



NIDWAN Statement, June 18 2021

Statement by the National Delegation of Indigenous women with disabilities from Nepal, Asia and Global on the CEDAW general discussion day on "the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls"

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for giving me this opportunity to address the Committee.

I am Jamuna Tamang, an Indigenous woman with disabilities from a hilly, rural region of Nepal representing National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN). I'm speaking on behalf of a delegation of Indigenous women and girls with disabilities (IWGwDs) from Nepal, Asia and globally. We appreciate this opportunity to address you on critical issues of indigenous women and girls with disabilities.

Today, I am speaking on behalf of the 185 million Indigenous women and girls and 28 million Indigenous women and girls with disabilities who are invisible, voiceless, excluded in state mechanisms including the public and private sphere.

Indigenous women comprise of different heterogenous groups we are girls, youth, elderly, women with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ communities. Indigenous girls, and women with disabilities are often overlapped with others and bound to live in a stateless position, without voice, rights and recognition. So, we wanted to be treated as indigenous women with disabilities and we want our individual, collective and our intersecting identities and rights to be clearly outlined in the GR of CEDAW because they are fundamental to who we are. We request to ensure that State laws and policies do recognize our rights, distinctive needs and distinct identity.

Therefore, we would like to make the following recommendations to the CEDAW committee to include in the General Recommendation No. 39:

1. Include intersectional, intercultural, gender, and disability perspectives through human rights framework that provides an intersectional and comprehensive framework to address the types of issues that impact the lives of IWGwDs.
2. Integrate the historical, structural, systematic discrimination and collective violence that IWwDs experience in line with UNDRIP to ensure the collective dimensions of the rights of IW and IWwDs their right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent and right to self determination are upheld and recognized by the Member States in national policies and framework.



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3. Link and bridge the individual and collective rights with (UNCRC and UNDRIP) of girls and IWwDs to address the unique and intersectional discrimination they face by realizing and respecting the rights of IWwDs at all levels and affirm Indigenous knowledge, wisdom, and the collective way of life.
4. Define and provide the context of the unique experiences that girls, IW and IWGwDs face and the legal measures and remedies to address those unique experiences, with their collective cosmivision, the rights of Nature, and ancestral guardians of Mother Earth.
5. Ensure effective mechanisms that are accessible and available in Indigenous and sign languages and safe enabling environments to address the violence that IW and IWGwDs face as a result of racism, ableism, imperialism, dominant group dominance and power hegemony and create strong justice, complaint and punishment mechanism.
6. Ensure the full, effective, and meaningful participation of girls, IW and IWGwDs at the private, public, national, and local levels and within own constituencies by realizing and respecting the value of 'nothing about us without us'
7. Demand Member States provide accurate disaggregated data by indigenous identity, sexuality, gender, race, ethnicity, age, and disability to visibilize IW and IWGwD.
8. Outline the different impacts on girls and IWGwDs' social, cultural and public lives in the GR of CEDAW, referencing their increased vulnerability due to climate change, pandemics, and other emergencies. Recommend member states to implement effective short and long-term remedies to address specific issues in consultation with girls and IWGwD at the local and national levels.

Thank you for listening to me and providing us Indigenous women this opportunity.

Delivered by Jamuna Tamang

National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN)