



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
12 December 2014  
English  
Original: Spanish

---

### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Fifty-ninth session

9-20 March 2015

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and  
to the special session of the General Assembly entitled  
“Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for  
the twenty-first century”**

### **Statement submitted by Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

---

\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## **Statement**

### **Beijing+20: Evaluation of progress regarding the status of indigenous women, with the focus on future challenges**

To indigenous women, the Fourth World Conference on Women was a forum that began to highlight the combats in which we engage, within our peoples and countries, in order to claim our individual and collective rights. In the last 20 years, through action and proposals, we contributed to monitoring the implementation of the Peking Platform for Action by participating in high level committees and panels and helping in the adoption of two specific resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2005/11 and E/CN.6/2012/L.6).

In those two decades, we strengthened our continental and international links, particularly through the formation of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas and the International Indigenous Women's Forum, and through greater involvement in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Civil Society Advisory Group of UN Women, the Inter-Agency Group on Gender and various conferences of the United Nations system. For the first time, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an indigenous woman, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz. In 2013, we organized in Lima the first World Conference of Indigenous Women, which adopted a plan of action. The final document of the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples of the United Nations in New York contains various paragraphs on indigenous women and children.

In its observations on the combined eighteenth to twenty-first periodic report of Peru (CERD/C/PER/18-21), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination urged the country to take steps against discrimination in the media. Those recommendations will help to eliminate persisting stereotypes of women and indigenous peoples.

We welcome, as a hopeful sign, the progress achieved in connection with certain aspects of the Peking Platform of Action, particularly in the areas of health and education, where gaps have been reduced.

We are concerned that the challenges referred to in this document correspond to unfulfilled past demands and hope that more significant progress will be made in the future. That, however, requires greater commitment on the part of the United Nations system and political will on the part of the member States.

### **Land, without monocultures or agrochemicals**

The Plan of Action of the World Conference of Indigenous Women underscores our contributions to the process of poverty eradication and promotion of sustainable development, traditional knowledge and diversity of local economies. The Plan highlights the importance of activities aimed at transforming the food system so as to ensure that food producers have equal access to and control over land, water, seeds, fisheries and agricultural biodiversity.

The situation of indigenous peoples deprived of their land, frequently as a result of the priority accorded to resource extraction projects aggravating the impact of climate change and drastically affecting indigenous women, is a pending issue. The promotion of development oblivious to the future is preoccupying.

We insist on respecting and enforcing the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

We stress the need to compile more information on the negative impact of extractive industries and of the use of agrochemicals on the sexual and reproductive health of indigenous women.

More statistics are necessary regarding the forms and conditions of employment of indigenous women in urban and rural areas, so as to base State policies on land and housing on a regional and collective approach friendly to the environment and mother earth, in line with the Declaration of the International Conference of Indigenous Peoples on Self-Determination and Sustainable Development, adopted at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 19 June 2012.

It is urgent to generate a more balanced economic growth, taking into account a holistic framework for our peoples towards sustainable development based on self-determination, human rights and the key role of indigenous women.

### **Promotion of education, intercultural relations and quality employment**

We welcome the increased access of indigenous girls and women aged 6-22 to educational establishments. However, according to the survey entitled Indigenous women in Latin America - Demographic and social dynamics (Mujeres Indígenas en América Latina. Dinámicas Demográficas y Sociales, ECLAC, 2013), the school enrolment ratio is declining with age, aggravating ethnic and gender inequalities. Moreover, statistics veil geographic inequities and inequalities among the various peoples.

Bilingual, intercultural and gender-sensitive education of good quality must be guaranteed, with the participation of indigenous peoples, including women, in its design, with appropriate teacher training and with rigorous qualitative and impact assessments.

It is urgent to promote specific opportunities for indigenous young women to facilitate their access to higher education and the labour market, with full equality of conditions and rights.

### **Sexual and reproductive rights based on intercultural relations**

According to the survey entitled Indigenous Women: new protagonists for new policies (Mujeres Indígenas: nuevas protagonistas para nuevas políticas, ECLAC, 2014), the fertility rate among indigenous women has declined but is still higher than among non-indigenous women. Although they have declined in Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama (but not in Ecuador), early motherhood rates among indigenous girls are still more than double than among non-indigenous adolescents in Brazil, Costa Rica and Panama.

Gaps between indigenous and non-indigenous women exist with regard to prenatal care, delivery in health centres, post-natal care and, especially, maternal mortality.

The relevant statistics reflect, inter alia, reduced institutional coverage, lack of cultural adjustment, insufficient access, lower quality and underestimation of traditional care practices by the health workers.

We recommend creating intercultural sexual- and reproductive-health programmes for indigenous children, adolescents and young persons which transcend biological considerations, include indigenous spiritual dimensions and world-views, and provide for the participation of and feedback from that group.

It is necessary to promote systematic and culturally relevant research in connection with HIV/AIDS among the indigenous peoples, and initiatives to enhance access to tests for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among indigenous women and young persons and socially vulnerable groups with an increasing HIV/AIDS transmission rate. That rate is alarming in the Awajún community in the Peruvian Amazon.

### **Various forms of violence**

In recent years, we have contributed to approaching violence in its various manifestations on the basis of our world-views and daily experience. That approach is not reflected in public policies. They lack an intercultural and comprehensive view adjusted to specific contexts and linking sexual violence to other areas and manifestations, such as structural, mental or armed-conflict violence.

In Canada, according to official statistics, indigenous women and girls are between five and seven times more likely to die as a result of violence than other women.

A major challenge consists in creating specific bodies, producing more statistical data and carrying out more research on the multiple aspects of violence against indigenous women.

### **Greater participation in the exercise of power and decision-making**

Progress regarding indigenous women's involvement in activities with political implications has been most significant in terms of participation in international and regional organizations. At the national level, such involvement has also increased but gaps persist in comparison to non-indigenous women and men.

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) has called upon States to adopt measures to expand indigenous women's participation in government action and in decision-making bodies at all levels.

It is urgent to support the empowerment of indigenous women, build our leadership capacities and ensure our full participation in decision-making processes at all levels and in the political, economic, social and cultural life.

Many of the advances have been due to the efforts and resolve of the movement of indigenous women, supported by agencies of the United Nations system. In the last 20 years, we have been united and have coordinated our action and shared common combats with the broad and diverse movement for the advancement of women. Yet gaps between indigenous and non-indigenous women persist and their definitive disappearance requires developing specific measures.