



allana

GUIDE FOR THE ACTIVATION OF DISCUSSION
SPACES FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN

25
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

Weaving **TOGETHER**
FOR OUR *Rights*



llll

allana

Guide for the activation of
discussion spaces for
Indigenous Women

2025

Methodology designed by
the Feeling Consultancy



This material is protected under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC) license, which allows distribution, adaptation, and the creation of derivative works in any format, as long as credit is given to FIMI and it is used exclusively **for non-commercial purposes.**

INDEX



INTRODUCTION	04
¿WHY AWANA?	05
AWANA METHODOLOGY	06
◎ The Warp	09
◎ Weaving the Weft	15
◎ Tying and Keeping the Threads	21
25 YEARS OF FIMI	27
MONTHLY THEMES TO COMMEMORATE FIMI'S 25 YEARS	28

INTRODUCTION

As part of the 25th anniversary of the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI), we celebrate a quarter-century of weaving together for the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Women. Throughout this time, we have worked tirelessly to bring visibility to struggles, strengthen capacities, empower leadership, and ensure the full participation of Indigenous Women in decision-making spaces.

This methodology presents our history through the symbolism of weaving, an ancestral metaphor that unites voices, experiences, and visions for the future. Like threads on a loom, each action and contribution help consolidate a collective fabric that highlights the diversity, resilience, and strength of Indigenous Women across seven sociocultural regions.

This journey is not only a tribute to our ancestors and leaders but also an invitation to all communities, organizations, and strategic allies to continue building a future of justice, equity, and reciprocity. The proposed activities are self-managed, open, and flexible, carried out in an emergent and self-organized manner. These

spaces for activating collective knowledge not only strengthen our capacity for joint action but also make this methodology key to fostering such dynamics. Its design is intended to integrate with other planned initiatives, facilitating collective reflection.

Each section of this document is designed to inspire dialogue, drive collective actions, and strengthen the foundations of our political and organizational work. From the concepts that guide our methodology to the dreams that propel us toward the next 25 years, we reaffirm our commitment to Buen Vivir, interculturality, and the defense of the rights of Indigenous Women and their Peoples.

WHY



The term "Awana" comes from the Quechua language and means "to weave." This ancestral practice, present in countless Indigenous cultures, goes beyond the mere creation of textiles; it is a language that connects generations, transmits knowledge, and preserves the memory of peoples. Awana represents the connection between the past and the present, between our ancestors and the Indigenous Women of today who, with steady hands and resilient hearts, continue intertwining the threads of their struggle and identity.

Choosing "Awana" as the name for this methodology is no coincidence. Weaving symbolizes collaboration, solidarity, and collective strength—values that have guided the path of the International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIMI) for the past 25 years. Just as each thread contributes its color and strength to form a unique fabric, this methodology seeks to integrate diverse voices into a framework of rights, justice, and equity. It is a tribute to the women who have woven dreams, struggles, and transformations, and an invitation to continue strengthening this warp of individual and collective rights that leads us toward a dignified and sustainable future.

"Awana" not only reflects our roots but also serves as a declaration of intent: together, we continue weaving—through our differences and similarities—a path of hope and transformation.

Awana **METHODOLOGY**

Awana is a space designed for the activation of collective knowledge, where Indigenous Women come together to discuss fundamental issues affecting their rights, aspirations, and challenges. This approach recognizes the importance of shared knowledge, creating an open and safe environment that fosters the exchange of experiences, reflections, and proposals.

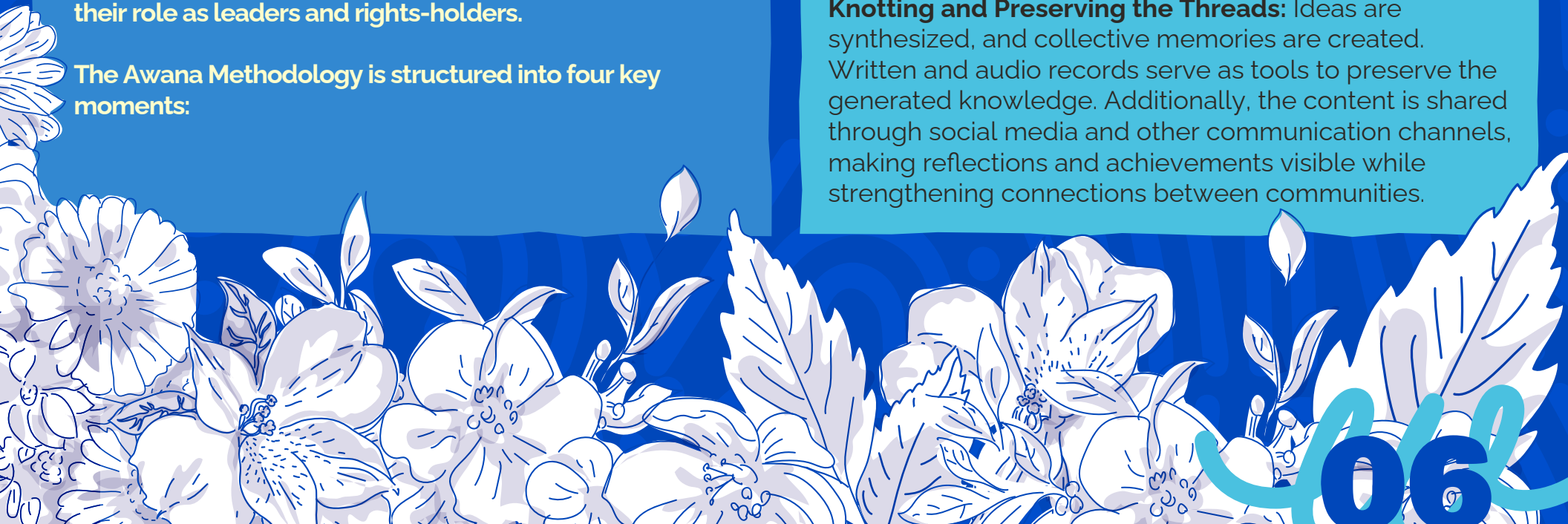
Collective knowledge is central to this methodology because it allows participants to weave together diverse perspectives, strengthening decision-making through a collaborative approach. This model highlights Indigenous Women as protagonists of their own history, reaffirming their role as leaders and rights-holders.

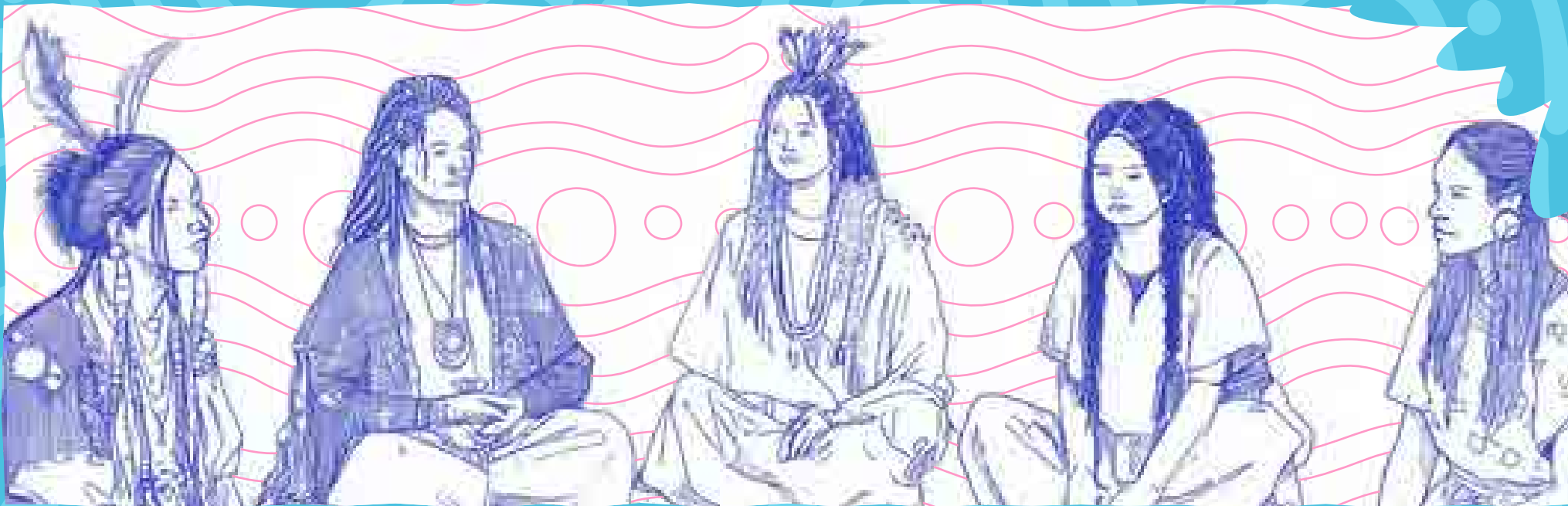
The Awana Methodology is structured into four key moments:

The Warp: The foundation for dialogue is prepared, inviting participants to recognize themselves as essential threads in the collective fabric. This stage establishes an atmosphere of trust and openness to sharing.

Weaving the Weft: Voices, knowledge, and experiences are intertwined. Discussions are enriched through deep reflections, creating a shared fabric that celebrates diversity and strengthens collective vision.

Knotting and Preserving the Threads: Ideas are synthesized, and collective memories are created. Written and audio records serve as tools to preserve the generated knowledge. Additionally, the content is shared through social media and other communication channels, making reflections and achievements visible while strengthening connections between communities.





Through this approach, Indigenous Women weave a shared knowledge that celebrates their achievements, addresses challenges, and builds a collective vision for the future. Awana becomes a symbolic loom where each thread contributes to the fabric of individual and collective rights.

RECOMMENDED DURATION FOR AWANA:

- Minimum: 40 minutes
- Maximum: 1 hour and 15 minutes

IDEAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

5 to 10 people (to facilitate interaction and ensure all voices are heard).

SPACE:

The setting should be welcoming and symbolic. It is recommended to decorate with elements that enhance the significance of the gathering. For example, in an Awana focused on the connection with the Earth, handcrafted textiles can be placed at the center of the circle, surrounded by flowers and colorful fabrics representing the diversity of thoughts and voices.

NECESSARY MATERIALS:

- Skein of yarn (or another symbolic object representing dialogue).
- Audio recorder (to capture reflections and insights).
- Memory Notebook (to record key ideas and testimonies).
- Pens and sheets of paper.
- Decorative elements (fabrics, flowers, and weavings that reinforce symbolism and connection to the theme).

THE WARP

The foundation of dialogue is prepared, invoking a space of trust and mutual recognition.

Invocation of the Space

Explanation of the Objective

Trigger Question

Recording

THE WEFT

Voices, stories, and knowledge intertwine like crossed threads, forming a shared fabric.

The Skein

Weaving Voices

Memory Notebook

Silence and Reflection

THE THREADS

The main ideas are synthesized, collective memories are recorded, and learnings are projected toward future actions.

Final Round

Symbolic Closing

Projection

Sharing Materials

..... The Warp





allana



Practical idea

Organize the space outdoors or in a quiet place, incorporating symbolic elements such as textiles, flowers, candles, or meaningful images for the participants.

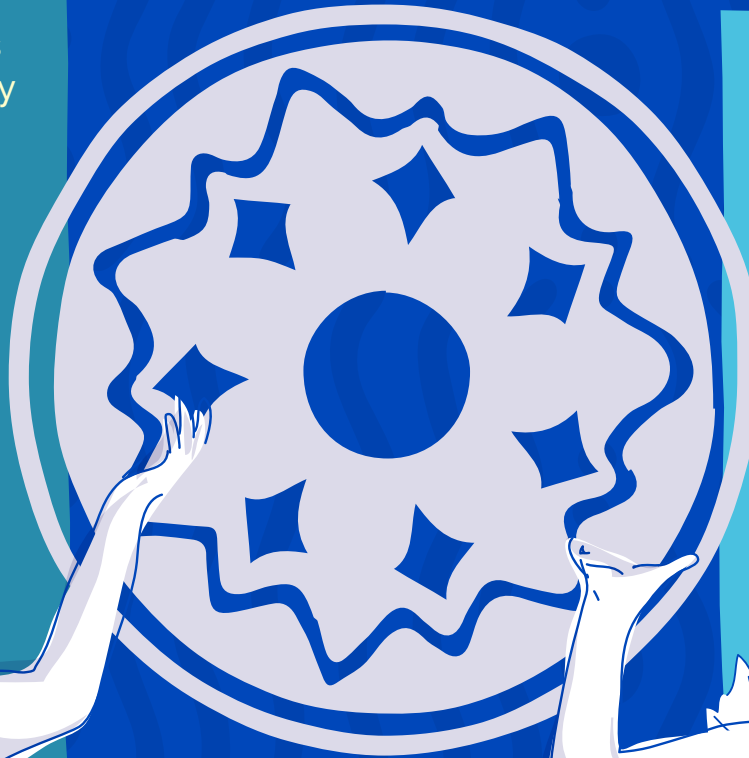
1 | INVOCATION OF THE SPACE:

The facilitator greets the participants, acknowledges the territory, and honors the ancestors, mentally and emotionally preparing the space. A skein of yarn is placed in the center of the circle along with the recorder.

THE WARP

Suggestion

Invite the participants to sit in a circle to facilitate visual and emotional connection among everyone. Use blankets or colorful fabrics that represent the diversity of their cultures.



10

2 | EXPLANATION OF THE OBJECTIVE

Briefly, the topic of the gathering is recalled and its connection to the loom is explained. It is mentioned: "Today we will set the warp: each of us is a thread that gives structure to our conversation."

Practical Idea

Prepare a card or board in advance with the month's topic written in the local language, accompanied by key words related to the theme.

Suggestion

Bring a small loom or a representative weaving piece to show the participants and reinforce the symbolic idea of the gathering.

THE WARP

3 | TRIGGER QUESTION

The facilitator prepares a simple initial question that connects the topic with everyday experiences, creating a conducive environment for the exchange of ideas.

Practical Idea

Organize a brainstorming session in advance on possible questions aligned with the topic and write several options on cards to choose the most appropriate one in the momento.

Sugerencia

Ensure that the question is inclusive and easy for all participants to answer, adapting it to the cultural and linguistic context of the group.





25
YEARS
OF
FIMI

allana



The Warp



The Weft



The Threads

THE WARP

4 | RECORDING

Participants are informed that the audio will be recorded, and they are reminded that they can choose not to be recorded. The "Memory Notebook" is also introduced, where key ideas will be written down.



Practical Idea

Before the session, check that the recorder is in good condition (you can also use your phone) and place the "Memory Notebook" in a visible spot. Ensure you have pens and assign someone to take notes.

Suggestion

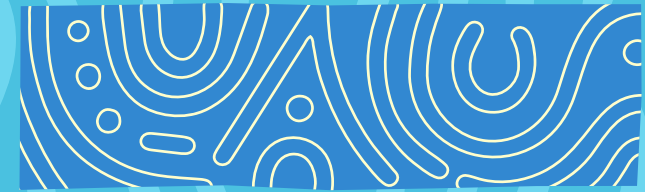
Offer alternatives such as recording only specific parts or inviting participants to write their reflections anonymously if they prefer not to speak.

THE WARP IS THE FOUNDATION.

Without it, the fabric cannot hold. This first moment aligns the threads (participants) under a shared intention.

The West





THE WEFT



1 | THE SKEIN

The round begins. Whoever holds the skein of yarn speaks; the others listen. Participants are encouraged to share anecdotes, reflections, knowledge, and demands related to the topic. The audio recorder is on to capture the flow of the conversation.

Practical idea

Before starting, establish the rules for taking turns to speak, ensuring that everyone knows how to participate.

Suggestion

Keep the recorder in a fixed place or use a microphone to avoid accidental noises. Encourage participants to speak slowly to ensure their ideas are clearly recorded.



allana



THE WEF



2 | WEAVING VOICES

After the first round, the facilitator can introduce a second question or ask for deeper insights on certain points. The goal is to intertwine stories, allowing voices to cross like threads, creating a richer tapestry of meanings.

Practical idea

Prepare a list of follow-up questions in advance to guide the discussion if participation slows down. These questions can include examples or hypothetical situations.

Suggestion

Use a visual aid such as a whiteboard or flip chart to note down key words or recurring themes as the conversation unfolds, helping participants visualize the "tapestry" they are weaving.

THE WEFT

3 | MEMORY NOTEBOOK

As the dialogue unfolds, the designated note-taker records key words, representative phrases, agreements, and tensions. By the end, there will be a written tapestry of the ideas that emerged.

Practical idea

Use colored sheets or thematic dividers in the notebook to organize notes by topics or subtopics, making future reference easier.

Suggestion

Invite participants to contribute by writing key ideas on small pieces of paper that can be added to the notebook at the end of the session, enriching the record with multiple perspectives.

4 | SILENCE AND REFLECTION

Brief pauses can be introduced to allow for contemplation, as if letting the "thread rest" before weaving the next idea. The facilitator uses this time to observe the rhythm, the quality of the exchange, and ensures that everyone who wishes to speak gets their turn.



Practical idea

Schedule specific pauses in the session plan and use these moments for participants to write brief personal reflections that they can share later.

Suggestion

Play soft instrumental music or nature sounds during moments of silence to create a more relaxed and reflective atmosphere.





Each contribution is a horizontal thread that adds color, texture, and strength to the discursive fabric. Audio recordings serve as a living record of this interweaving, while written notes form the structured pattern that reinforces collective memory.

..... The
Threads



THE THREADS

The Warp The Weft The Threads



allana

1 | FINAL ROUND

A final brief round takes place, passing the yarn ball. Each participant may share a final reflection, a word summarizing what they have learned, or a mental image they take from the conversation. Then, the note-taker reads aloud the key words collected in the Memory Notebook, highlighting essential contributions, agreements, challenges, and proposals that emerged. This allows participants to "see" the fabric they have woven together.

Practical Idea

Prepare small cards or pieces of paper for participants to write a word or phrase summarizing their experience. These can be collected and read aloud at the end along with the summary of notes.

Suggestion

Ensure that there is enough time for everyone to participate without rushing and that the summary clearly highlights the main ideas.





The Warp



The Weft



The Threads



FIMI

25
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

allana

THE THREADS

2 | SYMBOLIC CLOSING

The gathering is symbolically "tied" together: the facilitator takes a ball of yarn and makes a small knot, saying: "Today, we have woven these threads of thought together. This knot symbolizes the bond we have created and the continuity of our struggle for rights."

The session ends with gratitude for the shared voices, attentive listening, and collective experience.

Practical Idea

Include a collective gesture, such as leaving a piece of thread or yarn in a common space as a symbol of the connection among all participants. This can be revisited in the next session.

Suggestion

Provide scissors and materials for those who wish to create their own bracelet at the end of the session, reinforcing the symbolism of continuity and commitment.



THE THREADS

Practical idea

Provide a small calendar or an informational sheet with the dates and topics of upcoming gatherings to help with organization.

Suggestion

When announcing the next topic, briefly connect it to the current discussion, showing how the dialogue will continue to evolve.

3 | PROJECTION

The topic for the next Awana is mentioned, and participants are invited to return, reminding them that their voice is an essential part of this great tapestry being woven month by month.



The Warp

The Weft

The Threads

THE THREADS

4 | SHARING MATERIAL

All collected materials should be shared in an organized manner. The recorded audio can serve as input for the production of a podcast that reflects the voices and reflections of the participants. The Memories Notebook can be used to document learnings and generate written materials for dissemination or future advocacy activities.

Practical idea

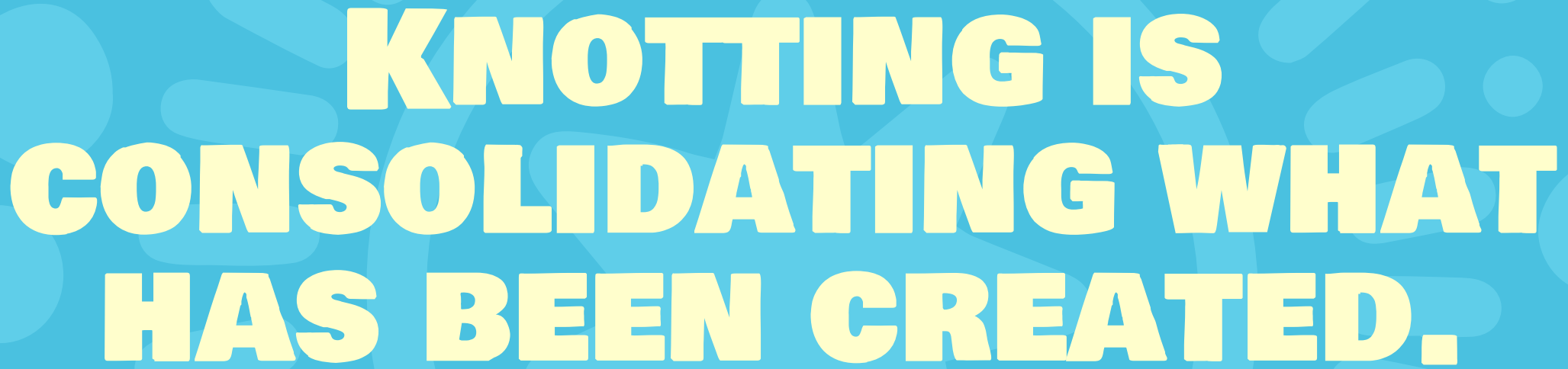
Assign a person responsible for documenting all materials, digitizing the Memories Notebook content, and editing the audio to ensure accessibility.

Suggestion

Inform participants how and where the material will be shared, keeping them engaged in the dissemination process.

Materials can be sent to awana@iiwf.org to continue weaving knowledge together and amplifying our voices.

Learn more at: <https://fimi-iiwf.org/awana>



At the end, the conceptual fabric (voices, memories, aspirations) is preserved in the audio, the notes, and in the hearts of the participants. This moment brings the gathering to a close but leaves the loom ready to continue growing in the next session.

25 Years of FIMI

The International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) is a global mechanism that brings together Indigenous Women from seven sociocultural regions: Africa, Asia, the Arctic, the Pacific, North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Its mission is to strengthen their individual and collective rights. Since its founding, FIMI has worked tirelessly to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Women at all levels of decision-making, promoting their leadership and amplifying their demands and achievements.

For 25 years, FIMI has served as a bridge, connecting local struggles with global platforms, driving political advocacy, capacity-building, economic empowerment, and leadership development. This anniversary is not only a moment to celebrate the journey so far but also an opportunity to envision the years ahead through a collective perspective—one strengthened by diversity, resilience, and the unwavering commitment of Indigenous Women.

Under the theme "Weaving Together for Our Rights" FIMI reaffirms its commitment to justice, equity, interculturality, and Buen Vivir. This milestone is an invitation to renew alliances, strengthen networks, and continue building a sustainable and just future, where the voices and knowledge of Indigenous Women are at the heart of transformative change.

To learn more about our history, initiatives, and upcoming activities, visit our website:
www.fimi-iiwf.org.

MONTHLY THEMES TO COMMEMORATE FIMI'S 25 YEARS

As part of the commemoration of FIMI's 25th anniversary, the monthly themes serve as a key tool for collective reflection, raising awareness of our struggles, and strengthening the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Women. Using the Awana Methodology, each month will focus on a significant theme that connects our histories, demands, and dreams, reinforcing the global fabric we have woven together throughout this journey.

These monthly gatherings create a space to activate collective knowledge, promote dialogue between communities, and project actions toward a just, sustainable, and equal future. The selected themes honor our ancestors, recognize the achievements of the movement, and propose strategies to strengthen our networks and alliances.

Below are the monthly themes along with guiding questions that will steer the discussions in each session.



JANUARY

Welcome to a Year of Commemoration and Struggle!

This year, we celebrate 25 years of resistance, achievements, and collective work by Indigenous Women. Each month, we will explore a key theme to highlight our progress and continue strengthening our global network.

FEBRUARY

Honoring the Trailblazers Our Ancestors

Who has inspired us to fight both individually and collectively?

What lessons from our ancestors do we continue to apply in our current struggles?

MARCH

Aspirations and Demands for a Sustainable and Equal Future

What are our aspirations and demands for a sustainable and equal future?

What concrete actions can we take to achieve these goals?

APRIL

Achievements of the Indigenous Women's Movement in the Last 30 Years

What has the Indigenous Women's Movement achieved since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 30 years ago?

How do these achievements relate to CEDAW General Recommendation 39?

MAY

Weaving Rights

How do Indigenous Women implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in their communities and at the national level?

What challenges do we face in applying these rights in our communities?

JUNE

Strengthening Ties with Strategic Allies and the Donor Community

Building networks: How do we create strong connections between organizations and networks?

How do regional networks strengthen local organizations?

What are the main challenges we face?



JULY

Strengthening Strategic Alliances

How can we develop strategic alliances that empower both Indigenous Women and donors, academia, and other key allies to achieve common goals?

What successful experiences can we share about these collaborations?



AUGUST

Voices with Memory

Highlighting the history of Indigenous Women in their different struggles.

What have we achieved collectively?

How can we preserve and pass down these stories to future generations?



SEPTEMBER

Resilience of Indigenous Women

Refer to our Global Study on the situation of Indigenous Women in the framework of Beijing +30.

What parallels can we find between our past and present struggles?

How can we learn from the resilience of our elders to face current challenges?



OCTOBER

Healing and Well-being

What ancestral teachings can guide us toward self-care?

How do we promote collective self-care as an act of resistance and solidarity that strengthens our struggles?



NOVEMBER

Justice and Eradication of Violence

What are the main forms of violence Indigenous Women face?

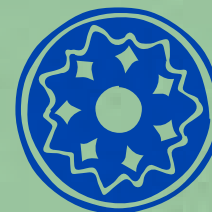
What strategies have we developed to prevent, combat, and eradicate violence in our communities?



DECEMBER

End of Year

Reflection Gathering Experiences and Gratitude





WEAVING *Together* FOR OUR RIGHTS

To conclude this journey through reflections, dynamics, and proposed themes, we reaffirm the collective commitment of Indigenous Women to continue weaving together for the defense of our individual and collective rights.

This document not only commemorates the 25th anniversary of the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) but also serves as a call to action to strengthen our networks, make

our struggles visible, and build a sustainable, just, and equitable future.

Each thread in this global tapestry represents the voices, histories, and dreams of those who came before us and those who will carry this legacy forward. With the Awana Methodology as our guide, we invite communities, organizations, and strategic allies to join this collective construction, recognizing that our

strength lies in diversity, resilience, and solidarity.

Together, we have woven the first 25 years of FIMI; together, we will continue threading a future where our demands and visions are a global priority. Let's keep weaving for the rights of Indigenous Women!

For more information and to stay connected with our work, visit our website: www.fimi-iiwf.org and follow us on our social media channels.



FIMI-IIWF



@FIMI_IIWF



@fimi_iiwf



FIMI - Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas



allana

GUIDE FOR THE ACTIVATION OF DISCUSSION
SPACES FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN

25
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY