**Biographies of keynote speakers of the CEDAW half-day of general discussion on indigenous women and girls**

**Mr. Francisco Calí Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples**

Mr. Calí Tzay is Maya Kaqchikel from Guatemala, with experience in defending the rights of Indigenous Peoples, both in Guatemala and at the level of the United Nations and the OAS.

He was founder and member of a different indigenous organizations in Guatemala and as well Ambassador of Guatemala to the Federal Republic of Germany and was President of the Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, a treaty body from which he was elected for four consecutive periods of 4 years each.

He was Director of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala; he was member of the Presidential Commission against Discrimination and Racism against Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala (CODISRA) and President of the National Reparation Program for Victims of the Internal Armed Conflict.

**Ms. Anne Nuorgam, President of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)**

Ms. Nuorgam is a long-term Saami politician, who holds a Master of Laws degree and is a currently a PhD student at the University of Lapland. She has been a member of the Saami Parliament of Finland since 2000. Ms. Nuorgam is the Chair of Veahčanjárga Fishery. She has been working on reconciliation issues and now works as the Head of the Saami Council’s Human Rights Unit.

**Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea** - **President of FIMI and of the Executive Council of CHIRAPAQ, Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú**

She is a Quechua activist from Ayacucho. She has dedicated more than 30 years of her life to defending and seeking recognition for the cultures and indigenous peoples of Peru. She is the creator of the Permanent Workshop of Andean and Amazon Indigenous Women of Peru, CHIRAPAQ Center for Indigenous Cultures of Peru and the Continental Liaison of Indigenous Women of the Americas. She has participated in international forums, including in Nairobi, Cairo, Beijing and Durban. In addition, she participated in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In 2011, she was recognized by the Ford Foundation as an extraordinary global leader, and the following year she was designated as a member of the UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group. She has been elected as a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for the period 2017-2019. Presently, she is president of CHIRAPAQ Center for Indigenous Cultures of Peru.

**Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz - Founder and Executive Director of Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Policy Research and Education)**

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz is the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. Previously, she served as President of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2005-2011), after she actively participated in the drafting of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. Victoria is a Kankanaey-Igorot woman from Besao, Monte Provincia, Philippines. She is the founder and Executive Director of Tebtebba, Inc., the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education.

**Ms. Laila Susanne Vars - Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**

Laila Susanne Vars is the Chair of EMRIP and its member from the Arctic. She is an indigenous Sámi lawyer, PhD in international law and former member and Vice President of the Sámi Parliament in Norway. She is currently the President of the Sámi University of Applied Sciences – Sámi allaskuvla.”