

14th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

April 20th to May 1st 2015
United Nations Headquarters

**We are determined not to be left behind:
Indigenous Women and the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

Global Leadership School of Indigenous Women

Intervention on Agenda Items 6 and 3 (b)

Thursdays, 23 April 2015

Distinguished members of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, States, United Nations Agencies, indigenous leaders, ladies and gentlemen,

We, indigenous women members of the Global Leadership School of Indigenous Women of the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI), come from Africa, the Arctic, Asia, Latin America, North America and the Pacific.

Twenty years ago, in Beijing, China, the indigenous women have strongly demanded that their rights to development in consonance with their right to self-determination be recognized and respected¹. Twenty years after, little is achieved in the development of indigenous women and their communities due to the continuing acts of discrimination as evidenced by a number of human rights violations. Neglect, exclusion and lack of appropriate basic services left the indigenous women and girls behind suffering from illiteracy, treatable illness and diseases and poverty. Policies of development are designed and implemented without their full and effective participation which undermined their right to free, prior and informed consent. Lack of institutional participation of indigenous women in policy making and implementation put indigenous women systematically behind. Mines, dams, plantations, military reservations, resettlement, transportation highways, ecotourism and many more have caused the unceasing exploitation and expropriation of their land, territories and natural resources and have a negative impact in indigenous women's lives. Such projects have also brought numerous elements which destroyed community cohesion and peace hugely affecting indigenous women. New world views and values are introduced which changed the lifestyles of communities and caused further poverty.

In this context, violence against indigenous women and girls increased and access to justice is very limited. Further, the indigenous women experience the impacts and looming threats of climate change including the negative outcomes of inappropriate policies and mechanisms pursued to address the climate crises.

¹ Beijing Declaration of Indigenous Women.

The prevailing development paradigms have harmed the indigenous women and their communities. This pathway must come to an end. Principles of human rights and selfless reciprocity are the building blocks of a sustainable development, which can usher in a new pathway for indigenous women and their communities. Armed with their knowledge systems and less carbon ways of living, indigenous women can contribute to sustainable development for themselves and for the next generations.

To ensure that indigenous women are not left behind in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we call the Permanent Forum to recommend:

1. Recognition of indigenous peoples including indigenous women and girls as distinct group with collective and distinct identities and cultures and not to be subsumed among the vulnerable groups;
2. Data disaggregation to address specific concerns of indigenous women and girls including indigenous children;
3. Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and in particular the indigenous women in all the processes at various levels of forging the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
4. Allocation of resources to indigenous women and their organizations to effectively participate in the Post 2015 processes such as dedicated funds;
5. Concrete and appropriate actions to realize the commitment underlined in paragraph 37 of the WCIP Outcome Document “*to giving due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda*”; and
6. Inclusion of relevant cultural indicators of well-being, sustainable development, poverty including violence against indigenous women and girls identified and developed with indigenous peoples and indigenous women to reflect the particularities of their realities.

Thank you for your attention.

Statement is presented by Ms Alice Nyamihanda of the United Organization for Batwa Development in Uganda.

This statement is being indorsed by

1. Faith Foundation, Shillong, Meghalaya, Northeast India
2. Asian Indigenous Women’s Network
3. Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
4. United Organization for Batwa Development in Uganda
5. Tebtebba Foundation