FORUM: Human Rights Council

QUESTION OF: Protecting Indigenous Women from Acts of Marginalization and Violence

MAIN-SUBMITTED BY: Ecuador

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Cuba

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Applauding* the efforts of the United Nations on the issue of violence against indigenous women through several conventions including UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP), and Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People (EMRIP),

*Reaffirming* that the Ecuadorian Constitution addresses gender equality under its chapter 1 and 2, and international organizations such as CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) works to close the gender gap in Ecuador,

*Stressing*the need to redirect hyper-masculine culture such as Machismo which allows both physical and sexual harassments of indigenous women to be prevalent,

*Seeking* ways to eliminate violence against indigenous women and to reinforce existing laws,

*Keeping in mind* that policies to protect women have been created since the 1970s, yet the marginalization of women remains extensively,

*Acknowledging*that the issue of violence against women is not limited to Ecuador where “6 out of 10” women and “9 out of 10” divorced women have experienced some form of violence and “1 out of 4” women experienced sexual violence,

1. Encourages relevant countries in which many indigenous individuals reside to raise public awareness of citizens about the discrimination of indigenous peoples through:
   1. advocating the establishment of new organizations in order to launch a big-scale campaign to ban race-based or culturally offensive pranks or humor,
   2. initiating public service advertisement on both television and major social media site;

1. Endorseswomen to join the workforce through ways such as:
   1. adding benefits for women, including a mandatory maternity leave and flexible time schedule,
   2. providing incentives to businesses that employ indigenous women such as reduced   taxes,
   3. monetizing unpaid care so that unpaid women get recognized and compensated;
2. Calls upon national ministries of education to endorse curriculum or teacher guidelines that educate students since an early age as a means to gradually eradicate the Machismo culture through:
   1. having “gender classes” similar to sex education classes to combat stereotypes,
   2. presenting guidelines that teachers must follow to provide equal opportunities and treat students of both genders equally,
   3. having mixed-gender group activities to prevent the social seclusion that might occur from having a disproportionate male and female ratio,
   4. encouraging students to refuse initiating, participating, or condoning discrimination and violence against indigenous individuals;

1. Recommends to establish an international indigenous organization that:
   1. dispatches regional sub-organizations/communities to certain regions where acts of violence against indigenous women are prevalent,
   2. enables indigenous women to speak out for any abuse or marginalization by internationally publicizing the acts of violence indigenous women are suffering from,
   3. creates a recovery program for both physical and mental damages from abuses.