



Political Declaration to the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)



International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) September 2024 www.fimi-iiwf.org





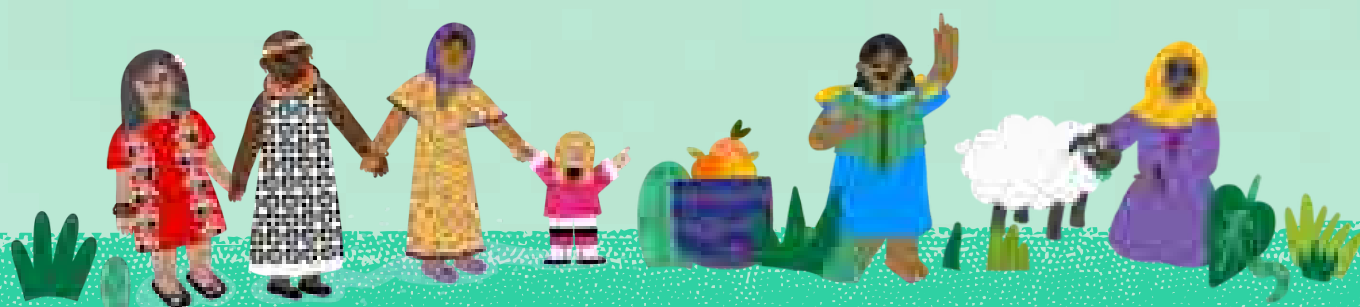
Introduction

Since adopting the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, indigenous women have defended our individual and collective rights. Our struggle has encompassed multiple dimensions, from the eradication of violence to the protection of our ancestral lands and the preservation of our cultures and worldviews. Despite international recognitions and CSW resolutions underlining our crucial role in the eradication of poverty and violence, we continue to face structural challenges that perpetuate our marginalization. Historically, Indigenous women have been the guardians of our traditions and cultures, vital in passing knowledge and values to future generations. However, we have often been excluded from decision-making spaces that affect our lives and communities. The lack of representation in political and economic spaces and processes has limited our ability to influence policies that directly affect us in our countries and on the regional and global stage.



Condemning structural injustices

In recent years, FIMI has been denouncing violations of our rights as indigenous women from a firm and belligerent stance in denouncing the structural injustices that affect us. The aggressive appropriation of our lands and resources, the militarization of our territories, and forced displacement are practices that continue to violate our rights in various countries around the world. The criminalization of social protest, gender-specific attacks, and racist discrimination, as well as exploitation and human trafficking, aggravate our situation. These injustices not only impoverish us but also seriously affect our well-being and that of our communities. Violence of different kinds in our family lives and communities is not an isolated phenomenon; it reflects more comprehensive systems of oppression and inequality. Indigenous women are frequently subjected to physical, sexual, and psychological violence, exacerbated by impunity and the lack of adequate protection mechanisms and culturally relevant services. The militarization of our territories has often led to increased violence and repression, limiting our ability to organize and defend our rights. As Indigenous women, we face intersectional discrimination that accumulates disadvantages based on gender, ethnicity, and class, exacerbating our exclusion and vulnerability, especially in rural areas. This reality is aggravated by the invisibility of our struggles and the lack of access to justice, perpetuating a cycle of violence and exploitation. We, therefore, emphasize that without our full participation and empowerment, it is impossible to achieve truly inclusive and sustainable development, and these violations jeopardize the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and show setbacks to our rights in the run-up to Beijing+30. The intersectionality of our struggles means that solutions must be equally complex and multifaceted. We cannot address poverty without considering the gender and ethnic dimensions that directly affect us. Furthermore, access to basic services such as education, health, and justice is fundamental to breaking the cycle of poverty and violence.



Our demands and call for action



From FIMI, we urgently call on the international community, UN member states, and civil society to take concrete and effective action to protect the rights of indigenous women.

We demand:

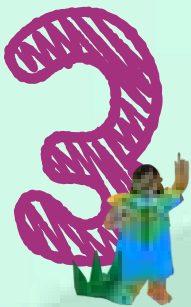


Visibility of Indigenous Peoples

The collection and publication of official disaggregated data and statistics that reflect the inequalities that affect us. This data is essential for formulating effective and relevant public policies in our territories.

Prevention and punishment of violence

We call for the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and punishment of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls, including those justified in the name of tradition or perpetrated during armed conflict. States must adopt comprehensive approaches that include educating and raising awareness of communities about gender-based violence.



Access to Justice

We demand effective access to justice, both in state and indigenous judicial institutions, and the eradication of impunity in cases of violence and discrimination. This includes training judges and officials on the rights of Indigenous women and implementing accessible complaint mechanisms.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

We demand access to sexual and reproductive health and education for all indigenous women, respecting and valuing our traditional knowledge and health practices. Maternal mortality and adolescent pregnancy are critical issues that must be urgently addressed, especially in our territories.

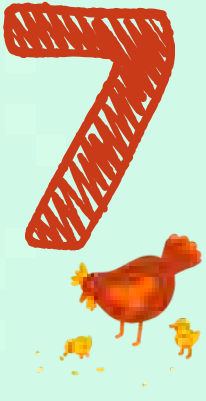


Intercultural and Bilingual Education

We demand quality education that articulates our traditional knowledge with global learning strategies, including access to new technologies. Education must be a bridge to empowerment and active participation in society.

Economic and Technological Empowerment

We demand access to economic and financial resources, ownership of assets and ancestral lands, and strengthening Indigenous women's organizations. The creation of cooperatives and support networks can be a powerful tool to foster economic empowerment and access to technology and associated benefits.

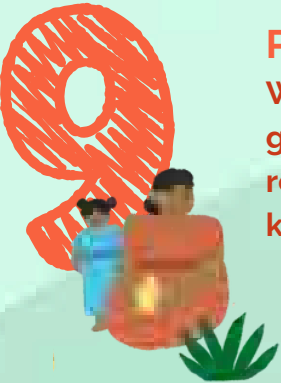


Protection of Indigenous Territories

We demand the protection of our territories as critical areas for social, cultural, and ecological life. We recognize that access to and control of lands, territories, and resources are fundamental to our empowerment and realizing the SDGs. It is essential that our territorial rights are respected and that we are included in decision-making on the use of our natural resources.

Political Advancement and Leadership

We demand strengthening our power and leadership at all levels and reforming constitutions, electoral laws, and political parties to ensure a real and inclusive democracy. Political representation is crucial to ensure that our voices are heard.



Participation in the 2030 Agenda

We call for the full and effective participation of indigenous women, girls, and youth in implementing the 2030 Agenda and national strategies related to biodiversity and climate change. Our ancestral knowledge is key to addressing today's environmental challenges.



Conclusions

On this historic occasion, we strongly demand our right to a dignified space in decision-making, not only as beneficiaries of policies but as crucial actors in building a more just and equitable world. **Indigenous women** have resisted for centuries, and we are still here, raising our voices for our communities, our DRAFT 16/8/2024 daughters, and the future of humanity. **Our struggle** is not only for our survival but for the survival of **Mother Earth**, for a future where **diversity, justice, and peace** prevail. Today, we unite in a collective cry that resonates from the Andes to the Amazon, from the Arctic to the South Pacific Ocean. We draw inspiration from the words of global indigenous leaders who have blazed trails and sown seeds of hope everywhere. We remind ourselves that our roots run deep, and our cultures are rich in ancient wisdom. Through the interconnectedness of our struggles, we reaffirm that our well being is intrinsically linked to our territories' health and our traditions' protection. May this CSW69 Commission mark a turning point where the inclusion of Indigenous women becomes a tangible reality. Only when the most marginalized among us are truly free can we claim to have achieved true equality. History has taught us that real change is only possible when all voices are heard and valued. International institutions and states must recognize our leadership and provide us with the support necessary for our proposals to be implemented. Therefore, we call for collective action and solidarity to build a future and a present where all women, especially indigenous women, can **prosper and live with dignity and good living**. We urge the international community to listen to our demands and work together to eradicate the injustices we face. We reiterate that our struggles are interdependent; in fighting for our rights, we also fight for social justice, respect for cultural diversity, and the protection of the environment. With determination and hope, we affirm that empowering Indigenous women is essential to building just and sustainable societies. Together, we are the force that can transform the world. We pledge to keep raising our voices, fighting, and dreaming of a future where our daughters and generations to come can **live in a world where equity and justice are the norm, not the exception**.

Together, we are stronger!

