Climate change and indigenous women and girls: Addressing intersectional discrimination and structured inequalities.

A Parallel event during UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

IPA event, April 27th, 2023, 8:30 am (NY time)

Registration link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtf-itpzwsHdSfSlmaMhvzYwp0lvBxPPlS

Concept note

Climate change burdens all of humanity, but not equally. Indigenous women and girls are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis because of their high dependence on the ecosystems in which they live. Their economic activities, as well as their social, cultural and spiritual relations, are directly linked to their environment. Climate change and environmental degradation exacerbate the difficulties already faced by indigenous women and girls including political and economic marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, discrimination and unemployment.

The interlinkage between climate crisis and gender inequality is one of the greatest challenges of our humanity. Gender inequalities rooted in legal and social norms and gender-differentiated roles and responsibilities dictate how women and men access and have control over land use and tenure, as well as over natural resources related to forests, agriculture, water and fisheries. The disparate impact of climate change on women and girls amplifies existing structured inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety.

When environmental disasters happen, indigenous women and girls face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in accessing resources, information, mobility and decision-making spaces. Their health is further endangered by limiting access to services and health care, as well as increasing risks related to maternal and child health. Indigenous women and girls are less able to access relief and assistance, further threatening their livelihoods, wellbeing and recovery, and creating a vicious cycle of vulnerability to future disasters. Furthermore, weather-related disasters may forcibly displace indigenous women and girls or force them to migrate thus increasing their exposure to gender-based violence, such as human trafficking or any other form of exploitation while experiencing discrimination as both migrants and as indigenous peoples. Climate-related displacement, loss of livelihoods, food insecurity and increasing conflict over resources place indigenous women and girls at heightened risk. Indigenous women and girls face also risks arising from actions taken to mitigate climate change. Furthermore, climate change contributes significantly to the loss of traditional and spiritual ways of life of indigenous women and girls, and negatively affects their cultural identity.

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The International Presentation Association is hosting an event during the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues where panelists and participants will highlight the direct consequences and manifestations of climate change on indigenous women and girls identifying the existing barriers, challenges and viable potential solutions to address intersectional discrimination and structured inequalities against indigenous women and girls. The panelists will also share good practices in integrating a gender-responsive and non-discriminatory approach upholding the human rights of indigenous women and girls while taking action on climate change.

List of panelists:

Welcome: **Ann Marie Quinn**, PBVM, Executive Director, International Presentation Association

Introduction: **Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki**, NGO Representative at the UN, International Presentation Association

- **Libania Fernandes**, PBVM, NIP Justice Coordinator, International Presentation Association, India
- **Ana Lúcia Santos Da Silva**, Technical Coordinator, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Brazil
- **Jean Quinn**, DW, Executive Director of UNANIMA International & NGO CSocD Chair, United States
- **Lucy Sebastian**, PBVM, International Presentation Association, Zambia (video)
- **Br. Kevin Cawley**, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona University Main Representative at the UN, Edmund Rice International, United States
- **Arlene Lobitaña**, SSpS Coordinator, Holy Spirit Mangyan Mission, Philippines
- **Dr. Fadila Grine**, Senior Adviser to the Director of Department of Foreign Affairs & Cabinet, Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum, Turkey
- **Kirin Taylor**, Ph.D. candidate, Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs, Syracuse University, United States

Moderator: **Michaela Waite**, Youth Representative, International Presentation Association

Co-sponsors: Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Edmund Rice International, Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum, UNANIMA International, VIVAT International

*English-Portuguese interpretation will be available

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