

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Twenty-fourth session
New York, 21 April – 2 May 2025

The status of Indigenous women and their role in the 30-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Conference Room Paper

The present conference room paper provides information on the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as it relates to the Indigenous women for the period 2020 to 2025, which marks the thirtieth anniversary of its adoption. The paper highlights the achievements, challenges and future priorities of Indigenous women in securing their rights. The paper also highlights the substantive input of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in promoting and advancing the rights of Indigenous women within global agendas, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Finally, a summary is provided compiling the national-level review reports prepared by Member States for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission of the Status of Women.

I. Introduction

1. There are an estimated 476.6 million Indigenous Peoples globally, of whom more than half (238.4 million) are Indigenous women.¹ Indigenous women are vital to their communities, as well as broader society, as they are transmitters of With 30 years having passed since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and 25 years since the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on gender equality, Indigenous women have led the advocacy to advance their rights. Whilst progress has occurred, Indigenous women continue to be impacted by the non-fulfilment of their human rights, resulting in disadvantage across many aspects of their lives.

2. More than ever, women's rights globally are under attack, as are the rights of Indigenous Peoples, with this intersectionality of politics impacting the very existence and rights of Indigenous women and girls. Nevertheless, Indigenous women and girls continue to advocate, calling upon Member States to fulfil international commitments made on gender equality and its mainstreaming into all development policies and programmes at all levels, however with specific reference to themselves.

3. Two previous notes by the Secretariat have provided an overview of achievements and progress since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The note by the Secretariat on the twenty-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action² provides an overview of the achievements made by Indigenous women since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, at both the national and international levels, up to 2014. The note by the Secretariat³ on the 25th anniversary of the Declaration's adoption provides information on the progress made in its implementation as it relates to Indigenous women from 2015 to 2020.

4. The current conference room paper aims to provide an update on the progress made in relation to Indigenous women and girls since the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action three decades ago and since the previous review. The note will elaborate on the challenges and barriers to this progress, to achieve the rights that meet the unique needs of Indigenous women and girls.

5. This paper is also focused on key areas within global agendas for the period 2020 to 2025 in which the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in its recommendations, promotes the rights of Indigenous women, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

6. The paper also provides a brief analysis of how intergovernmental bodies and mechanisms, such as the Permanent Forum, the Commission on the Status of Women, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the General Assembly have advanced the rights of Indigenous women and girls.

7. Further, the paper provides an analysis of national-level reviews submitted by States in preparation of the Commission on Status of Women.

¹ International Labour Organization (ILO), *Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169: Towards an Inclusive, Sustainable and Just Future* (Geneva, 2019), p. 13; and Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, vol. 5, *Rights to Lands, Territories and Resources* (United Nations publication, 2021), p. 119.

² E/C.19/2015/2 *Twenty-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and beyond: a framework to advance indigenous women's issues*: Note by the Secretariat.

³ E/C.19/2020/8 *Indigenous women and their role in the 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*: Note by the Secretariat.

II. Achievements since 202: Action and Developments at the International Level

A. Global agendas and Indigenous women

8. The following provides a snapshot of some of the achievements in global agendas related to Indigenous women, for the period 2020 to 2025.

9. In 2022, Indigenous women's participation in COP27 was critical in addressing the intersection of climate change and gender equality. Indigenous women contributed to discussions on climate adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage, particularly in regard to biodiversity preservation and the role of Indigenous knowledge in combating climate change.

10. In 2022, Indigenous women played an important role in shaping the Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity . They advocated for the recognition of Indigenous women's roles in biodiversity conservation, traditional knowledge, and sustainable resource management, and worked to ensure that the framework addressed the rights and leadership of Indigenous women in protecting biodiversity.

11. At the High-Level Political Forum in 2023, Indigenous women were integral in discussions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. Their advocacy focused on ensuring that Indigenous women's needs and priorities, such as healthcare access, education, and climate justice, were adequately addressed in global development agendas.

12. Indigenous women's voices were included in discussions at the UN Water Conference in March 2023. Their participation supported highlight the importance of Indigenous knowledge and practices in water conservation and management, advocating for the protection of water resources as essential to the well-being of both Indigenous women and their communities.

13. At the World Summit on the Information Society Forum in 2023, Indigenous women were involved in discussions on information and communication technologies, emphasizing how these technologies can be used to empower Indigenous women, preserve cultural heritage, and improve access to education and healthcare. Their participation focused on ensuring that the digital divide does not hinder Indigenous women's access to critical resources.

14. In 2023, Indigenous women were involved in discussions at the Global Forum on Migration and Development, contributing to the dialogue on the specific challenges faced by Indigenous migrant women, including issues such as labour rights, discrimination, and protection from exploitation. Their participation helped to ensure that the voices of Indigenous women were included in global migration discussions.

15. In 2025, Indigenous women actively participated in discussions on biodiversity conservation and climate change at COP16 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16). They advocated for the recognition of their traditional ecological knowledge and leadership in sustainable resource management. Indigenous women pushed for stronger commitments to ensure their rights, representation, and leadership in biodiversity decision-making processes, emphasizing the importance of gender equality and the protection of Indigenous Peoples in the global biodiversity agenda.

B. Intergovernmental mechanisms and Indigenous women

Permanent Forum

16. The Permanent Forum continues to serve as a critical platform to amplify the voices of Indigenous women and provide recommendations thereon. The rights of Indigenous women and girls continue to be a key agenda item mainstreamed throughout all sessions of the Forum.

17. In response to calls from Indigenous women from across the world, the Permanent Forum has adopted numerous recommendations containing direct references to Indigenous women and girls, calling for tangible action and accountability of Members States, the UN System and civil society, in relation to their human rights, culture, health, the environment, development, political participation and stopping violence against Indigenous women and girls. For example, the Permanent Forum has adopted several recommendations since 2004, to establish a specific framework addressing the unique challenges of Indigenous women in relation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination. This advocacy by the Permanent Forum contributed to the culmination of the General Recommendation 39.

18. As recommended by the Permanent Forum, in 2024, UN DESA , convened the Expert Group Meeting on the theme “The rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the context of critical minerals”.⁴ Indigenous Experts that included Indigenous women, participated in the meeting, with each session including a focus on Indigenous women in the context of the theme. The Report also makes specific recommendations relating to Indigenous women including in relation to the disproportionate impact of crimes against the environment on Indigenous women and the devastating health implications of critical mineral extraction on Indigenous women including to their reproductive health.

19. In light of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and as part of the Permanent Forum’s strong and ongoing commitment to Indigenous women and girls, the 24th Session dedicates its newly-established dialogue to this critical issue. A special session takes place as part of the Interregional, intergenerational and global dialogue on the Rights of Indigenous Women. This features a high-level dialogue with the participation of Indigenous women parliamentarians, leaders, elders, youth and human rights defenders—highlighting their voices, experiences, and contributions.

Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

20. The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has exercised the mandate, to also report on the situation of Indigenous women across the world.

21. In the past five years, this has included a dedicated thematic report titled, Indigenous women and the development, application, preservation and transmission of scientific and technical knowledge.⁵ This report, focused on the role of Indigenous women as scientific and technical knowledge keepers in the context of international human rights law, identified the threats and intersecting challenges that they face because of their gender and identity as Indigenous Peoples. It also highlighted best practices and offered recommendations to protect the ability of Indigenous women to develop, apply, maintain and transmit, knowledge.

⁴ E/C.19/2025/4

⁵ A/HRC/51/28

22. Further, the Special Rapporteur has released various thematic reports that also make recommendations relating to Indigenous women and girls. This has included advocating for gender inclusivity in green financing to ensure participation of Indigenous women to ensure a just transition;⁶ recommending culturally appropriate interventions for Indigenous women with disabilities;⁷ the need to ensure participation of Indigenous women in decision making and guaranteeing their right to free, prior and informed consent.⁸

Special Rapporteur on violence against women

23. In 2022, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, presented a report to the Human Rights Council fiftieth session on the topic: “Violence against indigenous women and girls”.⁹

24. The report found that Indigenous women and girls face complex and intersectional forms of violence, linked to patriarchal structures, racial and ethnic discrimination and socioeconomic status. Further, the report highlighted evidence that, ‘Indigenous women have been particularly exposed to serious forms of gender-based violence, such as forced sterilization; trafficking and sexual violence in the context of displacement or migration; harmful traditional practices; and gender-based violence in the context of conflict’.

25. The Special Rapporteur found that, ‘these different manifestations of violence are perpetrated by State agents; non-State actors, such as private companies and armed groups; members of their own community; and others’.¹⁰

26. The report also discussed the lack of, ‘understanding of the specific ways in which Indigenous women and girls experience human rights violations’ and, ‘the systemic discrimination in Indigenous and non-Indigenous justice systems and barriers they confront in accessing effective justice’.¹¹

General Assembly

27. Every year, the General Assembly adopts a resolution on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is discussed by the Third Committee.¹² The Assembly refers in these resolutions to issues of particular relevance to Indigenous women. This has included reprisals against Indigenous women human rights defenders and leaders; the intersecting discrimination and barriers faced by Indigenous women and girls; violence against Indigenous women and girls; the importance of their full, equal, meaningful and effective participation in decision-making; the importance of empowerment and capacity-building of Indigenous women and youth; access to justice for Indigenous women; economic inclusion of Indigenous women; and the disproportionate impact of climate change on Indigenous women.

28. The resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 2024, included for the first time, references to Indigenous Peoples’ role in and the importance of, being meaningfully engaged in peace agreement negotiations, transitional justice processes, conflict resolution, mediation and constructive arrangements.

29. The Summit of the Future was convened in 2024, a renewed commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the Summit of the Future, world

⁶ A/HRC/54/31.

⁷ A/HRC/57/47 para 87.

⁸ A/79/160.

⁹ A/HRC/50/26

¹⁰ A/HRC/50/26, para 7.

¹¹ A/HRC/50/26, para 9.

¹²For the years 2021-2025, see A/RES/75/168; A/RES/76/148; A/77/460; A/RES/78/189; and A/79/455

leaders adopted the Pact for the Future,¹³ which includes the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration for Future Generations. The Pact for the Future included two actions that refer to Indigenous Peoples, including in relation to protecting Indigenous knowledges, systems and practices, which are directly relevant to Indigenous women as transmitters of knowledge, language and culture.

30. The General Assembly resolution A/RES/78/327 on the 2026 United Nations Water Conference also recognizes the importance of inclusive participation, including the engagement of Indigenous Peoples. In this context, it is essential to highlight the unique role of Indigenous women as water protectors, knowledge holders, and custodians of traditional practices. Their leadership and perspectives are fundamental to sustainable water governance and must be meaningfully reflected in the follow-up to the Conference.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

31. In 2022, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted General Recommendation No. 39 on Indigenous Women. This achievement was the culmination of many years of advocacy from Indigenous women, their organizations and recommendations made by the Permanent Forum from as far back as 2004.¹⁴ The General Recommendation is a historical achievement for Indigenous women and girls, as it, “identifies and addresses different forms of intersectional discrimination faced by Indigenous women and girls and their key role as leaders, knowledge-bearers and transmitters of culture among their peoples, communities and families, as well as society as a whole”.¹⁵

32. The General Recommendation provides critical guidance to States on measures to implement the rights of Indigenous women and girls, incorporating international frameworks including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Further, the Optional Protocol provides an universal instrument for women, including Indigenous women and girls, to submit communications relating to violations of the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women and for the Committee to conduct inquiries into alleged grave or systematic violations of women’s rights.¹⁶

Commission on the Status of Women

33. At CSW69 in 2025, which marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Political declaration on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women was adopted. References to Indigenous women were included in the Political Declaration, including acknowledging that Indigenous women and girls experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; the need to ensure women’s and girls’ food security, nutrition and well-being and supporting Indigenous women and girls; and promoting safe and enabling environments for civil society actors, especially women’s, young women’s, girls’, grass-roots and community-based organizations, rural, Indigenous and feminist groups.¹⁷

34. However, the call from the Permanent Forum which adopted a recommendation that the Commission on the Status of Women consider the issue of gender equality and the empowerment of Indigenous women and girls as a priority theme in its next multi-year programme of work in 2025, did not eventuate.

¹³ A/RES/79/1.

¹⁴ UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Report on the Third Session (2004) para 44.

¹⁵ General Recommendation No. 39 on Indigenous Women, para 2.

¹⁶ However this is limited to States that have ratified the Optional Protocol.

¹⁷ E/CN.6/2025/L.1

III. Analysis of country level implementation from national-level reviews presented to the Commission of the Status of Women

35. In preparation for the session of the Commission on the Status of (CSW), States are called upon to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly.¹⁸

36. This section provides a brief analysis of the situation of Indigenous women based on the reporting from the national-level reviews, on themes selected from among the 12 critical areas identified in the Beijing Platform of Action. Whilst all critical areas are relevant to Indigenous women and girls, for the purpose of this paper, the following themes will be explored as they are the themes in which Member State national-reviews mentioned Indigenous women the most. This includes: women's economic opportunities, education and training, women and climate change, women and armed conflict, women's health, violence against women, women's participation in decision-making, and women and the media.

37. This section provides an overview of information on the consideration and implementation of issues in national reviews submitted to the CSW at its sixty-ninth session, in 2025.

38. In total, over 150 States submitted national reports, of which more than a third mentioned Indigenous women and girls. This is similar to the previous assessment that was done at the 25th anniversary of the Declaration's adoption, indicating that there has neither been a greater nor a reduced focus on Indigenous Women and Girls. Similar to the previous review, the majority of the States that mentioned Indigenous Peoples were in Central and South America and the Caribbean, followed by Africa and Asia.

39. When looking at specific actions and initiatives related to Indigenous women and girls, however, the number of States that have reported on this is somewhat lower, with slightly more than a quarter of States that submitted reports noting substantive initiatives targeted towards Indigenous women and girls.

40. A brief overview of the different themes, the challenges and progress made in relation to Indigenous women and girls is provided below, followed by examples of good practices provided by States in the national-level reviews.¹⁹

A. Indigenous women's economic opportunities

41. Indigenous People make up approximately six per cent of the global population, however account for about nineteen per cent of the extreme poor.²⁰ Indigenous women face significant economic disparities and are overrepresented in poverty statistics across the world.

¹⁸ E/RES/2022/5.

¹⁹ Please note that the examples outlined are illustrative only and based solely on information from national reports submitted for CSW69. Additional limitations to take into consideration is the use of informal language translations. Figures used in quantifying the data are approximate due to these limitations. For further information, please see individual national reports available here: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw69-2025/preparations>

²⁰ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/indigenouspeoples>

42. To overcome the multidimensional nature of poverty experienced by Indigenous women, States must address the complex contributing factors, but also actively foster and support economic opportunities and development tailored to Indigenous women and girls.

43. Indigenous women are mentioned in the context of economic opportunities, in approximately 20 per cent of the national-level reviews. The common themes and focus of these national-level reviews includes the development of socioeconomic frameworks, rural and agricultural participation and development, access to housing and ownership of land and supporting the entrepreneurship aspirations of Indigenous women. Some illustrative examples from the national-level reviews are provided below.

44. The Government of Burundi, as part of the implementation of its development of the *Stratégie Nationale de la Réintégration Socioéconomique Durable des Personnes Sinistrées et d'Inclusion des Batwa* (National Strategy for the Sustainable Socio-Economic Reintegration of Displaced Persons and the Inclusion of Batwa), provides capacity building sessions for Batwa Indigenous women and girls, with a focus on leadership and socio-economic participation. Further, initiatives focusing on economic empowerment has included Indigenous women being trained and supported to produce and trade in markets, fostering financial inclusion.

45. An example of economic focused programs tailored for Indigenous women is provided in Canada's national-level review. Since 2021, the Government of Canada has funded the Indigenous Women's Entrepreneurship Program, which is designed and managed by an Indigenous partner organization, the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA). The program was created to meet the needs of potential and current Indigenous women entrepreneurs and to provide them with supports to build their entrepreneurial careers. This also includes the Women Entrepreneurship Loan Fund, which is also delivered in partnership with NACCA.

46. In Chile, the Government has developed Programa Küme Mognen Pu Zomo, to support the economic empowerment of Indigenous women in rural areas of Araucania, providing financing, training and capacity building programs, whilst safeguarding cultural identity. Further, Plan Buen Vivir was developed to address land restitution, policies, and security in Indigenous lands and territories. The plan was developed through participatory meetings that have relied on the participation of over 600 Mapuche Indigenous women, addressing their priorities, demands, and needs in terms of economic opportunity and political participation.

47. The Government of Mexico, takes a proactive approach to addressing the socio-economic position of Indigenous women. This includes the provision of microcredit to Indigenous women through the Ministry of Economy and Finance's National Microentrepreneur Financing Program and grants to Indigenous women entrepreneurs via the Business Development and Strengthening program. Mexico has also supported Indigenous women in trade through their Mexican Indigenous Artisan Mission, with the aim of fair trade from women from Indigenous communities, with the United States.

48. In Nepal, the Government has enacted legislated provisions to increase employment and recruitment of women of diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds, including Indigenous women. The Nepalese Government also deliver socioeconomic development programme for income generation, capacity development and empowerment of women, including the provision of concessional finance to foster entrepreneurship, which is also targeted at Indigenous women.

B. Indigenous women's economic opportunities

49. Access to quality education is the key that will allow many other Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved.²¹ Education contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty, has a positive impact on health and reduces inequalities including gender equality.

50. Indigenous Peoples continue to face challenges in accessing quality education, as a marginalized group of society. According to UNESCO, 'Indigenous Peoples encounter more barriers to completion of primary school are less likely to obtain a diploma, certificate or degree than non-Indigenous peoples are'.²² The barriers to education experienced by Indigenous Peoples are multifaceted. The challenges to access and education attainment is a result of discrimination and marginalization of Indigenous Peoples in formal education institutions, the non-recognition of Indigenous knowledges, languages and learning systems, as well as the historical and continued use of education as a tool of assimilation.²³

51. The disparity of education access of Indigenous women and girls does not exist only in comparison to non-Indigenous women and girls. Indigenous girls tend to be more disadvantaged than Indigenous boys²⁴ and the educational status of Indigenous women being generally far lower than that of their male counterparts.²⁵

52. States have a critical role in addressing these inequalities and establishing and changing education systems, policies and programs to ensure that education at all levels, are accessible and supportive of Indigenous women and girls' educational aspirations.

53. Approximately 14 per cent of States reported on the issue of education and training in relation to Indigenous women and girls. The common themes amongst those national-level reviews included participation and enrolment of Indigenous women and girls, the design and implementation of education projects, professional training, access to technology and learning tools, as well as Indigenous languages and knowledge. Some illustrative examples from the national-level reviews are provided below.

54. In Bolivia, the higher education system focuses on inclusion and the promotion of women's rights, and the exercise of duality is considered and implemented, from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples. This approach is also embedded within the Bolivian Indigenous Universities. Further, Bolivia actively addresses the admission of Indigenous applicants as part of the Higher Schools for Teacher Training initiative and in 2024, 62 per cent of admission was Indigenous women.

55. The national-level review of Burundi, a measure to promote the education of Batwa Indigenous children and girls, provides admission to boarding schools without the financial burden of tuition fees. This measure also supports the reintegration of young Batwa mothers back into the education system. These measures aim to create a more equitable and inclusive educational environment for girls including, Batwa girls.

²¹ See <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>

²² "Indigenous peoples' right to education: overview of the measures supporting the right to education for indigenous peoples reported by Member States in the context of the ninth Consultation on the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education", UNESCO page 1. See <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000369698>

²³ *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Volume III: Education* (United Nations publication).

²⁴ A/HRC/30/41 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples- Indigenous women.

²⁵ *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Volume III: Education* (United Nations publication), p 82.

56. In the national-level review of the Philippines, the government has implemented initiatives to expand access to education for Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous women. This includes the Indigenous People's Education program, which recognizes the right of Indigenous Peoples to education that is responsive to their context, respects their identities, promotes their Indigenous knowledge, skills and other aspects of their cultural heritage. The Indigenous People's Education Program also supports the realization of the Basic Education Curriculum, which subscribes to standards and principles that are inclusive, culturally-sensitive, and allows schools to localize, Indigenize, and enhance based on the community's educational and social context.

57. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the bilingual intercultural schools benefit Indigenous girls and boys across the country. Further, Indigenous women make up 70 per cent of the principal delegates of the National Council of Indigenous Languages, which promotes the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages and the transmission of their mother tongues and feeds into the curriculum. Through the National Admission System for University Education, a large proportion of the university places were awarded to Indigenous women.

58. In Viet Nam, the implementation of various social assistance policies to ensure equal access to education which are targeted to support ethnic minorities, which includes Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous women. This has included providing vocational training for ethnic minority students as well as tuition exemptions or reductions for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

C. Indigenous women and climate change

59. Indigenous women play a critical role as stewards of Nature and biodiversity. They are the transmitters of culture, traditions and language. Indigenous women also play a leading role in reducing harmful emissions and have advocated for Mother Earth and the protection of their ancestral lands and waters, at various international and domestic fora.

60. As acknowledged by the Secretary-General, Indigenous women and girls are, 'at the forefront of environmental and climate action and advocacy, risking their lives and livelihoods as environmental human rights defenders, with little protection, support, resources and funding'.²⁶

61. Whilst States and civil society prioritize the need to urgently mitigate the impacts of climate change, central to these endeavors, is the need to transition to green energy sources. Consequently, the transition to green energy creates a paradoxical situation for Indigenous Peoples, as they are not only disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change, but they will also be severely affected by the extraction of the critical minerals required to support this transition.²⁷

62. Because of the vital role in which Indigenous women have in protecting biodiversity, they are also impacted by the effects of climate change, as well as extractive operations for critical minerals, by States and multinational and private corporations.

²⁶ E/CN.6/2025/3 "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, p 104.

²⁷ E/C.19/2025/4 International expert group meeting on the theme "The rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the context of critical minerals": Note by the Secretariat.

63. In the national-level reviews, approximately 10 per cent of States provided examples of initiatives that they have implemented in relation to Indigenous women, nature, environmental and climate action.²⁸ The majority of those States were from the Central and South American regions.

64. Several States provided information about initiatives, policies and programs that have been implemented that relate to Indigenous women and the environment including climate change. Some illustrative examples from the national-level reviews are provided below.

65. In Brazil, the Government has ensured Indigenous women leadership, by appointing Indigenous women to lead key ministries, including the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples and the National Indigenous People's Foundation. Further, Brazil's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change coordinates a participatory and collaborative process in the development of the new Climate Plan, including participation of Indigenous women. At the local level, Indigenous women in Brazil have also participated in the development of local projects that aim to strengthen environmental and territorial management in their territories, particularly in the Amazon.

66. In the Central African Republic, the national-level review acknowledged the important role women play in the environment and mitigating climate change. Further, it was emphasized that it is critical to ensure the active participation of women, including Indigenous Women, in environmental decision-making, particularly at the levels of management, design, planning and implementation of projects. Efforts to encourage the participation of Indigenous women in climate change and environment decision-making is occurring within non-governmental organizations working in the environmental field and includes supporting the capacity building of Indigenous Peoples including Indigenous women.

67. In Colombia, the Roadmap for Colombia's Gender and Climate Change Action Plan was developed in collaboration with women, including Indigenous women. This Action Plan will include actions aimed at climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, developed by women, including Indigenous women and their organizations, with a view to ensuring their full, effective and substantive participation in Colombia's climate action agenda.

68. The Government of Costa Rica developed the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Climate Action, integrating the crucial perspectives of diverse groups of women, including Indigenous women. Further, the Gender Action Plan provides initiatives that ensure Indigenous women benefit equitably from conservation and sustainable development initiatives.

69. In the national-level review of Mexico, the Government implemented the Coordination Agreement to expand the scope of the Comprehensive Strategy for Rural and Indigenous Women's Access to Land, Territory, and the Recognition of their Agrarian Rights to address the lack of access and control that Indigenous women have over natural resources on their ancestral lands. This aims to guarantee the rights of Indigenous women and has resulted in land certificates and property titles that ensure fair access to land ownership by Indigenous women.

70. The national-level review of Paraguay shared the implementation of the Gender Equality and Interculturality Policy for the Public Agrarian Sector, which aims to guarantee the economic, social, political, and cultural rights of Indigenous women. One of the strategic objectives is the coordination of food security and sovereignty plans in response to climate change. The Government of Paraguay has also established

²⁸ E/CN.6/2025/3 "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, p 105.

a Network of Indigenous Women Leaders, as part of the Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change framework.

D. Indigenous women and conflict

71. Violent conflicts and militarization fundamentally affect the lives of Indigenous Peoples, violating their human rights and further displacing them from their ancestral lands and territories.²⁹ Armed conflicts disproportionately affect Indigenous Peoples, displacing them from ancestral lands and territories, eroding cultural cohesion and perpetuating cycles of systemic violence.³⁰ During armed conflict, Indigenous women and girls are subjected to grave human rights violations including sexual and gender based violence, including rape, forced pregnancy, killings, sexual enslavement and exploitation.³¹

72. Conflict may also occur at the community level, driven by the impact of colonization including in regards to land disputes. Further, the degradation of ecosystems due to climate change is also creating conflict over the scarcity of natural resources, particularly in the regions most affected by the consequences of these global environmental crises.³²

73. Since its inception, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has served as a vital platform where Indigenous Peoples bring forward their concerns and solutions, including those related to the enduring impacts of colonization and armed conflict. The Forum has consistently elevated these issues within the United Nations system, underscoring how such histories have resulted in ongoing legacies of dispossession, marginalization, and systemic injustice. Indigenous women, in particular, face compounded impacts—yet they also continue to lead efforts to heal, rebuild, and secure the rights and well-being of their peoples.

74. The Forum has highlighted that Indigenous women do not see themselves as passive victims in conflict, but that they also take on important roles as mediators and peacebuilders. The Forum has provided several recommendations over time, including in 2021 that urged Members States to recognize that, ‘Indigenous peoples’ role in peacebuilding is essential for reconciliation and for strengthening resilience ...[and that] Indigenous peoples’ institutions should be viewed by States as allies in the efforts of the Security Council to establish peace and security’.³³

75. This advocacy at the Forum alongside the efforts of Indigenous Peoples and their organizations culminated in a historic General Assembly resolution. Since 2010, the UN General Assembly has adopted an annual resolution on the Rights of Indigenous People. In 2024, this resolution for the first time, ‘Emphasizes the importance of meaningfully engaging Indigenous Peoples in peace agreement negotiations, transitional justice processes, conflict resolution, mediation, and constructive arrangements’.³⁴ With this resolution adopted, it is critical that Members States meaningfully engage with Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous women in the context of peace building.

²⁹ UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Report on the Third Session (2004).

³⁰ E/C.19/2025/7 Study on the impact of colonization and armed conflicts on Indigenous Peoples’ rights: the imperative of peacebuilding, Hanieh Moghani, Hannah McGlade and Geoffrey Roth (2025).

³¹ A/HRC/54/52: *Impact of militarization on the rights of Indigenous Peoples* (2023). Study by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, p 14.

³² E/C.19/2022/7: *Study on Indigenous peoples and resource conflicts in the Sahel and in the Congo Basin*, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim and Vital Bamanze (2022) p 1.

³³ E/2021/43: Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Report on the twentieth session (2021).

³⁴ A/79/455

76. Of the national-level reviews, only two percent discussed conflict and peacebuilding in relation to Indigenous women and girls. Some illustrative examples from the national-level reviews are provided below.

77. The Government of Canada shared that Indigenous women and girls’ ‘empowerment and participation in leadership roles are essential in advancing peace-related processes’. In their national-level review, Canada highlighted their Women, Peace and Security Agenda, an action plan that highlights the widespread positive impacts associated with women’s full and meaningful inclusion in decision-making processes, as well as in peace— and security-focused institutions. It also recognizes that leadership by Indigenous women and gender-diverse people is essential to achieving sustainable peace and security for all.

78. In Colombia’s national-level review, the inclusion of a gender perspective in their Peace Agreement has been a historic achievement, introducing affirmative action measures to address the differential and disproportionate impacts of the armed conflict on women’s lives, including Indigenous women.

79. In the national-level review of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Government highlighted the adoption of a national action plan relating to women, peace and security. The objective of the national action plan is to protect the rights of women, including Indigenous women, but also to ensure their participation in issues related to armed conflict.

80. The Government of Kenya has committed to maintaining security, promoting peace and resolving conflicts, through its Empowerment of Women in Peacebuilding Initiatives. Kenya’s National Action Plan includes initiatives such as conflict prevention and management through ‘Indigenous early warning and peacebuilding approaches, mediation and negotiation’. In relation to mediating local conflicts driven by factors such as ‘ethnic tensions and land disputes’, the national-level review also acknowledged the contribution of civil society organizations who have established mechanisms that support inclusion of Indigenous women. For example, the Isiolo Indigenous Women UNSCR 1325 Action Group, promotes participation of Indigenous women in Kenya in peace and security. The national-level review also provided examples of additional interventions that have assisted mitigate climate change related conflict in pastoralist areas.

E. Indigenous women’s health

81. Indigenous Peoples experience significant health inequities and poor health outcomes including, lower life expectancy, higher prevalence of diseases like diabetes and malnutrition.³⁵ Indigenous women experience higher rates of mortality and morbidity, than non-Indigenous women.³⁶

82. This is exacerbated by systemic barriers including discrimination and racism in health systems, the inability to access health care due to poverty and living in geographically remote regions that either have a lack of, or limited health care facilities and providers. Non-Indigenous health systems and practices have also contributed to either assimilating and marginalizing Indigenous Peoples.³⁷ Colonization and colonial practices have resulted in physical, mental and spiritual

³⁵ See World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-05-2023-historic-resolution-calls-for-action-to-improve-the-health-of-indigenous-peoples>

³⁶ See World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/global-plan-of-action-for-health-of-indigenous-peoples>

³⁷ E/C.19/2023/5: *Study on Indigenous determinants of health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, Simón Freddy Condo Riveros, Hannah McGlade and Geoffrey Roth (2023) p 2.

trauma.³⁸ Climate change and the growing demand for energy transition minerals are becoming a significant concern to the health of Indigenous women. For example, extractive operations can expose Indigenous women, their unborn babies and future generations, to harmful levels of mercury resulting in devastating and debilitating health conditions.³⁹

83. Health systems must implement policies and provide services that acknowledge the unique determinants of health that are distinct to Indigenous Peoples.⁴⁰ This is particularly vital to the health and wellbeing of Indigenous women.

84. Approximately ten per cent of the national-level reviews reported on Indigenous women in the context of health. The common focus of those States included sexual and reproductive health, the provision of targeted medical assistance, the recognition of Indigenous traditional medicines and the need for improved data and research in relation to Indigenous women. Some illustrative examples from the national-level reviews are provided below.

85. In Australia, there is an evident gap in the data availability of Indigenous women and health. The Government is supporting the research and data collection capabilities, to improve women and girls' health outcomes. This will include the establishment of an Indigenous data access strategy and governance mechanism, to expand the collection of comprehensive maternal and perinatal data.

86. In Cambodia, to address the high rates of child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the Northeast regions, which is also home to the majority of Indigenous Peoples, the Prevention of Child Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy Action Plan in Ratanak Kiri province was developed.

87. In the national-level review of Canada, the Indigenous Health Equity Fund addresses the unique challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples to ensure fair and equitable access to quality and culturally safe health care services. To address the marginalization of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQI+ people, Canada has invested in various initiatives. This includes expanding support for Indigenous midwives and doulas to improve access to prenatal, postnatal, and birth supports for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. Capacity funding for national Indigenous women's organizations to support them in addressing Indigenous women's health and to ensure that women's voices and perspectives are included in policy development. Canada has also invested in programs to strengthen youth sexual health networks by expanding current activities to raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health rights. Funding has also been provided for a range of trauma-informed, culturally appropriate and Indigenous-led healing initiatives for Indigenous survivors of forced and coerced sterilization. In Ontario, the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council has a mandate to ensure that the voices of Indigenous women remain at the center of all program and policy developments. As part of the Menstrual Equity Fund, Indigenous Services Canada is leading an initiative to provide free menstrual products to First Nations schools on reserves and in federal schools across Canada.

88. In El Salvador, the Intercultural Health Forum is held annually to raise awareness among health care workers about Indigenous worldviews and identity. This forum provides a space for exchange, reflection, and proposals on issues affecting the health status of Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous women in El Salvador.

³⁸ E/C.19/2023/5: *Study on Indigenous determinants of health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, Simón Freddy Condo Riveros, Hannah McGlade and Geoffrey Roth (2023) p 3.

³⁹ E/C.19/2025/4: International expert group meeting on the theme "The rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the context of critical minerals" (2024).

⁴⁰ E/C.19/2023/5: *Study on Indigenous determinants of health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, Simón Freddy Condo Riveros, Hannah McGlade and Geoffrey Roth (2023) p 3.

Further, comprehensive health care days are convened in communities of the Nahua-Pipil and Kakawira Indigenous Peoples to expand access to health service for Indigenous women and girls, providing specialized care.

89. Mexico ensures that language is not a barrier to Indigenous women accessing quality health care. As provided by the General Health Law, educational guidance on family planning methods in Indigenous communities must be provided in the applicable Indigenous language, depending on the region in question.

90. In the national-level review of New Zealand, the Pae Tū: Hauora Māori Strategy is focused on improving the health and wellbeing of Māori, based on the commitments of the Treaty of Waitangi. The Whānau Ora Initiative provides whānau-centred (family-centred) supports and services to whānau Māori (Māori communities and wider family). This support includes increasing access to culturally relevant services for Māori women. Further, the Ngā Tini Whetū program is an early intervention support initiative to create safe, healthy, and resilient environments during the first 1,000 days of life for pēpē (baby), māmā (mother), and whānau Māori (Māori families).

91. In the national-level review of Nicaragua, the Government recognizes natural medicine, therapies and natural products as appropriate to the needs, worldview, tradition and culture of Indigenous Peoples. This has allowed traditional doctors and midwives have an active role in the health model of the country. Nicaragua has supported Indigenous women by addressing the maternal and child mortality disparities through the Maternity Homes Strategy, to support the maternity care of pregnant Indigenous women.

92. In the Philippines, the Government has invested in the capacity building of hospital-based and community-based health personnel and para-professionals, including traditional birth attendants and Indigenous health providers. The passage of the Universal Health Care Act in 2019, provides access to all Filipino citizens to health care without suffering financial hardship and has been further complemented by the implementation of policies and initiatives tailored to Indigenous Peoples that is also gender-responsive.

F. Violence against Indigenous women and girls

93. Indigenous women and girls continue to experience widespread discrimination and violence. They are disproportionately impacted by gender-based violence, with Indigenous women and girls going missing and murdered reaching alarming and devastating rates across the world.

94. Although there has been progress in international mechanisms such as the adoption of the CEDAW General Recommendation 39, it is critical that States implement these tools effectively whilst developing their own legislation, policies and protections to stop violence against Indigenous women and girls.

95. Addressing violence against Indigenous women and girls requires a tailored response by States. Measures must take into consideration the unique needs and challenges faced by Indigenous women as well as the rights of Indigenous women as provided in the UNDRIP. States must address the systemic and societal discrimination and violence against Indigenous women, including access to justice or the lack thereof, the way in which police and reporting institutions engage with Indigenous women, as well as addressing societal issues of domestic and family violence, sexual and reproductive violence and violence against women in general.

96. Direct funding must also be provided to Indigenous women and their organizations, to provide holistic support services that are both culturally appropriate

and trauma informed for Indigenous women, girls and their families that are subjected to violence. Further, supporting Indigenous women to access education, to be economically empowered and to be part of the decision-making on matters that impact them, is critical to addressing violence.

97. Indigenous women are mentioned in the context of violence in approximately 15 per cent of the national-level reviews. These include references to support services for victims, access to justice, awareness and training, policies to combat trafficking, the need for data and reporting of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, political violence against Indigenous women, adoption of intersectional approaches and support for Indigenous-led strategies and initiatives. Some illustrative examples from the national-level reviews are provided below.

98. Argentina established the Sub-Secretariat of Special Programs Against Gender-Based Violence, to comprehensively and specifically address the various forms of violence affecting vulnerable groups, including Indigenous women. Taking an intersectional approach, programs and projects are designed to address the unique needs, contexts and specific forms of violence faced by Indigenous women. This includes violence against reproductive freedom, femicide, transvesticides, transfemicides, crimes against sexual integrity, human trafficking and exploitation. has funded the inclusion of Indigenous languages and interpretation in support services for Indigenous women that are subject to gender-based violence. Within the framework of Programa Acercar Derechos, the incorporation of intercultural facilitators to strengthen supports for Indigenous women in situations of gender-based violence.

99. The review by Australia highlighted the implementation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children and the dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan. The Australian Government is investing in the capability of service providers to deliver accessible, trauma-informed and culturally safe services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including funding 16 Family Violence Prevention Legal Service providers delivering critical legal and non-legal services to support Indigenous victim-survivors, many of whom are Indigenous women. The Government also funds First Nations healing services, such as Healing for Strong Families, which will establish place-based healing programs for First Nations families impacted by family violence or child protection. The First Nations Family Dispute Resolution pilot also supports Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver culturally-safe family dispute resolution services.

100. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the focus begins at addressing the very foundations of eliminating the systemic and structural barriers, by depatriarchalizing the colonial system that continues to ‘exercise violence and domination over Indigenous Peoples’. The Bolivian Government provides that this depatriarchalizing will, ‘eliminate stereotypes and the machista culture reflected in domestic violence, women’s overwork, and the daily insecurity they experience, among other factors’.

101. In the past five years, Canada has taken joint action to address violence against Indigenous women and girls. This has included the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which culminated in the launch of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan. This National Action Plan was co-developed by representatives of First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Indigenous grassroots organizations, Indigenous, federal, provincial, and territorial governments and Indigenous urban and 2SLGBTQI+ leaders.

102. Ecuador has implemented a differentiated and intersectional approach to addressing violence against Indigenous women and girls. The National Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women includes differentiated strategies to

address violence against Indigenous women, to address their unique needs. For Indigenous women in the Amazon, Ecuador will establish gender-based violence prevention projects with workshops in Indigenous Peoples' communities, in their languages, and with an intercultural approach. Specific to Indigenous women in the Sierra, protocols will be developed to prevent gynecological and obstetric violence in non-Indigenous health services.

103. In Guatemala, the State approved the Protocol of Culturally and Linguistically Relevant Care for Indigenous Women and established the National Network of Interpreters and Translators in Indigenous Languages to provide vital language supports targeted at Indigenous women and girls. This is a nation-wide service for Indigenous women and girls that are victims of gender-based violence and includes translated materials of victim's rights, consent, referral networks and criminal proceedings, to ensure language is not a barrier to just access.

G. Indigenous women's participation in decision-making

104. Indigenous women, as part of their respective Indigenous Peoples, are integral to leadership and decision-making in their Indigenous communities. Indigenous women must be adequately represented in the decision-making at all levels, especially on matters that affect them. States play an important role in supporting the promotion and full and effective participation of Indigenous women in decision-making.⁴¹

105. The Permanent Forum has highlighted the pivotal role of Indigenous women and elders in transmitting cultural values and traditions, recognizing their critical influence on the sustainability of Indigenous cultures. The Forum at its 23rd Session, called upon Member States to support the establishment of mechanisms for the empowerment of Indigenous women and girls, and calls for their equal involvement and participation in decision-making processes at all levels.⁴²

106. Indigenous women are mentioned in the context of participation and decision making in approximately 12 per cent of the national-level reviews. These include references to Indigenous women and political participation, capacity development, as well as representation in decision-making, positions of authority and as candidates in government. Some illustrative examples from the national-level reviews are provided below.

107. In Australia, the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) is a multiyear systemic change project, that identified a need for capacity-building for Indigenous women and girls, to encourage leadership and develop the skills required to represent at the interface with government and external parties.

108. The national-level review submitted by Bolivia, highlighted their efforts in increasing the political participation of women, including Indigenous women. The Autonomías Indígenas Originaria Campesino allows for Indigenous Peoples to elect their own autonomous governments and promotes the participation of Indigenous women in decision-making spaces. This led to the creation of the Autonomía IOC del Territorio Indígena Multiétnico, initiated in the Bolivian Amazon. Through a democratic process, the first Indigenous government elected Indigenous women who account for 50% of representatives.

109. In Brazil, the Public Notice to Supporting Political Training Projects for Women is an initiative aimed at increasing the participation of women in spaces of power and decision-making. Civil society organizations from across Brazil participated,

⁴¹ UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: Report of the 9th Session (2010) para 164.

⁴² UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: Report of the 23rd Session (2024) para 12.

presenting projects focused on training of women for the access and guarantee of political and social rights, including the participation of Indigenous women and training aimed at confronting political violence against women, including the participation of Indigenous women, considering the intersectionality of sexual orientation, gender identity, age and disability. The investment was R\$6 million, in conjunction with the Ministry of Racial Equality and Indigenous Peoples.

110. In Mexico, constitutional reform called Paridad en todo (translated to Parity in all) was achieved to strengthen and guarantee the political participation of Indigenous women. The National Electoral Institute issued affirmative action to ensure all political parties included Indigenous women as candidates, resulting in the election of 22 Indigenous women in the 2020-2021 electoral process in Mexico.

111. In the national-level review of New Zealand, the Government shared their efforts to increase the representation of Māori women, Pacific women and disabled women within the public sector board committees. Currently Māori women board members hold 26.8% of board roles in the public sector. The Strengthening Wāhine Māori Leadership Fund, enables community providers in priority areas to work directly with Māori women to build their cultural capability, leadership, and influencing skills to help strengthen their place within the whānau structure. The Māori women leadership programme builds leadership based on Te Ao Māori (Māori worldview) leadership models. In 2022/23 more than 600 wāhine have been supported through 15 Strengthening Wāhine (Māori women) Leadership projects.

112. The national-level review provided by the Russian Federation, provided examples of the participation and decision-making roles of Indigenous women at various levels. This includes representation of Indigenous women on the Council of Representatives of Indigenous Peoples of the North under the Government of the Murmansk Region, which was created to protect the rights and interests of the Indigenous Peoples of the North. The national-level review also provided that there is growing representation of Indigenous women at the regional and community level. An example provided is that two regional Sami organization are lead by Indigenous women. In relation to community representation, the Russian Federation provided that Indigenous women chair over a third of the registered community entities in the Murmansk region.

113. In Sweden, the Sami Parliament is a body elected by the Sami People, to safeguard their interests and promote Sami culture. This provides an established mechanism for decision-making and participation by Sami Peoples, including Sami women. Further, the enactment of legislation in Sweden, the national law Act (2022:66) stipulates a legal obligation for governments and state agencies to consult the Sami Indigenous People on matters that concern them.

H. Indigenous women and the media

114. Indigenous Peoples and in particular Indigenous women, are often not represented adequately in media institutions and in decision-making positions. This contributes to Indigenous Peoples being subjected to discriminatory and inappropriate portrayals by non-Indigenous media. This also leads to a lack of representation and culturally appropriate communications, by both State owned and private media.

115. Increasing the numbers of Indigenous women professionals in the media industry and supporting Indigenous media, can contribute to removing the barriers to the participation and decision-making of Indigenous women in the media industry, to ensure equitable representation that is inclusive of their perspectives.

116. Article 16 of the UNDRIP provides that, Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-Indigenous media without discrimination. It further provides, that States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect Indigenous cultural diversity and to encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect Indigenous cultural diversity.

117. To address these barriers, the Permanent Forum recommended at its 22nd session, that UNESCO undertake a study on Indigenous Peoples and the media. The findings of this study will be presented at the 24th session of the Permanent Forum and will include findings relating to Indigenous women professionals in media.

118. In relation to the national-level reviews, approximately 3 per cent of States reported on Indigenous women and the media and in the instances that they did, it was in relation to access and representation, including the promotion of Indigenous languages. Some illustrative examples from the national-level reviews are provided below.

119. In the national-review of Australia, the State acknowledged that, ‘women’s underrepresentation in the media reinforces and can perpetuate harmful gender stereotypes’. Australia highlighted the initiatives employed in relation to State funded media to counter this underrepresentation, including the 50:50 Equality project to ensure representation of ‘other Australian communities’, including Indigenous Australians and the SBS Inclusion, Equity and Diversity Strategy, to, ‘increase the on and off-screen representation and career progression of women’, including Indigenous women.

120. Canada has enacted legislation including the Broadcasting Act, which prescribes that the Canadian broadcasting system should, through its programming and employment opportunities, serve the needs of all Canadians, including, ‘the special place of Indigenous Peoples and languages’. Further, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission granted an intersectionality credit against the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for spending on Canadian independent programming produced by Indigenous people, racialized people, people with disabilities, and people who self-identify as 2SLGBTQI+ who also self-identify as women.

IV. Conclusion and recommendations

121. As highlighted in the present note, there has been much progress on the rights of Indigenous women and girls, spearheaded by the advocacy of Indigenous women and their organizations, as well as supported by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other international fora.

122. However, as human rights including the women’s rights agenda and the rights of Indigenous Peoples continue to be impacted by global politics, the progress achieved in relation to the rights of Indigenous women and girls, is at risk more than ever.

123. The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007, was a landmark in the history of Indigenous Peoples rights movement globally. It sets out minimum standards for their survival, dignity and well-being, and clarifies how existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms apply to the specific situation of Indigenous Peoples. UNDRIP also affirms the rights of Indigenous women and girls, recognizing their strengths, specific needs and unique roles. Article 46, paragraphs 2 and 3 that Indigenous communities must respect individual human rights, and any duties imposed on members must align with international standards. Ultimately, Indigenous women are agents of their own destiny

and will determine for themselves whether to accept certain cultural roles—no one else can decide for them. It is also 30 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a global call for the realization of gender equality and the rights of all women and girls.

124. As shared by States in their national-level reviews, there are great examples of progress across all of the areas mentioned as they pertain to Indigenous women. However, this robust international framework of rights and the aspirations of the UNDRIP and Beijing Declaration for Indigenous women and girls, must be implemented by States and realized with concrete actions.

125. The present note is an invitation to States and others to ensure that Indigenous women and girls are not left behind. States must implement the UNDRIP domestically, to ensure the full realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous women and girls. This includes addressing intersecting forms of discrimination, violence, and marginalization, and ensuring equal and culturally appropriate access to education, healthcare, and Indigenous women-led economic opportunities. Furthermore, States must integrate the principles of the Beijing Declaration and UNDRIP into national strategies for gender equality and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, guiding the development of policies, programs, and budgets that specifically address the unique challenges faced by Indigenous women and girls.

126. The Commission on the Status of Women and UN Women are encouraged to continue to work in collaboration with Indigenous women in amplifying their voices and in the spirit of the renewed commitment to gender equality as reaffirmed in the Political declaration on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, adopted at CSW69. Furthermore, the present note echoes the call from the previous note, requesting that the Commission consider the inclusion of Indigenous women as a priority theme in its future sessions.

127. The adoption of General Recommendation No. 39 on Indigenous Women by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2022, was a significant milestone for Indigenous women and girls. However, the General Recommendation must be utilized and implemented, to ensure that it is achieving its objective. Further, the Optional Protocol must be exercised to ensure that Indigenous women's grievances relating to violations of the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women are actioned, and for the Committee to conduct inquiries into alleged grave or systematic violations of women's rights.

128. As climate change and the growing demand for critical minerals intensifies, Indigenous women continue to be disproportionately impacted. States must guarantee the rights of Indigenous women as provided in the UNDRIP and implement stronger commitments to ensure the rights, representation, and leadership of Indigenous women in biodiversity decision-making processes. Private companies and multinational corporations must respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and women as provided in the UNDRIP, and implement these principles in their operations.

129. Finally, with the increasing conflicts across the world, States must meaningfully engage with Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous women in the context of peace building. This note is an invitation to States, to honour the 2024 annual resolution on the Rights of Indigenous People to meaningfully engaging Indigenous Peoples in peace agreement negotiations, transitional justice processes, conflict resolution, mediation, and constructive arrangements.