**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**17th Session, 8 – 12, July 2024**

**Item 5:** Interactive dialogue with UNPFII, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and members of the United Nations Treaty Bodies

**Indigenous Peoples Organization**: Ontario Native Women’s Association | www.onwa.ca

* Thank you, Chair.
* Traditional opening
* My name is Krystal Brant. I am a Mohawk woman, who belongs to the Bear Clan and I am also the Board vice-president at the Ontario Native Women’s Association—the oldest and largest Indigenous women’s organization in Canada.
* I am here amplifying the collective voices of over 30 Indigenous women’s organizations and our Indigenous youth members.
* To ensure our leadership and futures, we recommend your collective efforts to urge States and United Nations entities to take the following actions:
  1. Enhance financing for Indigenous women’s organizations
  2. Implement UNDRIP and CEDAW following the guidance of CEDAW General Recommendation 39
  3. Ensure dedicated space and mechanisms for Indigenous women and youth’s voices in the United Nations systems
* I will now go into further detail on each:

**1. Urge States to provide core, sustainable and multiyear financing to Indigenous women’s organizations and ensure Indigenous women’s participation in UN forums**

* We are concerned with the serious liquidity crisis impacting UN bodies and jeopardizing their mandates and our human rights.
* We ask you to urge States to increase their allocations to the UN Voluntary Fund and to ensure key entities like the Expert Mechanism and the Permanent Fourm have the financing they need to fulfill their mandates.

**2. Urge States to implement critical mechanisms to uphold Indigenous women’s’ rights—specifically, UNDRIP and CEDAW, guided by General Recommendation 39.**

* Treaty obligations and UNDRIP legislation and action plans in some States are not leading to actual changes in the daily lives of Indigenous Peoples – we need action and accountability to keep Indigenous women safe.
* Despite Canada’s Statement that they are committed to Truth and Reconciliation

Only 2 of the 231 National Inquiry into MMIWG’s Calls for Justice, and only 13 of 94 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action have been implemented.

* Canada’s inaction in response to the ongoing MMIWG crisis is a form of systemic and structural violence against Indigenous women.
* As Jennifer Moore Rattray eloquently stated in her recent report to the Canadian Government, “striking committees does not constitute action. Continuous consultation does not constitute action. Words filled with good intentions do not constitute action.”

**3. Urge UN entities and States to provide dedicated space and mechanisms for Indigenous women’s voices in the United Nations systems**

* We echo the Special Rapporteur’s previous recommendation that particular attention should be paid to increasing the participation of Indigenous women-led organizations and associations.
* We further ask members of the UN Voluntary fund to prioritize Indigenous women and girls to increase our participation in UN spaces.
* It is our inherent right as life givers and water carriers and land defenders to speak on our own behalf and represent ourselves, our families; and our future generations. Indigenous Women hold the solutions to the issues we face.
* We must be given the tools, resources and protections to do so.

Miigwetch. Matna. Mersee. Nia:Wen.