



United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the fifth session (15-26 May 2006)

**Recommendations Specifically Pertaining to
Indigenous Women and the Girl Child, adopted
by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
at its Fifth Session:**

Recommendations adopted under the Special theme: the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals

Indigenous women

44. The Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,¹ included indigenous women among those who had encountered particular barriers to full equality and advancement, both as women and as members of their communities. The review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action acknowledged that indigenous women continued to face many obstacles and challenges, which included multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, race and ethnicity, as well as the impact of globalization and environmental degradation.

45. Redefining the Millennium Development Goals provides an opportunity to incorporate into the Goals the concerns of indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women. The Goals offer a strategic framework within which to fully integrate the goals of the Platform for Action, which provides an important human rights-based approach to the development agenda for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, including indigenous women.

46. Owing to the cross-cutting nature of gender equality, it is also critical that gender perspectives be fully integrated into the implementation and monitoring of all the other objectives associated with the United Nations Millennium Declaration² and the Millennium Development Goals.

47. The Permanent Forum recommends that appropriate United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as States, take immediate action to review and monitor the situation of indigenous women and provide comprehensive reports on violence against indigenous women and girls, particularly sexual violence and violence in the context of armed conflict. Indigenous women must be full participants in this process.

48. The Permanent Forum, reaffirming the recommendations on health made at its first, second and third sessions, further recommends that all relevant United Nations entities, especially WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNFPA, as well as regional health organizations and Governments, fully incorporate a cultural perspective into health policies, programmes and reproductive health services aimed at providing indigenous women with quality health care, including emergency obstetric care, voluntary family planning and

¹ □ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

² □ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

skilled attendance at birth. In the latter context, the roles of traditional midwives should be re-evaluated and expanded so that they may assist indigenous women during their reproductive health processes and act as cultural brokers between health systems and the indigenous communities' values and world views.³

49. States are urged to allocate budgets in order to implement quality services to reduce maternal mortality and ensure indigenous women's access to reproductive health services.

50. The Permanent Forum welcomes the initiative of IOM to establish a coordination mechanism for combating the trafficking of indigenous women and girls.

51. United Nations special procedures are an essential tool for monitoring the implementation of priority human rights issues. The Permanent Forum recommends that the special procedures with a mandate on gender issues (carried out by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children) brief the Permanent Forum each year during its annual session on the situation of indigenous women.

52. The Permanent Forum urges States to intensify efforts at the national level to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women, peace and security, including through national action plans that pay special attention to indigenous women.

53. The Permanent Forum recommends that States foster sensitivity towards the cultures of indigenous migrants and ensure that all cultural and customary practices that negatively affect the rights of indigenous women (for example, female genital mutilation) are eliminated, including through specific legislation.

54. United Nations organizations and States should pay special attention to the specific situation and needs of elderly indigenous women.

55. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Secretary-General, in his report on the study of violence against women, address the particular situation of indigenous women and girls whose suffering is based not only on gender but also on ethnicity and culture.

56. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women report to it on the status of the implementation of resolution 49/7 entitled "Indigenous women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action"⁴ adopted by the Commission on 11 March 2005.

³ □ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23 (E/2004/43)*, chap. I, para. 89.

⁴ □ *Ibid.*, 2005, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2005/27)*, chap. I, sect. D.