women CSOs to advance a legislative agenda more favorable to human rights of women and Indigenous peoples.

The **UN Trust Fund** supported the Women's Justice Initiative in **Guatemala** which is working to ensure that Mayan women and girls in 18 rural communities in the municipality of Patzún have improved access to justice and that survivors of domestic violence have access to support services (targeting 1400 primary beneficiaries). Activities included promoting dialogue that transforms norms and attitudes at the individual, family, community and municipal level to counter the view that sees violence against women and girls as acceptable. The **UN Trust Fund** also supports the women's organization, MTM, to implement a project to address the needs of some of the most marginalized groups of women and girls at risk of gender-based violence in regions with the highest rate of violence against women and girls in Guatemala. MTM works to facilitate strategic litigation and promote a comprehensive legal, psychological and social approach to ensure effective support to survivors.

UN Women **Honduras** is supporting the development of a Gender Strategy for Indigenous women, while in **India** support was provided for the establishment of a comprehensive primary prevention programme to address gender-based violence against ethnic women minorities and improve the implementation of violence against women laws and policies in ten selected tribal dominated districts.

UN Women **Mexico** supported the follow up on the implementation and application of national and state protocols to address political violence against women, with a special focus on Indigenous women, in coordination with the Federal Court and other key stakeholders. The Office also supported the improvement of legislation,

policies and strategies to guarantee women's economic rights and empowerment, with special attention on migrant women, domestic workers, young women and girls and rural and Indigenous women entrepreneurs. UN Women Mexico also developed a programme for the inclusive economic recovery of the areas affected by 2017 earthquakes in Mexico through the economic empowerment of women. This programme is a component of the UN Women Mexico and Danone alliance. The programme seeks to contribute to the empowerment of women, including Indigenous women with a focus on entrepreneurial skills, the redistribution of care work and economic recovery in areas in the south of Mexico City and in Juchitán Oaxaca, an Indigenous municipality (mainly Zapotecas and Mixes). From October 2018 – January 2019, 102 Indigenous women graduated from the training programme.

The **UN Trust Fund** supported MADRE which is works with a long-standing partner, the local Indigenous women's organization Wangki Tangni in **Nicaragua**, to reduce violence against Indigenous women and girls in 63 Miskito communities in the Waspam municipality of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN). The project is working to improve the way both the customary and statutory legal systems function and empower women and girls to seek justice. MADRE is applying a multi-faceted approach, including awareness raising and training to change attitudes and behaviours around violence against women and girls. As part of the project, it is advocating for the effective implementation of Law 779 on violence against women and girls and seeking to build capacity among local stakeholders to prevent violence and make the customary justice system work to protect women and girls. The project is also providing comprehensive services for survivors of violence. The project has 2,085 primary beneficiaries.

UN Women **Paraguay** supported public institutions to improve their strategies and policies to strengthen women's economic empowerment, decent work and social protection by promoting the intersectional approach. The Office also supported the participation of civil society in the process to build public policies, such as peasant and Indigenous women working on the model of development and care or agrarian reforms.

The **UN Trust Fund** is supporting a project in **Peru**, run by Flora Tristan Women's Centre, that aims to reduce physical, sexual and psychological violence against Indigenous women and girls by generating knowledge about violence against women and girls and discrimination in Satipo, increasing public awareness and community engagement to reduce discriminatory practices, strengthening multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms and enhancing the authorities' capacity to understand, prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and to develop programmes with intercultural and gender-based perspectives to implement infrastructure and security projects to create safe public spaces.

UN Women **Philippines** supported the participation and engagement of Indigenous women to voice their needs and priorities and to lobby for a strong implementation of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, which is the enabling legislation for autonomous governance in the Bangsamoro region of Mindanao in the Southern Philippines.

In **Samoa**, the **Fund for Gender Equality** supported the Samoa Victims Support Group's (SVSG) engagement with village leaders in 166 villages in rural Samoa to recognized women's rights and implemented measures to stop discrimination against nofotane women through the introduction of by-laws and village council decisions which formally advance their rights, such as by allowing them to attend community meetings and wear the same clothes as other women, or forbidding the use of the word nofotane to avoid differentiated treatment.

UN Women **Viet Nam** is implementing a four-year project to support ethnic minority women and girls in poverty reduction and development processes. One component of the project is working with the Department of Ethnic Minorities within CEMA as well as CSOs to put in place an enabling legislative and policy environment to reduce ethnic minority women's vulnerability and translate this into action. A Policy Paper was developed in conjunction with CEMA in order to highlight and summarize some of the key gender issues in ethnic minority communities and

to support legislative and policy reform. UN Women is supporting CEMA to conduct a review of the National Project to End Early and Inter-Family Marriage set for December 2018. This event will inform what further support UN Women will provide to Viet Nam in ending child, early and forced marriage, by identifying barriers to its effective implementation.

*ii. Support provided to Member States to mainstream the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in national development plans and in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks and Common Country Assessments (CCA/UNDAFs).*

As part of UNDG, UN Women based in the Americas and Caribbean, supported the elaboration of a regional study on Indigenous people and sustainable development, which is being finalized and will be officially launched in the near future. During 2018, UNDG met in Guatemala, Colombia and Panama to develop work plans and identify key recommendations to feed into the UNPFII sessions.

In preparation for the CCA, UN Women **Chile** contributed data and analysis on the situation of Indigenous women in the country and as part of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, contributed to integrating concerns of indigenous women. .

UN Women **El Salvador** supported the government to comply with SDG 5 goal 5.4, SDG 8 goal 8.5 through the design and approval process of the National Policy for Rural, Indigenous and Peasant Women which covers social inclusion, economic autonomy, political participation, climate change and food security and cultural protection. The Office kept a strong focus on leaving no women behind, as part of its SDG alignment, ensuring the rights of the most disadvantaged women, including migrant and domestic workers, rural and Indigenous women are at the centre of all its work.

UN Women **Nepal** supported the Civil Society Advisory Group's (CSAG) member representing Indigenous groups to lead initiatives on youth engagement and gender equality. The Office will be nominating an Indigenous representative to the Nepal UN Country Team CSAG. Similarly, in **Paraguay** a CSAG whose members include representatives from two of the main Indigenous women's organizations in the country: the National Commission for Rural and Indigenous Women (CONAMURI) and the Indigenous Women's Movement of Paraguay (MIPY) was supported to submit perspectives on the implementation of UN Women's Strategic Plan.

*iii. Support for consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.*

UN Women has supported consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue through the following initiatives:

UN Women **Columbia** supported strengthening consultations and dialogue with Indigenous communities, particularly women, in the governance and management of natural resources as part of peacebuilding. In **Guatemala** support was provided to a number of consultative mechanisms and dialogue platforms, including (i) an innovative dialogue with more than 500 persons (40 percent women/60 percent men) on Indigenous women's access to justice; (ii) facilitating the compliance of the Peace Accords commitments to advance Indigenous women's rights and their participation in the National Women's Forum, the largest participation mechanisms for women with representation of more than 60 linguistic communities; and (iii) in the Polochic Valley, supported

several dialogues to address conflict, where UN Women partner with Indigenous women human rights activists to address the differentiated needs of protection and development.

UN Women **Paraguay**, coordinating with other UN agencies and the government, and following a request made by MIPY, organized a number of dialogues with Indigenous women and leaders, belonging to different villages, in order to collect their proposals and recommendations on central issues such as participation, citizenship, discrimination, land, territory and violence. The results of these dialogues were published, “Dialogue with Indigenous Women: Voices of the indigenous women of Paraguay”.

### 3. Supporting indigenous peoples’ rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

#### *i. Has your agency/organization taken any measures to incorporate indigenous issues into policy and programming to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?*

UN Women published a new flagship report “Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” which includes case studies on Indigenous women in the section on “Leaving no one behind: Universality, solidarity and addressing intersecting inequalities”. See: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018>.

UN Women **Chile** is implementing a programme for the economic empowerment of Indigenous women in northern Chile for sustainable development, the “ORIGINARIAS Programme”. The lines of action of this programme contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 8, 13 and 17. The ORIGINARIAS programme involves an extensive mixed-method study, documenting the reality of Indigenous women's lives in northern Chile, with a focus on the relevant factors related to economic empowerment and development. As a result, there are capacity strengthening programmes being implemented for the economic and social empowerment of Indigenous women, the creation of a center for networking, and leadership development. In addition to socio-demographic characterization of Indigenous women, the First Project of the University of Chile's Climate and Resilience Center was implemented. This involved undertaking a study of the vulnerability of Indigenous women in northern Chile facing climate change focusing on mining with a gender lens.

UN Women **El Salvador** supported the elaboration of the National Policy for Rural, Indigenous and Peasant Women and is part of the Policy Drive Group which monitors the development of the law and institutional framework to ensure it is in line with the 2030 Agenda and the UNDRIP. In **Guatemala** support was provided for the harmonization of national public policies with the Peace Accords and the 2030 Agenda. This includes implementation of the Sepur Zarco reparation sentence; the investigation and prosecution of another six cases; facilitating the compliance of the Peace Accords commitments to advance Indigenous women's rights; and supporting the creation of a fund for women's initiatives for their economic independence and their agricultural and environmental preservation activities.

In **Samoa**, the **Fund for Gender Equality** supported engagement with village leaders in 166 villages in rural Samoa to shifted attitudes and behaviors towards women and addressed issues of employment, financial literacy, discrimination, and climate change. UN Women **Viet Nam** supported report drafters to incorporate gender equality issues in Viet Nam's Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the SDGs. The consultation emphasized

the inequality in ethnic minority regions. Many inputs were incorporated in the report, which was presented by Viet Nam at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York in July 2018.

*ii. Has your agency/organization/entity supported the participation of indigenous peoples in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including at the national level? Please also include information on indigenous women, persons with disabilities, older persons and children and youth in your responses.*

UN Women **Bolivia** supported the incorporation of SDG 5 into the national agenda “Dismantling patriarchy” in part by facilitating planning meetings and supporting other organizations’ participation including the National Confederation of Indigenous women “Bartolina Sisa”. In relation to the objectives of SDG 5 and SDG 8, the ORIGINARIAS Project of UN Women **Chile** has facilitated the participation of over 200 Indigenous women in schools and workshops to strengthen their capacities for economic and social empowerment. The Initiative for the Political Empowerment of Indigenous Leaders, developed with CONADI, has allowed for the participation of over 100 women in the preparation of a political agenda for its development and the formulation of advocacy plans for its positioning and action.

UN Women **Ecuador** supported the participation of Indigenous women leaders in discussions around the implementation of the SDG 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” at the national level by coordinating a two-day event with the leadership of Women Issues of the Conference of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador, CONAIE. This event allowed Indigenous women to share their experiences regarding the justice response, both indigenous and formal justice, in the protection of women’s human rights; linking the application of international human rights law, including the ILO Convention 169, the UNDRIP, Convention Belem do Para and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women with specific cases of human rights violations against Indigenous women. In **El Salvador**, UN Women is part of the Policy Drive Group which monitors the development of the law and institutional framework to be in line with international standards. This Group includes civil society such as women’s rural groups as stakeholders.

UN Women **Guatemala** supported the participation of Indigenous women in decision making, conflict resolution and peacebuilding in three spheres: (i) the collective demand of their rights, from the community to the national levels which, in turn, generated protection mechanisms; (ii) investigation, monitoring and social audit processes to generate evidence-based proposals to support their collective demands; and (iii) the promotion of their rights to participate in the political and public arena through strategic urban-local alliances among women functionaries, Indigenous women leaders, human rights advocates and peace builders.

UN Women **Paraguay** supported national policies on decent work and social protection which the government wants to establish as a priority policy linked to compliance with the National Development Plan and the SDGs. The Office also supported the implementation of a Cross-Border Survey of Indigenous Women in the Gran Chaco Americano region entitled "Caring for people and the earth: a development model from the perspective of Indigenous women in the Chaco region", which involved the participation of Indigenous women from Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, countries that share the Gran Chaco eco-region, an area of great cultural diversity. During the survey, Indigenous women were able to provide their perspective on “Support, development and miti miti” (miti miti means parity for women’s political participation).

*iii.* Please provide information on any reports or other documents in implementing the 2030 Agenda for indigenous peoples. Also include information on any measures taken or planned for the collection of statistical data on indigenous peoples, in particular related to the SDG indicators for target 1.4 (secure tenure rights to land), target 2.3 (income of small-scale food producers), target 4.5 (parity in access to education) and target 10.3/16.b (experience of discrimination).

UN Women's Regional Office for the **Americas and the Caribbean** supported the promotion of mechanisms to generate statistical data disaggregated by gender, cultural identity and age as one of the priority of work included in the Regional Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous People, adopted in April 2018 as the outcome of the First Meeting of the High Governmental Authorities and Indigenous People.

UN Women's Regional Office for **Asia Pacific** planned measures to improve conditions of work for marginalized groups of women especially women migrant workers, workers in informal sector, Indigenous women and home-based workers.

In **Bolivia**, the **Fund for Gender Equality** initiative to Red Habitat supports implementing SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) for Indigenous peoples. In partnering with and strengthening grassroots organization ASOMUC, over 180 women have enhanced their leadership skills, reach, legitimacy and strength in their demands for policy reforms - including access to health services, retirement rights, job safety, equal pay for women, support for care economy and addressing sexual and work harassment. Fifty advocates helped to prepare two draft bills about women construction workers' equal opportunities and equal pay. In addition, Red Habitat and ASOMUC in partnership with local governments, women's associations and the ILO, are expanding the opportunities of over 150 women builders to get more and better jobs, including by creating a list of qualified workers, contacting employers, analyzing existing market demands and facilitating technical skills in high demand such as painting and lining.

UN Women **China's** programme on strengthening Qinghai women farmers' income security and resilience in a changing climate addresses both China's national poverty reduction goals and SDG global frameworks for delivering gender equality and women's economic empowerment. During the initial stage of the programme baseline surveys were conducted to collect qualitative and quantitative data on the needs of women farmers.

UN Women **Chile's** ORIGINARIAS project developed an extensive, mixed-environment study, documenting the reality of Indigenous women's lives in northern Chile, with a focus on the relevant factors related to economic empowerment and development. Due to preliminary research on these realities, qualitative and quantitative analysis of indicators for variables were made which included socioeconomic characteristics, work and income, education, health, housing, participation, discrimination and violence; labor aspirations of Indigenous women, levels of empowerment and care economies.

UN Women **El Salvador** is supporting a two year study on "time-saving technologies for women" with an emphasis on rural, Indigenous and peasant women. The main objective of the research is to study time-saving technologies from a feminist economy and gender perspective for the economic empowerment of women.

UN Women **Lao PDR** supported the improvement of conditions of work for marginalized groups of women, especially women migrant workers, workers in informal sector, ethnic women, women in UXO affected areas and home-based workers.

UN Women **Myanmar** supported women, particularly female headed households, single and elderly women from various ethnic and religious groups to start up small businesses for quality seed production and cash crops and promote value chain within Rakhine.

UN Women **Mexico** strengthened the application of 'Safe Cities' methodology to address the principle of leaving no one behind as part of its SDG alignment. This was done by conducting an intersectional analysis through a scoping study to generate data and evidence on the experiences of sexual violence in public spaces by diverse and marginalized groups of women and girls, including Indigenous women. The Office also promoted the inclusive economic recovery of earthquake-affected areas through women's economic empowerment focusing on rural and indigenous women and innovation in time use, alleviating the domestic and care workload and promoting social protection.

UN Women **Nepal's** Women's Economic Empowerment initiatives support the strengthening of economic and leadership capacities of women and girls from excluded and vulnerable groups, including Indigenous women (Janajatis).

UN Women **Philippines** has supported desk review inputs to the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific's mapping of natural resource conflicts and the impact this has on women and gender equality. In the Philippines, Indigenous women are particularly affected by natural resource conflicts including displacements due to extractive industry operations, and by the failure to enable Indigenous communities to benefit from extractive industry profits.

In **Tanzania**, the **Fund for Gender Equality** supported the Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) to redress the inequalities borne by Maasai women in the economic and political spheres. By end of 2018, PWC had helped 6,000 pastoralist women improve their livelihoods and economic status by facilitating their access to and control over clean water, land and livestock. Two new boreholes allowing 3,000 people to access clean water liberated time for women to attend community meetings or literacy classes. PWC has also supported over 65 community banks and savings and credit cooperatives that have enabled women to access credit and loans, saving a total of \$175,000. Four self-managed women's solidarity groups or "bomas" were established and PWC distributed over 640 livestock to women. Members of the groups are now able to purchase food, pay school fees for their children and cover hospital bills. The groups have also contributed to reducing women's economic dependency on their husbands. Seen as capable of creating and managing wealth, women have improved their status in the household and gained respect from men in their communities. As part of the Fund's new social innovation initiative, the PWC is also testing new solutions using human-centered design and behavioral insights to increase Maasai women's property ownership by promoting the use of written wills.

#### 4. Mapping of existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources for the effective implementation of the UNDRIP

- i. Please provide information on any specific standards and guidelines on indigenous peoples adopted or planned by your agency/organization.*

##### At the global level

UN Women continues to disseminate the Strategy for Inclusion and Visibility of Indigenous Women to address the intersection of ethnic and other statuses in its organizational programmes.

##### At the country level

UN Women **Bolivia** developed a number of guidelines, protocols and standard operating procedures on the provision of quality services for victims and survivors of gender-based violence. This included the Action Guide to the Elimination of Violence against Women for indigenous authorities.

UN Women **Columbia** supported the development of guidelines that helps the identification of damage and repair measures with a gender approach by the National Victim's Unit and the Ministry of Justice.

UN Women **Ecuador** supported the sharing of good practices on the application of indigenous justice for the protection of women's rights and how to link the application of international human rights law, including the UNDRIP to specific cases involving human right violations against Indigenous women. UN Women, with the CONAIE women's leadership, developed an analysis report on justice and the protection of the human rights of indigenous women, with a particular focus on the right to a life free of violence. The report was raised at several workshops with Indigenous women.

UN Women **Viet Nam** developed guidance in 2018 on effectively utilizing Gender Responsive Budgeting in the National Targeted Programme on Poverty Reduction in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous regions.

- ii. Please provide information on any training materials prepared or planned related to the implementation of the UN Declaration.*

UN Women conducted various trainings related to indigenous issues and rights, including:

UN Women **Chile** supported the development of a training centre for the leadership and empowerment of Indigenous women and the design of training contents and methodologies. The ORIGINARIAS Leadership School developed a module on identity and rights to include as subject matters: "The National Legal Order" and "International Commitments." Over 80 women participated in this school during the months of April and May of 2018. In addition, an online course is planned for 2019 for Indigenous women to learn about the framework of international and national instruments and mechanisms associated with the rights of women and Indigenous peoples.

UN Women **Mexico** promoted second chance education by supporting activities to enhance the participation, retention and achievement of young Indigenous women in secondary and tertiary education, with a focus on

technical and vocational education, as well as training to improve life opportunities for young women currently not in education through access to informal and vocational training.

The **UN Trust Fund** is supporting Red Nacional in **Peru** to reduce gender-based violence against older women who were victims of conflict-related violence, in part through empower older women by strengthening their awareness of their rights through participatory needs assessments and awareness and training workshops.

UN Women **Philippines** supported the training of a number of women from the Teduray Indigenous peoples group, resulting in enhanced skills, knowledge and confidence as peace advocates in their communities. The Office has also trained women Indigenous advocates for peace through its Speakers Bureau initiative. The Speakers Bureau builds the capacity of women in the southern Philippines to conduct peacebuilding discussions with their communities on issues including the establishment of an autonomous Bangsamoro region in Mindanao. A number of women from the Teduray Indigenous peoples group have been trained and supported as peace advocates in their communities.

*iii. Please provide information on current resources and funds allocated to effectively implement the UN Declaration. Please also provide information on any joint initiatives with other UN agencies in the implementation of the UN Declaration.*

UN Women Regional and Country Office programmes have allocated the following resources and funds toward activities that specifically target Indigenous women:<sup>3</sup>

1. Regional Office of Americas and the Caribbean	\$400,000
2. Regional Office of Asia Pacific	\$1,384,525
3. Afghanistan	\$403,311
4. Bolivia	\$112,569
5. Brazil	\$522,176
6. Chile	\$1,917,706
7. China	\$187,966
8. Colombia	\$233,543
9. Ecuador	\$5000
10. El Salvador	\$952,187
11. Guatemala	\$575,123
12. Honduras	\$7812
13. India	\$207,366
14. Iraq	\$32,985
15. Lao PDR	\$180,000
16. Myanmar	\$170,000
17. Mexico	\$2,038,955
18. Paraguay	261,956
19. Sudan	\$30,250
20. Viet Nam	\$83,600

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<sup>3</sup> The amounts are the 'Planned Budget' from the 2018 annual reports database.

It should be noted that a number of programmes at the regional and country level, while not exclusively targeting Indigenous women, have integrated indigenous issues into their broader activities. However, given the difficulties in identifying which resources were allocated for activities that included Indigenous women, these programmes and resources are not included in the above list.

UN Women continues to work collaboratively with other UN agencies. For example, at the regional level, UN Women Regional Office of **Americas and the Caribbean** continued to support the UNDG LAC Regional Interagency Working Group on Indigenous Issues and as of September 2018, is co-chair with ILO. At the country level, UN Women **China** is working with IFAD in its programme to strengthen Qinghai women farmers' income security and resilience in a changing climate. UN Women **Columbia** worked with UNEP and UNDP to implement the joint programme "Women, Environmental Governance and Peace". This programme seeks to strengthen the participation of women in the governance and management of natural resources as a part of peacebuilding in Columbia and includes collaboration with Indigenous communities, particularly women. UN Women **Paraguay** worked with OHCHR to support MIPY in the establishment of dialogues for Indigenous women leaders.

## 5. Developing the capacities of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel

**Please provide information on any capacity development initiatives that your organization is conducting for indigenous peoples, government officials and UN staff. Also include information on the participation of indigenous women, children and youth as well as indigenous persons with disabilities in your response.**

UN Women has supported initiatives to ensure the capacity development of indigenous women, State actors, civil society and UN personnel in a number of areas. Activities include:

The UN Women's Regional Office for **the Americas and the Caribbean** sponsored young Indigenous women from across the region to be part of the Indigenous women's leadership postgraduate training, organized by FILAC, CONADI and the University of Tarapacá, in Arica, Chile (20 November to 2 December 2018). The training emphasized Indigenous women's political participation and the eradication of all forms of violence against them.

The UN Women's Regional Office in **Europe and Central Asia** supported the Foundation for Women's Bibija Women's Centre establish a network of Roma women's organizations comprised of Roma Women and Youth Association and Young Roma, an Indigenous Montenegrin Roma youth organizations

UN Women **Afghanistan** supported over 80 rural peace women activists of various ethnic backgrounds, including women with disabilities, to mobilize their efforts to promote social peace and inclusiveness in the respective communities in the framework of the Mother of Peace Project, which aims at increasing women's role and participation in the peace-building, conflict resolution and community-based conflicts mediation.

In **Bolivia**, the **Fund for Gender Equality** supported Red Habitat to strengthen the capacity of a civil society organization, ASOMUC, to better represent the rights of women in the construction industry and advocate for decent work conditions while opening spaces for their participation in sectoral unions. Because a majority of women construction workers are Indigenous women migrated from rural areas with low education levels in search for better livelihood opportunities they find themselves in vulnerable situations due to temporary contracts, lower wages than their male counterparts, and frequent exposure to gender-based violence. This initiative also

supported building women's awareness of their own labor and social rights and leadership skills of over 180 women.

UN Women **Brazil** supported gender advocates, specifically from Afro-descendant, Indigenous and young women, in their efforts to promote women's rights, leadership and political participation. Efforts were also made to implement the Quality of Life and Empowerment of Women in Northern Amazon Region and through this project, UN Women reached associative businesses whose members belong to the Esse Ejja and Tacana Cavineño ethnic groups from the Amazonian region.

UN Women **Chile** supported indigenous women and women's groups to participate in the ongoing constitutional review process through an incorporation of the collective demands, including the principle of prior, free and informed consent; collective and Individual rights in health, education, territory and natural resources and the prevention of violence.

UN Women **China** is implementing a three-year programme designed to promote poverty reduction among women farmers from ethnic autonomous villages by building their capacity through agricultural skill training, market information dissemination, and financial knowledge sharing using Farmer Field Schools and participatory education methods. The programme will also build capacity of government officials, technical and financial service providers through gender mainstreaming trainings.

Capacity building provided to Indigenous women by UN Women **Columbia** resulted in: (1) Indigenous women developing a proposal on access to formal, customary and transitional justice for Indigenous communities; (2) strengthening a gender and Indigenous women's perspective in the collective reparation process in Bojayá, Chocó; (3) strengthening the participation of Indigenous women as environmental leaders and protectors of natural resources as part of peacebuilding in Columbia; and (4) partnering with Indigenous Organization of Antioquia (OIA) in developing the capacity of Indigenous women in terms of advocacy and political dialogue to enhance the response to violence against women and girls. Capacity building provided to civil society organizations by UN Women Columbia includes: (5) supporting initiatives of Indigenous organizations, such as Red de Mujeres Chaparralunas por la Paz, ACIN/CODACOP, to promote a strong focus on Indigenous and Afro-Columbian women at the local level in the areas most impacted by the armed conflict in order to contribute to women's political empowerment in local planning scenarios defined in the Peace Agreement; and (6) supporting the Indigenous organization Nimaira in the Amazonas Region to integrate women's rights and gender equality in indigenous organizational processes. The Office also provided institutional capacity building to: (7) the National Victim's Unit and the Ministry of Justice through the development of gender-responsive guidelines on the identification of damage and repair measures which resulted in the strengthening of the institutional ability to promote a gender perspective and the rights of Indigenous women; and (8) supported the integration of an ethnic gender perspective in the work of the National Truth Commission through the collection of data and information on the needs and perspectives of Indigenous women.

The **UN Trust Fund** supports Fundación Servicios Integrales para la Mujer's project in **Columbia** which builds the capacity of the organization and women's networks and support synergies for ensuring prevention and protection services for excluded and underserved groups, such as women and girls Indigenous and Afro-descendant living in Buenaventura.

UN Women **Ecuador** supported the capacity building of approximately 30 Indigenous women leaders to update processes and procedures in cases of violence against women in traditional justice, specifically the skills to collect information on justice and the protection of the rights of Indigenous women and analyze the benefits and limits of indigenous and formal justice systems for Indigenous women.

An estimated 326 indigenous rural women have improved their skills in entrepreneurship and associative sales and have participated in marketing processes in **Guatemala**. As a result, those women generated a joint increase of USD 4,751 in their monthly sales income and establish a savings fund of USD 1,360 per month, which has improved the economic autonomy of women in the Polochic Valley. This achievement was made possible by the Joint Programme to accelerate progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women, implemented by FAO, WFP, IFAD, and UN Women, with financial support of the governments of Norway and Sweden.

UN Women **El Salvador** supported the institutional capacity of CSOs, such as the National Council of Indigenous of El Salvador (CONAJIS) through training of fifty-five youths of the Council on gender and human rights. The Office is also planning to implement a multi-country capacity building programme on economic empowerment in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador in January 2019. The programme aims to increase the economic situation of more than 600 women living in the rural zones of the three countries (of which a significant percentage will be Indigenous women), by the creation of products and services for female entrepreneurship.

UN Women **Guatemala** supported the capacity building of women functionaries, Indigenous women leaders, human rights advocates and peace builders to generate evidence-based proposals to endorse their collective demands from the community and national levels, to participation in the political and public arena and developing strategic urban-local alliances. The Office supported Indigenous women's capacity to demand equal access to justice and to reparations for conflict and post-conflict women's human rights violations and to monitor compliance with the Peace Accords' commitment to advance women's rights through dialogues between Indigenous women human rights defenders, ancestral authorities and the judiciary as well as support to Indigenous women survivors of conflict and post-conflict related sexual and gender based violence to participate in the National Women's Forum, the largest participation mechanism for women. The **UN Trust Fund** grant supports the women's organization, MTM, which includes providing capacity building and training on human rights and access to justice; and offering institutional capacity building for the NGOs and other stakeholders collaborating on the project which addresses the needs of some of the most marginalized groups of women and girls at risk of gender-based violence in regions with the highest rate of violence against women and girls in Guatemala.

UN Women **Honduras** supported the capacity building of advocacy capacities of women's networks and women leaders, including Indigenous and Afro-descendant women. The **UN Trust Fund** is supporting Pragya, an NGO, based in **India** to provide capacity development interventions in local tribal women leaders as well as training and sensitization of tribal leaders. UN Women's Country Office reached out to women from the tribal communities working in the agrarian supply chains of the tea industry in the state of Assam and select locations in South India. Under the principle of leaving no one behind, 5649 women were reached out to in six Tea Estates in the state of Assam to advocate for uptake of services for survivors of violence, especially of the State and District Legal Services Authorities. Un women is in the process of setting up the first of its kind Legal Aid Centre in partnership with the state government and the Tea Producer Partner. The programme operates in four states across 12 districts, targeting Scheduled Cates and Tribes.

UN Women **Nepal** organized a three-day "Thought Workshop" bringing together women leaders from diverse backgrounds to reflect and analyse the status and role and the best way forward for the Nepali women's movement in the current context of Nepal. Twenty-six women representatives from diverse groups including Indigenous women's groups participated to explore ways forward for collective action.

UN Women and OHHCR based in **Paraguay** established a dialogue process for Indigenous women leaders in which 30 representatives from 19 tribes in Paraguay took part, building an advocacy agenda that in turn targeted key

actors from the State and the United Nations system in Paraguay in order to convert their demands into coordinated actions. The **UN Trust Fund** provided a grant to support in **Paraguay** Coordinadora por los derechos de la infancia y la adolescencia, a network of 30 civil society organizations working to defend, promote and monitor children’s human rights in Paraguay with a focus on addressing violence against the girl child from rural and Indigenous communities. The project builds the capacity of CSOs and community-based groups, education professionals and government officials, providing these groups with information, training, tools, analytical data and technical assistance to enhance inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination.

Through a Prevention of Violence Extremism intervention in **Philippines**, UN Women delivered livelihood support and skill building to women living in rural areas, and vulnerable women in the conflict-affected area of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. These women included young women, older women, women living with disabilities, and were predominantly Moro Muslim women. The livelihood and skill building interventions supported these women to establish 18 community cooperatives to produced products including handicrafts and food items – made from locally available resources – for sale.

In **Viet Nam**, the government drafted the Master Plan on Social Economic Development for ethnic minority (EM) regions in remote areas. UN Women has worked closely with Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), Viet Nam Women’s Union (VWU) and other development partners to develop key evidence-based recommendations with the aim to ensure that the Master Plan has a strong vision and objectives to address gender inequality as a factor hindering the development of EM groups in Viet Nam in the past 30 years. UN Women supported CEMA and VWU to dialogue with more than 300 EM women from communities and local authorities to identify the strategic needs of EM women that must be addressed under the Master Plan.

In **Tanzania**, the **Fund for Gender Equality** supported the capacity building of the PWC to work with pastoralist women to improve their livelihoods and economic status. As part of the Fund’s new social innovation initiative, the PWC is also testing new solutions using human-centered design and behavioral insights to increase Maasai women’s property ownership by promoting the use of written wills.

In **Samoa**, the **Fund for Gender Equality** supported a project implemented by SVSG which helped over 5,000 women build their knowledge of their employment rights; gain specialized financial literacy and build capacity regarding livelihood skills, such as for fabric printing, handicrafts, commercial cooking and flower arrangement. As a result, almost 650 self-employed women are now earning a living from small business initiatives they set up and have created more than 20 support groups to sell the products. A group of them has now formed the NGO “Women in Climate Change Resilience”.

24. UN Women **Sudan** supported women and community leaders and native authorities to conduct community events on removing social, customary and political barriers to women’s equal access to land rights and other productive resources.

## 6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes

Please provide information on any support provided for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at relevant UN bodies, including at the country level. Please also provide information on any consultative

## mechanisms, tools and other measures to obtain free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in processes that affect them.

UN Women has supported a number of initiatives which aim at increasing the participation of Indigenous women to ensure their full and effective inclusion in a number of intergovernmental UN processes. Such activities have included:

1. UN Women's Regional Office for **the Americas and the Caribbean** is committed to strengthening Indigenous women's knowledge, leadership, participation and advocacy in key UN fora to ensure that their priorities and concerns are reflected and that their rights are advanced. This included providing technical and financial support to the First Indigenous Summit of the Americas for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) (Lima, Peru, 21-23 November 2018) with the aim of increasing the knowledge of indigenous organisations about UN mechanisms such as the UNPFII and CSW and identify collective strategies to influence these decision-making spaces at the global level, particularly prioritizing the strengthening of the knowledge of Indigenous women and youth. The Regional Office also supported Indigenous women's advocacy at the CSW 62 by organizing an Expert Group Meeting of Indigenous women on "Rurality and Urbanity from the vision of Indigenous women: identities, convergences and differentiated interests" (Panama, 9-10 January) to discuss different views and positions from Indigenous women on their identities, priorities and issues regarding the rural/urban divide. The meeting gathered 20 Indigenous women from academia and civil society who issued a Declaration for the CSW 62 which included key recommendations on land, territory and natural resources; security and nutritional sovereignty; social protection and welfare; transitions to a sustainable development model; and collective power and self-determination.

UN Women also supported **Bangladesh** Mahila Parishad (BMP), one of the oldest mass women's organization in Bangladesh with a nation-wide network of members, mobilize women's organizations for a non-governmental review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. BMP organized divisional and district level consultations, gathering over 1000 women and men, to capture the people's perspective on the achievements, challenges and future priorities as reflected in the Platform for Action. BMP actively reached out to representatives of Dalit and ethnic minority women, disabled women, transgender women and youth to gather diverse perspectives.

UN Women **Brazil** Country Office provided technical assistance to the First National Meeting of Indigenous Women and to the First March of Indigenous Women, which convened over 2,000 indigenous women from all over the country to address discrimination and racism.

UN Women **Chile** supported the participation of a delegation of five Indigenous women leaders in the First Indigenous Encounter of the Americas for the Permanent Forum of the United Nations (UNPFII) that was held in Lima, Peru between November 21 and 23 of 2018. The delegation was composed of representatives of the Likanantai, Diaguita, Mapuche and RapaNui peoples, plus an Indigenous official of CONADI.

UN Women **Guatemala** provided technical support for the preparation of conventional reports on the status of women and Indigenous women's rights for inter-institutional monitoring mechanisms such as CEDAW, as well as support to ensure representation of Indigenous women in official delegations in high level global and regional meetings.

UN Women **Mexico** supported strengthening capacities of gender equality advocates, including Indigenous women's organizations, to influence key international processes and share knowledge in key international for a,

while UN Women **Nepal** supported the CEDAW Shadow Report Preparation Committee and ensured the representation of Indigenous women throughout the consultation, drafting and validation process. The report validation process included seven provincial consultations engaging civil society representatives working on women's rights at the grassroots level including Indigenous women's rights organisations. Furthermore, the UN Gender Theme Group, with the leadership of UN Women Nepal took a coherent and coordinated approach to supporting civil society representatives to the CEDAW 71st Session in October 2018 and CSW 62 in 2018, ensuring representation of marginalized groups including Indigenous women.

Similarly, UN Women **Viet Nam** supported CEMA to organize a consultation on the State's draft report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. The consultation focused on the broader draft report, with a central focus on the inclusion of gender. Approximately 50 participants attended the consultation from both central government and local ethnic minority provinces, chaired by the Vice-Minister of CEMA. Recommendations were made to the drafting committee to ensure the national report adequately reflected the diverse range of situations for ethnic minority groups in Viet Nam. Ultimately, the aim is for UN Women to support CEMA following the review to develop an action plan and begin to put in place the anticipated recommendations which will foster an enabling policy environment to ensure ethnic minority women and girls can fulfil their potential, thus contributing to the overall goal of empowering ethnic minority women and girls. The Office also supported civil society networks to prepare submissions for Viet Nam's third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) due to take place in early 2019, and ethnic minority women were involved in this process of capacity building. Finally, UN Women made substantial contributions to the UNCT's UPR report, ICCPR report and CAT report in 2018, ensuring the inclusion of the issues outlined above.

### *Ensuring the effective participation of indigenous youth and indigenous women, in the COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery plans.*

The Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean produces policy briefs on the multiple impacts of the pandemic on women and girls of the region. Issues addressed include strategies for the prevention of violence<sup>4</sup>, the situation of domestic workers,<sup>5</sup> and the implementation of cash transfers.<sup>6</sup> These briefs integrate the specific needs and circumstances of indigenous and Afro descendant women who form critical components of UN Women's programming in the region.

In partnership with CARE International, the Regional Office produced a report on *Latin America and the Caribbean Rapid Gender Analysis for COVID-19*<sup>7</sup> to present a comprehensive analysis of the situation for women and girls in region in the context of the crisis. The report reveals that indigenous and afro descendant women form the majority of the 214 million or 34% of the entire population in the region who live in poverty. These resources have

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20americas/documentos/publicaciones/2020/05/un%20women%20violence%20prevention%20brief%20ingles.pdf?la=es&vs=0>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20americas/documentos/publicaciones/2020/05/06/estrabajadoras%20remuneradas%20del%20hogar%20v110620%20comprimido.pdf?la=es&vs=123> Link to the Spanish document, English version will be available soon

<sup>6</sup> <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20americas/documentos/publicaciones/2020/05/brief%20transferencias%20monetarias%20update/onu%20mujeres%20transferencias%20monetarias%20ingles-comprimido.pdf?la=es&vs=0>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20americas/documentos/publicaciones/2020/05/enlac%20rga%20report%20english%20final%20junio%20201comprimido.pdf?la=en&vs=337>

served as reference points for highlighting the visible impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on women and girls, particularly those who face multiple forms of discrimination.

At the operational level Chirapaq, an indigenous women's organization based in Peru has been supported to distribute basic emergency supplies to indigenous women in marginalized communities. Similar support has been provided to another CSO, FEIM based in Argentina. In partnership with the *Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas*, the Regional Office is also planning to undertake a series of webinars which are aimed at highlighting the impact of the crisis on indigenous women and youth and their contributions that these groups are making to address the crisis. At the inter-agency level, the Regional Office is in partnership with the UNFPA's Regional Office and UN Women Brazil to design a project which aims to promote and implement social, economic and leadership interventions in the context of the pandemic.

In **Argentina**, UN Women is working with the local authorities of the Chaco province to rollout a communications campaign on GBV prevention in the context of COVID-19 in indigenous languages (*moquit, qom and wichi*) and with a view to improving community outreach. At the same time, and as part of the initiatives undertaken to promote gender mainstreaming at the COVID-19's response, a webinar on *Intersectionality: The impact of COVID-19 on women facing multiple discriminations* was organized and attended by 200 people, including indigenous women's organizations and community leaders. In **Bolivia**, it is leading on an interagency initiative which supports the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous women and girls in the context of the COVID-19. In line with the vision of *building back better*, the initiative aims to generate and analyze data by sex, ethnicity, race and location to better measure the impact of COVID-19. It also aims to implement biosafety protocols; map out essential services and protection mechanisms; strengthen the capacities of indigenous peoples, human rights defenders and civil society organizations in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples in the context of the pandemic; develop a communication strategy with a gender perspective in response to the needs of indigenous women and girls; and support the establishment of a forum for national authorities, indigenous people and civil society organizations' representatives to exchange ideas on addressing emerging challenges of the pandemic.

The Leave No One Behind principle is being applied in the Rohingya refugee response in **Bangladesh**. Refugees are overall a vulnerable population, and women and girls in general are the more vulnerable as they have a harder time accessing resources and services due to conservative social cultural norms that limit women's mobility, limited economic opportunities, and security threats in the camps. UN Women's activities in its Multi-Purpose Women's Centres target women and girls such as adolescent girl, disabled women and widowed female heads of household that are further isolated and most at risk in the camps with empowerment, livelihoods activities and leadership training.

In **Brazil**, a two-way communication on government policies related to the pandemic, as well as the impact of the pandemic on women are crucial. UN Women is therefore supporting *Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil* an indigenous women's organization with communications equipment. In this same context, the Country Office (CO) is promoting the visibility of indigenous women's rights through a series of briefs on the impact of the COVID-19 on indigenous women. Plans are underway to strengthen the capacity of the *Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas* to advocate for the rights of quilombola<sup>8</sup> women as a means of improving their response to the pandemic and their participation in related decision-making spaces.

In **Chile**, UN Women has been implementing the second phase of the *Originarias Programme* for the improvement of economic and social participation of marginalized indigenous women in northern Chile. This programme

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<sup>8</sup> A quilombola is an Afro-Brazilian resident of quilombo settlements first established by escaped slaves in Brazil.

supports the operation of the *Center for Indigenous Women Empowerment* with three main action lines, on training, business promotion, and network building. To address the conditions generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts on indigenous women, the programme is implementing online business leadership training and a remote mentoring plan to provide specialized support to women entrepreneurs. This plan includes assistance on applying for COVID-19 related public funds, accessing promotion and marketing mechanisms and assistance with branding. The next phase of the programme for 2021-22 ensures the introduction of new tools for training, management, and commercialization to contribute to the strengthening of indigenous women's abilities in entrepreneurship. Furthermore, *the Network of Indigenous Entrepreneurs and Businesswomen of the Americas*, was launched in January 2020 with the objective of strengthening business capacities, establishing public-private alliances and to generate financing to promote business development among indigenous women in international markets. The CO has been supporting this Network to develop a project for new funding sources to address the COVID-19 crisis and the economic recovery of indigenous women in the Americas.

UN Women has undertaken a process of reviewing its projects with indigenous and afro descendant women to ensure the incorporation of mitigation measures that will, on the one hand, guarantee the achievement of project objectives and, on the other, promote better protection and visibility for the demands and contributions of indigenous women of **Colombia** in the context of the crisis. Within this framework, the project being implemented in the Chocó province with women human rights defenders has incorporated initiatives focused on generating knowledge on the COVID-19 crisis, including the risks of contagion, the prevention of GBV and the socio-economic impact, among others. Communication campaigns have also been designed to advocate for the inclusion of indigenous women and gender equality in response plans. A Peace Building Fund cross border project being implemented on the border between Colombia and Ecuador, which has among its beneficiary indigenous communities, has implemented specific actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the communities, while promoting the prevention of GBV and the co-responsibility of women and men in care work. The project has also adapted its methodology to guarantee the participation of indigenous women in different spaces of advocacy and political dialogue.

Within the context of implementation of the *Gender mainstreaming in PROAmazonía*, UN Women **Ecuador** provides rural and indigenous women with COVID-19 related information and training through avenues such as community radio. Components of this capacity enhancing initiative includes access to new business production strategies, promoting local markets, improving local commerce chains and, including indigenous women in local governments virtual meetings, as well as specially designed virtual networking among indigenous women's organizations. As part of the emergency response promoted by the UN Country Team and Humanitarian NGOs, the CO participates in UN-led efforts at identifying families in need of urgent social protection services.

UN Women has maintained a long-term partnership with indigenous and rural women in **El Salvador**, including the *Salvadorian Indigenous National Coordination Council*. In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the CO has submitted a proposal to the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives for humanitarian support to indigenous women, to secure the supply of food and protective gear and to disseminate information on the prevention and response to GBV. As part of the implementation of the *Women, Local Economies, and Territories*, 270 indigenous and non-indigenous women have benefited from the provision of tablets and one-year supply of internet connectivity to access training materials on financial education and business services such as market access strategies and product design in the context of COVID-19.

The focus of UN Women **Guatemala** has been on promoting the economic empowerment of indigenous women as a survival strategy during the crisis. In this framework, the entrepreneurial capacities of women in the *Indigenous Entrepreneurs' Network (MELyT)* have been strengthened for the diversification of products and the search for new sales alternatives through electronic platforms. In addition, support has been provided to

indigenous women beneficiaries of the *National Commission for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises* to provide credit on more flexible terms for micro and small enterprises led by rural and indigenous women. At the institutional level, the CO has supported the creation of the *Indigenous Women's Platform and Advisory Council* of the Vice Presidency of the Republic, to promote inclusion and equality in the response to COVID-19. In addition, smart phone access is being facilitated for indigenous women who are part of self-protection networks, and communication campaigns have been developed to make the contributions of indigenous women in addressing the pandemic visible. In communities where high poverty, malnutrition, discrimination and exclusion exists, indigenous and rural women have been supported to sustain income generation within the framework of the MELyT programme through local handicraft enterprises which utilize natural fibers such as petate, tule, palm, pine, maguey and pita. A virtual platform was also developed to protect local economies and for creating viable business environments for women.

As part of the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative in **Honduras**, and within the framework ongoing support to indigenous Lenca women victims of GBV, mitigation measures are in place to address the effects of the pandemic. Among other initiatives, a capacity building strategy, adapted to the Lenca culture is being designed to strengthen women's resilience in the wake of the crisis, as well as in the promotion of biosecurity measures to prevent COVID-19 within their communities. At the same time, as part of a social audit, the CO is highlighting the important roles that Lenca and Garifuna women are playing in the response to the COVID 19. Under the MELyT programme, support is being provided to the Lencas and Maya Chortís women entrepreneurs to address the socio-economic impacts of COVID 19. It was noted with 23 per cent of women owners had sold their businesses. Therefore, UN Women is strengthening women's skills to prepare them for rebuilding their businesses. Relatedly, the CO is building the capacity of financial institution to identify gender needs as well as opportunities that are of importance to women.

In partnership with UNESCO, UN Women **Mexico** and widely disseminated a policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on indigenous women.<sup>9</sup> The recommendations of the brief have been built on several conversations with indigenous women from civil society organizations, to ensure their voices and concerns are reflected and acknowledged. UN Women also advocates among national authorities to ensure that indigenous women receive COVID-19-related information. The CO finds concerning that as of May 2020 65.6 percent of women's businesses were not operating. It therefore urges the Government to improve the production of disaggregated data with a focus on of gender and interculturality. In partnership with a Civil society organization, the CO co-hosted a public dialogue on *Women resisting: Indigenous and Afro Mexican in the Pandemic* and facilitated the participation of several indigenous representatives from across the country, to express their views on the challenges and priorities that need to be addressed.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20mexico/documentos/publicaciones/2020/mayo%202020/brief%20mujeres%20indigenas.pdf?la=es&vs=222>