

Commission on the Status of Women- 59th session
9 to 20 March 2015, United Nations, New York

Side Event title: “Indigenous women and Beijing + 20”

Organizers: UNWOMEN, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous (SPFII/DSPD/DESA); and the International Indigenous Women’s Forum (FIMI)

Target audience: Member States, UN entities, Organizations including: Indigenous Women’s Organizations, Non-governmental organizations, Civil Society and Community Based Organizations; and Donor Institutions and partners.

Speakers:

- UNWomen representative
- Ms. Chandra Roy-Henriksen, Chief, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Member States representative
- Indigenous Women leader

CSW Theme: The main focus of this year’s CSW will be on the 20 years review of progress of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Side Event Theme: UN Women, the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII) and the International Forum on Indigenous Women (FIMI) take the occasion of the Beijing +20 review to celebrate the achievements of indigenous women and girls, and to highlight persisting obstacles to the full realization of their rights. Since its first session, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has paid special attention to indigenous women, including by focusing its third session on the issue. SPFII will present an overview of achievements made by indigenous women since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, both at the national and international levels. In particular, the analysis is focused on relevant activities included in the national review reports submitted by States to the 59th CSW session within the areas of education and capacity building; indigenous women and health; violence against indigenous women and access to justice; indigenous women in power and decision making; the indigenous girl-child; indigenous women and poverty; and indigenous women and statistics. FIMI and other indigenous women organizations successfully advocated for the inclusion of Indigenous Women’s priorities at international level, and calls for concerted efforts at addressing the persisting violence, poverty, discrimination, racism, limited access to services and productive resources, and for opportunities to participate in decision making at all levels as priority concerns of indigenous women. The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples¹ that took place at the UN headquarters on 22 and 23 September 2014 have a strong participation of indigenous women. The conference resulted in a concise, action-oriented Outcome Document,² refers to indigenous women in paragraphs 10, 17, 18, and 19.

¹ A/RES/65/198

² A/RES/69/2

UN Women, SPFII and FIMI believe that a side event during CSW 59 will serve as a catalyst for the implementation of indigenous women's priorities within the framework of the outcomes the Beijing +20 review.

- **General objective**

Identify and discuss achievements and pending challenges on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with regards to the Indigenous women and girls around the world.

- **Specific objectives**

1. Present the results of the Report: "Beijing +20 and beyond: a framework to advance indigenous women's issues" prepared by the SPFII
2. Reflect through an indigenous women's perspective on achievements and challenges still pending in various regions on the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action.
3. Raise awareness on indigenous women's priorities and identify ways for implementation.

- **Time and Venue**

TBC