

**FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN
From 4 to 15 March 2013
New York**



Political Statement:

Indigenous girls and women united for a dignified life without violence

On behalf the International Indigenous Women's Forum, a global network that articulates organizations of indigenous women leaders and activists on human rights, in the Americas, Africa and Asia, , we encourage the priority theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women entitled as "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls".

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the Beijing Declaration of Indigenous Women,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, article 22, paragraph 2, which establishes that States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination,

We consider that indigenous women have been and are particularly affected by violence, including armed conflicts, militarization, sexual violence, the processes of loss of land, uprooting, forced displacement, institutional violence, criminalization, racism and discrimination in social services, femicide, trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, economic exploitation, the statistical invisibility, destruction and degradation of the Mother Earth, lands and natural resources, the limited possibilities of spiritual healing, impunity, networking destruction and loss of social and cultural ties.

We stress the need for an intercultural and contextual analysis to address the issue of violence against indigenous women, taking into account studies on how various aspects of identity and patriarchal systems and colonial domination have been interacting.

¹ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publications, Sales No. 96.IV.13), chapt. I, Resolution 1, Annex I and II.

Therefore, the International Indigenous Women's Forum urges to the Commission on the Status of Women:

1. Promote public policies and inter-cultural approach to eradicate and prevent violence, with the full and effective participation of indigenous women including disaggregated data collection, capacity building processes, empowerment, legal, financial and psychological support, and awareness campaigns.
2. Include in the reports presented to the UN treaties bodies, information regarding the situation of violence against indigenous women and girls.
3. Consider the negative impact that pollution and environmental destruction have on the lives of indigenous women as a form of violence taking into account the perspective of collective rights.
4. Include in national budgets, policies aimed at the administration of justice in order to reduce or eliminate violence against indigenous women and girls. Also strengthen the implementation of national laws against violence against women.

In conclusion, the International Indigenous Women's Forum would like to express our support to the Commission on the Status of Women in the approach of its mandate, to UN Women and other United Nations agencies on the struggle for the full achievement of indigenous women human rights, their empowerment and promotion of the good living of indigenous peoples.

As Indigenous women, we stand against violence; we are powerful agents of change, we hold traditional knowledge, we have take care of Mother earth for centuries... We strongly demand to respect our free, prior and inform consent and to implement anti-violence strategies led by Indigenous Women, with an intercultural approach to build our autonomy for a life with dignity!