

2-2019 Biannual Bulletin • JULY – DECEMBER
Weaving Stories of Change and Leadership
INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S FORUM

Africa • Asia • Arctic • North America • Latin America and the Caribbean • Pacific



PRESENTATION





2-2019 Biannual Bulletin

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Weaving Stories of Change and Leadership

As **indigenous women**, we are weaving stories of change through collective actions on a global scale. As such, we are reinforcing the **individual and collective rights** of 238.4 million **indigenous women and girls** —accounting for 6.2% of the world's female population— to free our communities and organizations of all violence in a sustainable way.

In this **2019 Semiannual Bulletin: Weaving Stories of Change and Leadership**, we share the work accomplished throughout the second semester of 2019 and present our initial actions for 2020. This is the year in which the **IIWF** celebrates its twentieth anniversary, in the midst of the

COVID-19 pandemic whose effects are increasing the inequality gap for **indigenous peoples and women**.

Because capacity building is essential for leadership development, we are announcing, through the **6th edition of the Global Leadership School of Indigenous Women**, the implementation of nine advocacy plans by different indigenous peoples across the world.

Furthermore, we will share a summary of two studies on Environmental Justice and Economic Autonomy that resulted from the participatory research processes implemented by the **IIWF** using





an intercultural approach. These studies recognize the empowerment of **Indigenous Women** through their ancestral knowledge and wisdom.

Also in this bulletin, we provide a report on the co-investments made through the **AYNI Fund** by its partner organizations and donors, reflecting the spirit of solidarity and reciprocity that drive the efforts surrounding key issues for the empowerment of **Indigenous Women**, such as **land and territory, climate change, interculturality and economic empowerment**, among others.

Advocacy initiatives in international decision-making spaces are key to ensuring the full


exercise of our individual and collective rights. Here we report back on our participation in those spaces, including the **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**; new spaces for action such as the **Annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights (UNFBHR)**; and the **UN Conference on Climate Change (COP25)**.

Finally, we report on the implementation of our global advocacy agenda, which began in 2019 and continues in 2020 in the mark of our **20th anniversary**. The agenda is paving the way for the **Second World Conference of Indigenous Women in 2021**, a milestone in the area of **individual and collective rights for Indigenous Women**.



WEAVING STORIES OF CHANGE AND LEADERSHIP





Building Leadership and Capacity with Indigenous Women

Through the **sixth edition of the Global Leadership School**, 23 indigenous women leaders from 5 sociocultural regions (**Asia, Africa, the Arctic, the Pacific and the Americas**) participated in the **International Program on Human Rights and Advocacy Strategies**. The training sessions were carried out in 3 stages:

- 1** The first one consisted of facilitating online learning through a virtual platform.
- 2** The second stage included intensive seminars at the **United Nations headquarters and at Columbia University**, in New York, through its **Human Rights Institute**. In this stage, the women leaders participated in the eighteenth session of the **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**.
- 3** The third stage entailed monitoring the execution of the **advocacy plans** formulated by the participants at local, national and/or international levels.

The **IIWF** is financing, in full or in part, **nine advocacy plans** from indigenous organizations, networks and communities in **Botswana, Chile, the United States, Guam, India, Nepal, Nigeria and Thailand**. The actions outlined in these plans were focused on the revitalization of indigenous languages, building capacities among organizations and/or communities, strengthening culture, ancestral knowledge and language in indigenous youth, reasserting the value of traditional foods and promoting pesticide-free agriculture. We also highlight, as outcomes of this program, the creation of a **network of indigenous women of the Pacific** and the development of a national report, encompassing a review of the situation of women from different indigenous peoples in Nepal regarding education, poverty, political participation and decision-making, to present as a parallel report under the **Beijing +25 Platform for Action**.

By the closing of its **sixth edition**, the **Global Leadership School** had offered capacity building to 143 indigenous women leaders from 47 different countries.





Generating Environmental and Political Knowledge from the Perspectives of Indigenous Women

Through the **program on Research and Impactful Issues for the Lives of Indigenous Women**, we carried out participatory research processes covering the issues that significantly influence the lives of **indigenous women**. The results of these investigations are used to fuel our advocacy efforts. In 2019, the research topics were **environmental justice and economic autonomy**.

Through the work of six indigenous researchers part of the certification course in **Autonomy and Environmental Justice**, accredited by the **Instituto de Estudios Internacionales y Europeos “Francisco de Vitoria” of the Universidad Carlos III in Madrid and by the Indigenous Intercultural University (IIU) of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC)**, we carried out a study titled “Voices that pave the way: experiences of intersectionality between environmental justice and economic autonomy of **indigenous women**”.

The study focuses on the economic empowerment of **indigenous women** through an analysis of community ventures across Latin America and

the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. With an intercultural and interdisciplinary analysis, it describes how **indigenous women** seek economic autonomy based on cooperation, collectivity, respect for the cycles of life and the defence of land and territory. The information presented in this paper documents a collective knowledge on how to move towards an economic autonomy based on environmental justice.

“Environmental justice, perspective of indigenous women” is an **intercultural research recording the struggle of indigenous women for environmental justice** based on the vital need for land, territory and natural resources. The study reveals the different forms of violence experienced in our communities; describes our concept of environmental justice from the perspective of collective rights; and showcases our work as guardians of ancestral knowledge and biodiversity.

These studies were presented in different settings: at the eighteenth session of the **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**, in New York; at the experts’ seminar on “The right to land under the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of In-**

Indigenous Peoples: a human rights approach” in Pretoria, South Africa; at the **annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights** in Geneva, Switzerland; and at the COP25, which was held in Madrid, from December 2 - 13, 2019. In addition, the documents can be downloaded from:



www.fimi-iiwf.org



Economic Empowerment of Indigenous Women through Co-Investment



At its heart, the **AYNI Fund** is based on the pillars of the **Quechua/Kichua** indigenous philosophy:

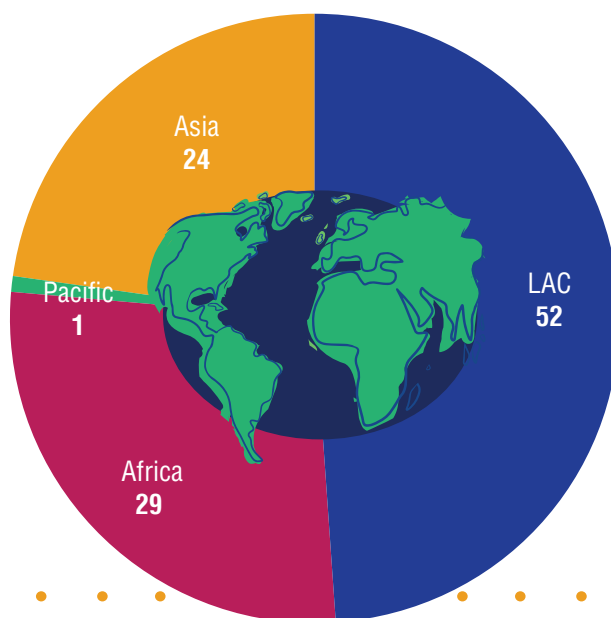
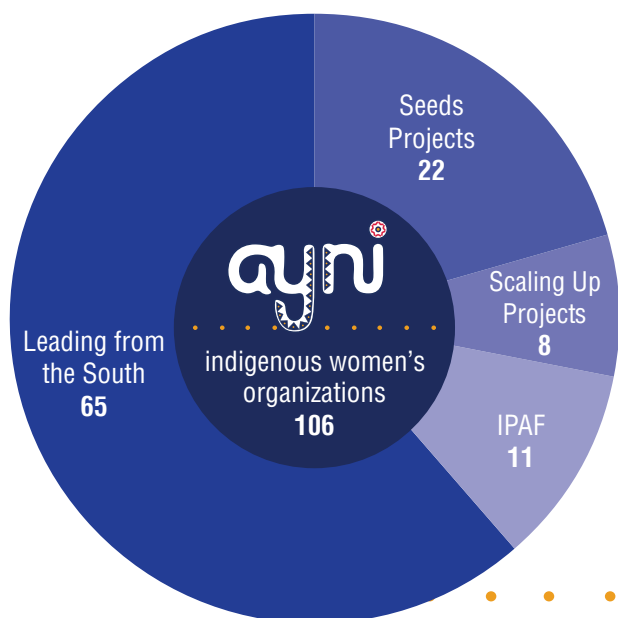
reciprocity, solidarity and joint, equitable and fair work, between all human beings and other beings of the cosmos.

Our **philanthropic** contribution is the creation and management of the first and only **indigenous women's fund**, which administers resources horizontally through co-financing to ensure the full

exercise of the individual and collective rights of **indigenous women**.

AYNI is made up of three different subsidy mechanisms: **Seeds Projects**, the **Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF)** and **Leading from the South (LFS)**.

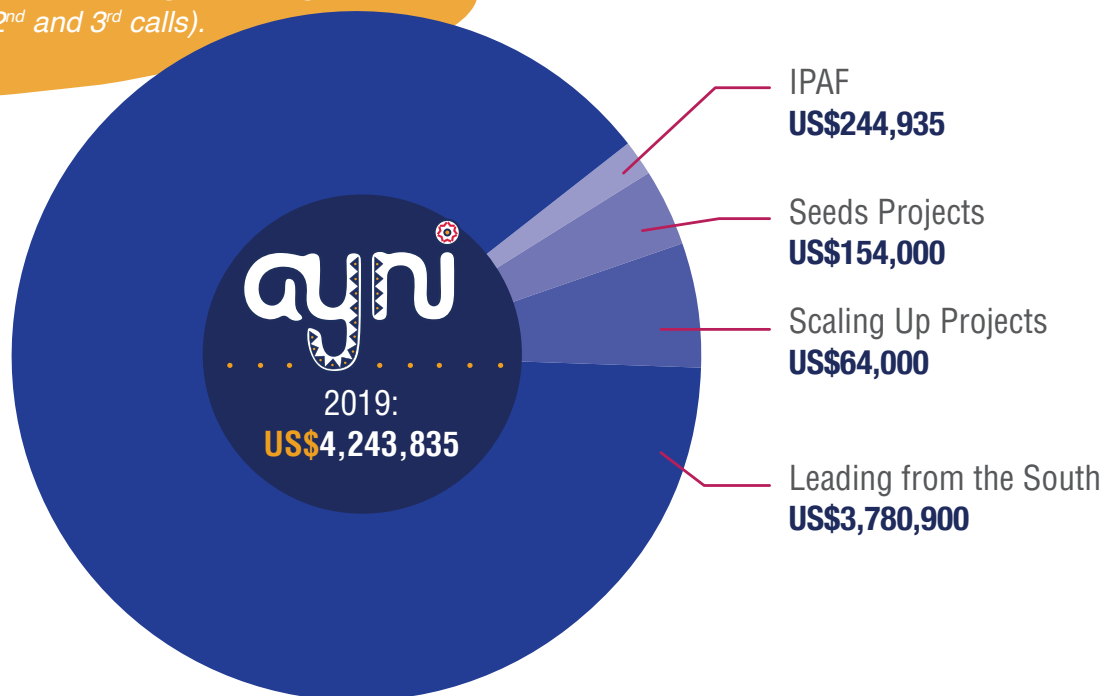
A total of 106 indigenous women's organizations, groups or coalitions have received funds in 2019: 22 through **Seeds Projects**, 8 through **Scaling**



Up Projects, 11 through the **Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility** and 65 through **Leading from the South**. As a result, projects for the well-being and future of our communities have been implemented across Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. Of the 106 organizations, 52 were from LAC, 29 from Africa, 1 from the Pacific and 24 from Asia.

In 2019, The **AYNI Fund** granted a total of **US\$4,243,835**:

- **US\$244,935 through IPAF;**
- **US\$154,000 through Seeds Projects;**
- **US\$64,000 through Scaling up Projects;**
- **and US\$3,780,900 through Leading from the South (2nd and 3rd calls).**

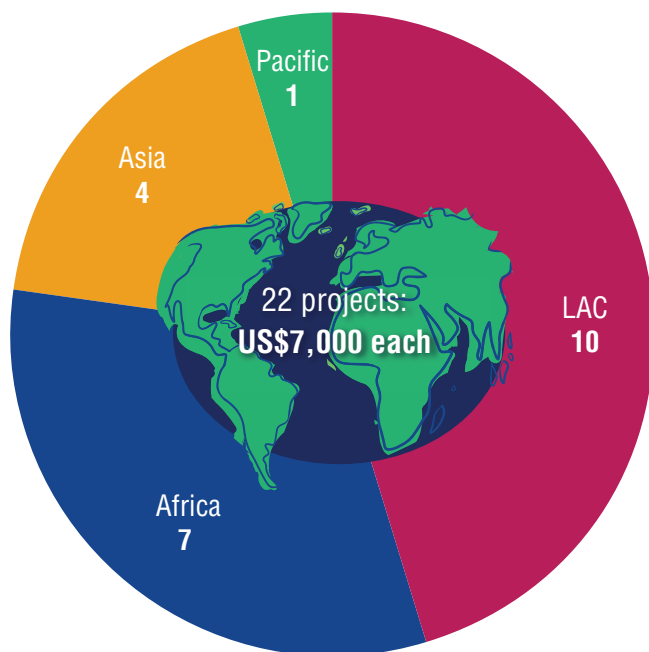


AYNI offers grants for projects in the following areas:

- *Land, territories and natural resources*
- *Climate change mitigation and adaptation*
- *Education, healing and cultural practices*
- *Institutional empowerment; economic empowerment*
- *Food security and nutrition*
- *Political advocacy, lobbying and influence, access to political power and decision-making*

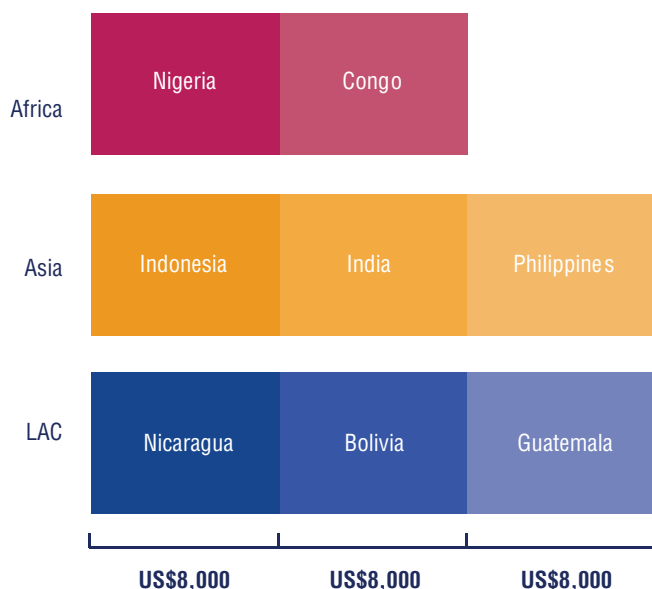
I. Seeds Projects

In the 5th call of **AYNI Fund's "Seeds Projects"**, we followed 22 projects: 10 from Latin America (Honduras, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, Bolivia [2] and Mexico [2]); 7 from Africa (Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya [2], Uganda, Sudan and Tanzania); 4 from Asia (Nepal, Philippines, India and Bangladesh); and, for the first time, 1 from the Pacific (Guam). Each selected project was granted an economic package of seven thousand US dollars (US\$7,000). Through "Seeds Projects", we have empowered local grassroots organizations as agents of change. The projects' current thematic areas are economic empowerment, education, institutional strengthening and access to political power.



II. Scaling up Projects

For the 2nd call of the **AYNI Fund's "Scaling up Projects"**, we awarded eight grants of US\$8,000 each to organizations from Africa, Asia and the Americas, specifically from the Philippines, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Indonesia, India, Guatemala, Congo, and Bolivia. Upscaling Projects aim to give a second grant opportunity to organizations that have successfully completed a first implementation.



III. Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF)

Under the **IPAF Program**, financed by the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**, indigenous peoples from Latin America and the Caribbean can promote their own community development through agriculture. Each project was analyzed and evaluated based on its contribution to the development of culture and identity, as well as on its relevance, feasibility, sustainability, institutional capacity, and credibility. In total, 11 organi-

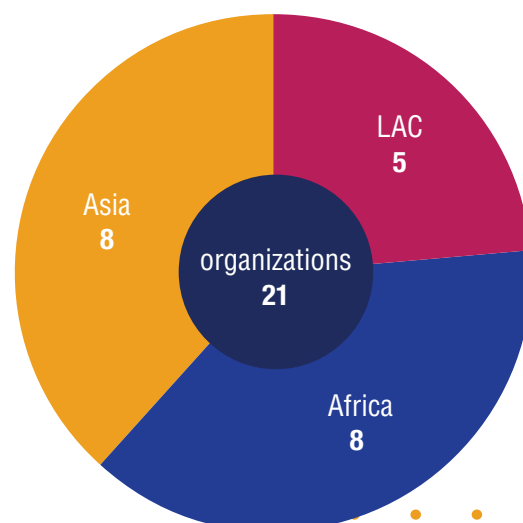
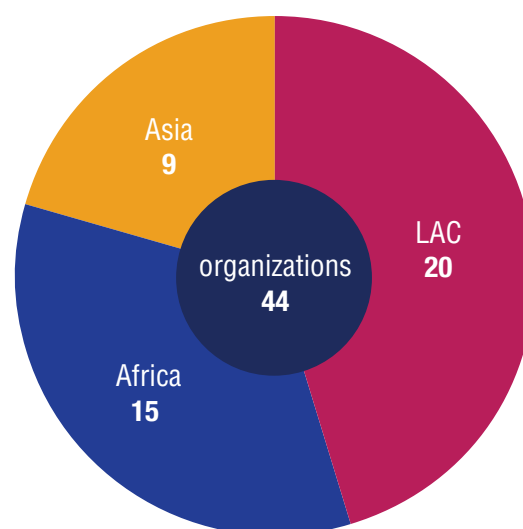
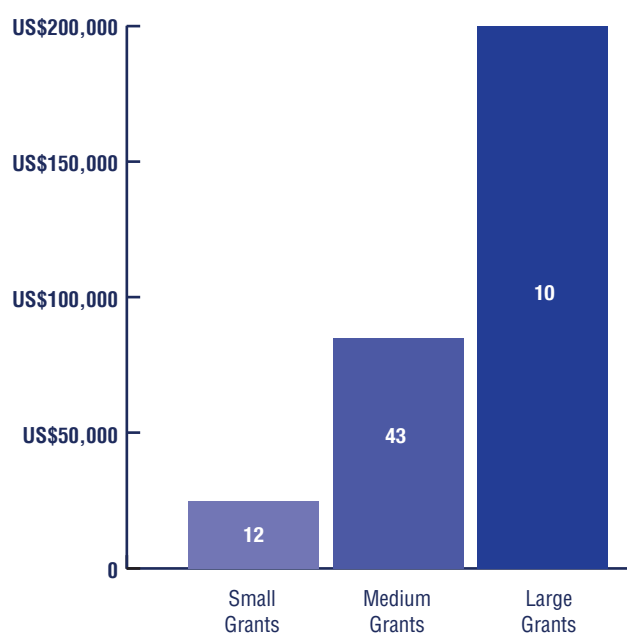


zations were selected from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Peru and Paraguay.

IV. Leading from the South Program (LFS)

With the **LFS Program**, funded by the **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, we work to encourage **indigenous women's organizations from the Global South** to strengthen their leadership and organizational capacity; to strengthen indigenous women's networks through better coordination and connection; and to empower young indigenous women to exercise their rights and influence in decision-making spaces.

With different implementation and execution dates, a total of 65 grants (second and third calls) were awarded in 2019 to indigenous women's organizations, groups and coalitions. The grants varied in size from small (12 grants of US\$25,000) to medium (43 grants of US\$85,000) and large (10 grants of US\$200,000). In total, 44 organizations (20 from LAC, 15 from Africa and 9 from Asia) participated in the 2nd call (2018-2019), and 21 organizations (5 from LAC, 8 from Africa and 8 from Asia) in the 3rd call. The projects were focused on the following areas: institutional strengthening, advocacy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and lands, territories and resources.





Towards a Global Advocacy Agenda for Indigenous Women

The **IWF** fosters the active participation and advocacy of **indigenous women** in regional and international decision-making spaces. Following this mission, in the second semester of 2019, we participated in the **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**, an event we determined to be of great importance.

Our presence at the **HLPF** proved to be essential as we were able to exchange agendas, articulate our political position as indigenous women, and consolidate our advocacy strategy to ensure that the States would comply with the commitments made in the mark of the **2030 Agenda**.

Together as a delegation of **five indigenous women**, we advocated for our individual and collective rights and for the care of **Mother Earth**, in representation of **indigenous women's** organizations at the local, national and international levels. Through the advocacy program, we have achieved to further promote an active international participation, monitoring compliance with international agreements and lending more strength to **indigenous women's** networks and organizations.

While 2020 has seen a shift in direction given the **COVID-19** pandemic, the marking of the twenty-fifth



anniversary of the **Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)** is still on the agenda for the international community.

For the **IIWF**, the **Beijing +5 meeting in 2000** set an important benchmark, marking our official debut. With the commemoration and celebration of the **IIWF's 20th anniversary**, we highlight the collective progress and milestones achieved. We are conscious of the challenges that still remain in order to achieve the full recognition of our collective and individual human rights.



Road to the **Second World Conference of Indigenous Women**

The **IWF** and the **regional indigenous women's** networks will meet at the **Second World Conference of Indigenous Women (2WCIW)** in 2021 with the goal to strengthen and consolidate the global movement of indigenous women at different levels. To achieve this, organizations and networks will work together to craft a joint agenda reflecting our priorities for the recognition and realization of our collective and individual rights.

During the conference, the debates will be centred around the following theme: progress made, challenges, and actions that should be carried out by States, **indigenous women's** organizations and other actors in a global context rife with crises and limitations to our political participation, economic empowerment and spiritual healing through different expressions of violence towards our lands and territories, climate change, and violations of our sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The preparatory process for the **Second World Conference** started in 2019. The **IWF** organized and supported the coordination of regional meetings in Africa, Asia and the Americas, with broad participation from **indigenous women**. The agenda and methodology were designed by each re-





gional network so as to gather the main priorities to be addressed at the **World Conference**. These preparatory meetings were organized to pave the way for **Beijing +25 and the 2WCIW**.

In Africa, the meeting was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon from December 3 - 7, 2019. It brought together **40 indigenous women from 15 African countries**: Kenya, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Morocco, Ethiopia, South Africa, Botswana, Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Uganda and Tanzania.



The meeting in Asia was organized in Kathmandu, Nepal, from October 3 - 6, 2019, with **59 participants including partners and indigenous women's networks from all over Asia**. The countries represented were Nepal, the Philippines, India, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Japan.



For the Americas, the meeting was held in Mexico City from February 26-29, 2020, with over **200 indigenous women, adults and youth alike, from 21 countries across North America, Latin America and the Caribbean**.

At both regional meetings, **indigenous women** joined their voices and came to shared agreements in preparation for the **2WCIW**.

IN THE WORKS



Mutatá, Uraba. Comunidad Chontadural Cañero

In the Works: **Global Study** on the **Situation** of **Indigenous Women**

In October 2019, we began work on the **Global Study on the Situation of Indigenous Women**. This is a regional research process carried out mostly by indigenous women leaders from Africa, the Americas, the Arctic, Asia and the Pacific. The **Global Study** will be used as a political document, based on the results of regional investigations, interviews and reports, interweaving the demands made by **indigenous women** and the commitments adopted by the States.

It is important to highlight that this study was carried out with a participatory approach based on intercultural research in order to raise the issue of justice and rights for **indigenous women**, based on their own realities with their free, prior and informed consent.

Thanks to these knowledge-building processes, we have been able to increase awareness of the violations of the individual and collective rights of **indigenous women and indigenous peoples**.



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Knitting is a process that involves a manual dance; a collective force that brings to the weaver the threads, a loom, the dyes, and the ancestral knowledge. The person who carries the result of all these energies has materialized it in a beautiful huipil.

After having read this bulletin, we can recognize that our work for the individual and collective rights of **Indigenous Women** implies the sum of the wills of **Indigenous Women's networks around the world**, non-governmental organizations, donors, **United Nations** agencies, educational and research institutions and Governments. For this dance together, we thank the Universe three times, because we know that by implementing this melody we build a more equitable, fair and violence-free world for all.



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