

CSW63

“Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”

Review theme: Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development

Side Event:

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO CARE: IMPROVING INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES

Date: 13 March 2019

Time: 4:45 pm to 6 pm

Venue: Conference Room 9

(Simultaneous interpretation Spanish-English)

Background

Indigenous women have for long been engaged in promoting recognition and implementation of indigenous women’s rights, as well as equality in their communities all over the world. For more than twenty years, since the Fourth World Conference on Women, organized by the United Nations in Beijing in 1995, indigenous women have also participated asserting their views and demands at the international level during the Commission on the Status of Women, among other international forums. The acknowledgment of indigenous women’s struggles and contributions to sustainable development at the global level is crucial to support their ongoing work in their communities, at the sub-national and national level.

Universal access to social protection is a human right and a moral imperative. It is also a powerful policy tool to eradicate vulnerability, address social exclusion, poverty, and inequality. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscores the importance of social protection for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Governments have committed to implementing social protection floors and systems for all.

Indigenous women are disproportionately represented among people with limited access to social protection. This is directly linked to their none or low level of participation in decision-making at all levels. Many social protection programmes do not sufficiently take into consideration the cultural integrity of indigenous women, including access to services in indigenous languages.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, of indigenous peoples (UNDRIP), including indigenous women, with full respect for their cultural identity and indigenous languages; social institutions, customs, traditions, ways of life and development aspirations.

UNDRIP recognize indigenous people's right to social security without discrimination and contain specific provisions concerning health and education, indigenous peoples' cultural integrity and aspirations.

The International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples as well as the ILO Social Protection Floor Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) provide specific guidance for the progressive realization of the right to social protection.

Guaranteeing a basic level of social protection for all, and to indigenous women in a culturally appropriate way, should represent an essential component of national strategies for sustainable development.

Some Member States have elaborated social protection programmes targeting indigenous peoples and indigenous women. This event will elaborate on good practices and challenges to develop culturally appropriate social protection programmes specifically targeting indigenous women.

Objectives

- To learn from indigenous women about their work and challenges to promote culturally appropriate, social protection programmes in their own countries.
- To discuss good practices related to the development of culturally appropriate social protection programmes, including indigenous languages.
- To discuss ways to strengthen indigenous women's participation in decision-making processes to better influence social protection programmes according to their own needs.

Expected outcome

- Awareness regarding the need to develop culturally appropriate social protection programmes for indigenous women, including indigenous languages.
- Knowledge sharing on best practices to empower indigenous women to promote culturally appropriate social protection programmes, including indigenous languages.

Moderator: *Tarcila Rivera Zea*, Expert member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, FIMI President and Executive Director of Chirapaq

Programme:

- Spiritual ceremony by International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI)
- Welcoming remarks by *Lea Nicholas Mackenzie*, Special Advisor for Indigenous Issues, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

- Use of international frameworks to promote social protection policies, targeting indigenous women, at the national level by *Chandra Roy-Henriksen*, Chief Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch – SPFII DISD/DESA
- Testimony of indigenous leader who is influencing in public programs and policies by *Silvia Kihoro Museiya*, Member of Nairobi County Assembly;
- Testimony of indigenous woman in the frontline defending collective rights against large-scale extractive industries by *Ketty Marcelo* from ONAMIAP (Peru).
- Questions and answers
- Closing

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#SomosIndígenas #MujeresIndígenas #CSW63
