



Initial Roadmap for the Caucus on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls

Indigenous Women's Parliamentary Leadership in the Americas: Strengthening Rights, Representation, and Collective Action

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We, women parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean committed to advancing Indigenous women's rights, gathered in Ottawa on the occasion of the ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly to coordinate shared actions to support Indigenous women's leadership and participation in democratic life.

We recognize that Indigenous women and girls continue to face intersecting forms of discrimination that limit their full and effective participation in political and public life, and that strengthening their representation and leadership is essential to advancing inclusive governance, equality, and respect for collective rights.

Over the course of our exchanges, we have shared experiences from diverse national and institutional contexts related to the ways in which Indigenous women leaders have positively shaped our societies, the challenges that continue to impede formal political participation, and the role of parliaments in advancing political, economic, social, and cultural rights. These discussions have underscored the importance of our sustained dialogue, cooperation, and collective action.

To advance these objectives, we have established the Caucus on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls as a working group within the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE). The caucus will function as a space for collaboration, exchange, and parliamentary engagement across the hemisphere, guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (ADRIP).¹

The following shared priorities, discussed during this meeting, will provide a guide for our initial collective efforts:

- Foster the full and effective participation of Indigenous women in parliamentary processes and all other public decision-making spaces in matters affecting their rights, in line with the right to self-determination and ensuring respect for Indigenous institutions, governance systems, and diverse pathways for representation.

¹ The [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (2007) and [American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (2016) both address key interrelated issues, such as: self-determination and autonomy; participation in decision-making; land, territory, and resources; economic and social development; institutional recognition and legal pluralism; free, prior and informed consent; cultural rights and identity; equality and non-discrimination; and effective implementation and accountability.

- Promote governance frameworks that respect the right of free, prior, and informed consent, and ensure that Indigenous women’s voices are meaningfully included in legislative and policy processes affecting their communities and rights related to lands, territories, and resources.
- Support the recognition and advancement of Indigenous women’s economic, social, civil, political, cultural and spiritual rights, including their rights to maintain and strengthen their cultural identities, knowledge systems, and ways of life.
- Advance legislative and policy approaches that address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by Indigenous women, promoting equity and equality, dignity, and inclusion in public and political life.
- Encourage the harmonization and compliance of national legislative frameworks and parliamentary practice with UNDRIP and ADRIP, including through oversight, dialogue, and the promotion of accountability in the implementation and enforcement of Indigenous peoples’ rights.

ANNEX: Information on the Caucus on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls

The Caucus on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls will be a space for interparliamentary collaboration within the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality. Its work will be guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (ADRIP).

Objectives:

The Caucus’ objectives will centre on: **(a)** advancing cooperative political dialogue to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous women and girls in all their diversity; **(b)** strengthening Indigenous women’s political participation and leadership in parliament and other decision-making spaces in the Americas and the Caribbean; and **(c)** supporting the effective implementation of UNDRIP and ADRIP through its harmonization in national legislation, legislative advocacy, budgetary allocations, and oversight, adopting an intersectional, intercultural, gender, and human rights perspectives across these efforts.

Mission:

To strengthen the collective voice and leadership of Indigenous women across the Americas and the Caribbean, promoting cooperation and advocating for the rights and wellbeing of Indigenous women and girls through interparliamentary dialogue and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from a legislative perspective.

Vision:

A hemisphere in which Indigenous women fully and effectively participate in parliamentary decision-making, shape laws and public policy affecting their peoples and communities, and advance inclusive democracies grounded in self-determination, equity, equality, dignity, cultural continuity, and respect for collective rights.