

STRATEGY FOR INCLUSION AND VISIBILITY OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN



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LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE SECTION

UN WOMEN

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	6	4.4 Know about the indigenous peoples in your region	43
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7	4.5 UNPFII recommendations to UN Women	48
Context	7	OTHER REFERENCES	50
About this strategy	7		
UN Women's current and future engagement	7		
1 INTRODUCTION	9	BOXES	
A. Background	10	1 Six elements of the UN-SWAP	8
B. The need for a strategy	10	2 An inexhaustive list of other organizations which have institutional policies or guidelines on indigenous peoples in place	11
C. Methodology	11	3 Objective and subjective criteria used in determining indigenous persons	15
D. Structure and content	11	4 The situation of indigenous women of Nepal	17
2 THE BROADER CONTEXTS OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S LIVES	13	5 Impacts of the work of transnational organizations on indigenous women	18
A. The concepts of collective rights and indigenous peoples	14	6 Milestones in the recognition of indigenous women's rights at CSW	19
B. The intersection between indigenous and minority rights	15	7 Specific commitments to indigenous women in the WCIP outcome document	19
C. Demographics	16	8 Indigenous women in REDD+	20
D. Challenges confronting indigenous women	16	9 The WCIP outcome document on the UN-SWAP	23
3 PRINCIPLES, PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES	21	10 Examples of intercultural approaches	29
A. Overview	22	A1 Highlights of the UN Women Regional Indigenous Women Programme (2009-2012)	32
B. Principles of engagement	22	A2 Indigenous women's houses in Mexico	34
C. Implementation of the UN-SWAP	23	A3 CEDAW Committee's recommendations with regards to indigenous women	36
D. Details of engagement	24	A4 Examples of UNPFII recommendations on indigenous women to the UN System	37
4 APPENDICES	31	A5 EMRIP key recommendations on indigenous women and access to justice	38
4.1 Overview of UN Women's current engagement	32		
4.2 Lima Declaration	40		
4.3 A ten-point checklist for planning at the country level	42		

ACRONYMS

AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
EMRIP	Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
FGE	Fund for Gender Equality
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
IASG	Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples Issues
ILO	International Labour Organization
IWGIA	International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UN-SWAP	United Nations System-wide Action Plan
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WCIP	World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Context

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND is a core pillar of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a programming principle of the United Nations (UN) System.¹

The global review of 20 years of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action reveals that indigenous women across the world face disproportionate levels of discrimination, exclusion and violence.² Ensuring that no indigenous woman is left behind as beneficiaries and actors of development is therefore integral to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Indigenous women enjoy the collective rights afforded to indigenous peoples under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) of 2007 and the International Labour Organization Convention No.169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of 1989. They are also protected as individuals by all other human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

By calling for the economic, social and political empowerment of all indigenous women and the elimination of all forms of violence against them, the outcomes of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) of 2014 presents a renewed framework for promoting the rights of indigenous women within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indigenous women's demands for "Inclusion and visibility" in development were clearly brought to play through a WCIP and Post-2015 agenda preparatory meeting of 2013 (see the Lima Declaration in Appendix 4.2).

1 United Nations Development Group. 2016. Interim United Nations Development Assistance Framework Guidance. Available at: <http://www.undg.org>

2 United Nations. Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Report of the Secretary-General. E/CN.6/2015/3.

About this strategy

This strategy crystalizes UN Women's long-standing commitment to indigenous women. It serves as the organization's first official frame of reference for bringing UN Women's programming to scale in a coherent and consistent manner across the organization.

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) formulates recommendations to the United Nations (UN) System on ways and means of addressing specific issues of concern to indigenous peoples. Since its creation in 2000, it has called upon UN agencies, funds and programmes to formulate policies and operational tools for implementing the rights of indigenous peoples. In this context, during its 13th Session of 2014, the UNPFII issued a recommendation to UN Women to produce an organizational framework of action to guide UN Women's work on indigenous issues.³

This recommendation is consistent with UN Women's vision of contributing to a transformational agenda for indigenous women.

UN Women's current and future engagement

Building on its experiences in programming with and for indigenous women, UN Women's future work will be guided by the six elements of the United Nations Secretary-General's System-wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN-SWAP), developed in response to an outcome recommendation of the WCIP (Box 1).⁴

3 Economic and Social Council. "Permanent forum on indigenous issues: Report on the 13th session". E/2014/43-E/C.19/2014/11. Para 35.

4 United Nations. 2016. "System-wide Action Plan on the rights of indigenous peoples". United Nations. New York.

BOX 1

Six elements of the UN-SWAP

1. Raise awareness on the UNDRIP
2. Support the implementation of UNDRIP, particularly at the country level
3. Support the realization of indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
4. Conduct a mapping of existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources within the UN System, International Financial Institutions, and Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) members for the effective implementation of the UNDRIP
5. Develop capacities of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel
6. Advance the participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes.

This strategy reflects priorities of the UN-SWAP, as well as those that have been identified by indigenous women themselves. Indigenous women's priorities are reflected in a number of milestone frameworks, such as the Lima Declaration, WCIP outcomes, UNPFII recommendations and various sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The Lima outcomes include indigenous women's demands for the protection of their ancestral lands and territories from the harmful effects of extractive industries and the impacts of climate change; full recognition of their traditional knowledge of sustainable development

practices; respect for indigenous justice systems; protection from violence; and their meaningful participation in conflict prevention, peace, security and humanitarian action.

A four-part approach—consisting of (1) increasing internal and external capacity, (2) strengthening accountability, (3) enhancing partnerships, and (4) mainstreaming indigenous women's issues into existing programmes and developing specific programmes for indigenous women—is proposed for implementing the UN-SWAP.

The UN-SWAP affords UN Women with a unique opportunity to work with the rest of the UN System to “deliver as one” on indigenous issues at global, regional and country levels.

UN Women's work on indigenous issues is undertaken in close partnership with the UN System, particularly the IASG, established in 2002 to support and promote the mandate of the UNPFII. UN Women also continues to strengthen its engagement with indigenous women through its civil society advisory groups at global, regional and country levels. It is also committed to supporting the work of the three UN mandates on indigenous issues: UNPFII, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

At the country level, UN Women will continue to support transformative initiatives for indigenous women in partnership with UN country teams, governments and civil society organizations (CSOs).

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