

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES REGARDING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS & GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE

Report on Progress and Challenges



United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA and
CHIRAPAQ Centre for Indigenous Cultures of Peru
Recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on
Indigenous Issues regarding Sexual and Reproductive
Health and Rights & Gender-Based Violence: Report
on Progress and Challenges.

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INTRODUCTION

Since its creation in 2000, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) has held more than 16 working sessions. The time has come to take stock and evaluate progress made in implementing the Permanent Forum's periodic recommendations, in order to better understand the associated limits, barriers and scope. This report therefore presents an analysis of the recommendations made at the 16 working sessions and their implementation by the United Nations Member States.

It aims to strengthen the capacities of the Permanent Forum and other actors to work towards tangible progress in the exercise of indigenous women's rights, particularly regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence. The study was undertaken by the CHIRAPAQ Centre for Indigenous Cultures of Peru and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).¹

The study had the following objectives:

- Collect and classify by theme the recommendations on indigenous women and girls made during the 16 UNPFII sessions.
- Analyse implementation of the recommendations on sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as gender-based violence, in United Nations Member States, and any implementing strategies and actions. Identify progress, barriers and challenges from which to learn.
- Develop a set of proposals to eliminate barriers and improve the implementation of these recommendations, and to strengthen UNPFII follow-up.

This report details the methodology used and provides an overall analysis of the recommendations on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence. It also connects the recommendations to the situation of indigenous women in nine countries, drawing on case studies conducted in Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Peru, the Republic of the Congo and Thailand.² Finally, this report presents conclusions and preliminary proposals to strengthen progress in indigenous women's rights.

1 The study was carried out with the support of the Latin American consulting firm Inclusión y Equidad.

2 The case study countries were selected based on their location in the regions considered by the Permanent Forum and on the size of their indigenous population.

1

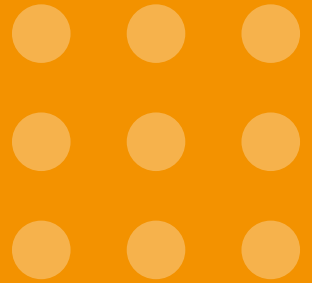


Photo: Alejandra Faúndez



METHODOLOGY

1.1 SCOPE

Exploratory in design, the study aimed to ask questions, provide alternative interpretations of the situations encountered and structure debate in the various relevant organizations to help generate new actions. It sought to give voice to indigenous women's organizations in particular and to evaluate the implementation of UNPFII recommendations from their point of view, since their circumstances should have improved if implementation had been carried out effectively in their countries.

1.2 METHODOLOGY DESIGN

To meet the study's objectives, various techniques were used to collect and analyse information, as shown in Table 1.

1.3 DATA-COLLECTION TECHNIQUES

Analytical review of relevant documents: Throughout the study, documentation was collected regarding the official recommendations issued at the 16 UNPFII sessions, the key contextual aspects behind these recommendations and the analysis prepared by the Permanent Forum and other entities.

In addition, an extensive information search was conducted for each case study country. This used documents and analysis from various sources: indigenous women's organizations, international agencies and organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions and the relevant governments.³ In total, including the review of each country, information from over 200 relevant documents and 80 websites was analysed.

Table 1. Study objectives and corresponding methodology

Study objectives	Activities and method
Collect and classify by theme the recommendations on indigenous women and girls made during the 16 UNPFII sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop criteria and classifications for the recommendations issued at every session. • Apply the criteria and analyse the results, considering territorial variables, targeted actors and how the recommendations are formulated. • Draft a report to systematize and analyse the recommendations on indigenous women made during the 16 UNPFII sessions .
Analyse implementation of the recommendations on sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as gender-based violence, in United Nations Member States, and any implementing strategies and actions. Identify progress, barriers and challenges from which to learn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect information in nine countries on five continents. Case studies were conducted in the following countries: Africa: Kenya and Republic of the Congo Americas: Canada, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru Asia: Thailand Europe: Norway Oceania: Australia • Analyse documented information and public policies from each country regarding sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence against indigenous women and girls, and their connections with the Permanent Forum. • Conduct interviews with key actors in each country (indigenous women's organizations, representatives of UNFPA and public services). • Carry out a comparative analysis. • Prepare a comparative report.
Develop a set of proposals to eliminate barriers and improve the implementation of these recommendations, and to strengthen UNPFII follow-up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse other institutions' good practices of implementing international organizations' agreements and recommendations. • Discuss the results of the study and proposed recommendations with indigenous leaders at face-to-face workshops. • Prepare a final report.

3 A list of the reviewed documents can be found in Annex 1 and Annex 2.

Semi-structured interviews: Common concerns were identified and shared through 41 interviews (with all but one conducted virtually) that collected first-hand information about the sexual and reproductive health of indigenous women and girls and gender-based violence in the nine chosen countries, as well as about public policies and their links to the Permanent Forum's recommendations. The interviewers inquired specifically about the implementation of recommendations, limiting and contributing factors in the process, as well as challenges, orientations, expectations and resources.

Workshop to validate results and recommendations: Representatives of indigenous organizations participated in a two-and-a-half-day workshop held in Lima, Peru, October 2017. Its main objective was to present a proposal for applying the recommendations effectively, by analysing the information gathered and discussing various interpretations. This proposal would help the Permanent Forum make progress on the rights of indigenous women and girls. Facilitated by an advisory team, the workshop was specially designed to encourage participation and discussion.

Table 2. Number of interviews and documents reviewed by study unit

Country	Indigenous women's organization	Other CSOs*	UNFPA	Government	Documents	Website
Australia	1	-	-	-	22	25
Canada	2	-	-	-	19	25
Guatemala	1	1	2	-	10	4

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