

**A Nation Is Not Conquered: Regional Partnerships for the Human Rights  
Advancements of Indigenous Women of the Americas (NINC Project)  
Final Narrative Report to the Indigenous Peoples Partnership Program  
November 2010**

**1) Financial Reporting**

Please find attached the unaudited financial reporting that provides an analysis of the original budget forecasts compared to actual disbursements, for the Project as a whole as well as for each of the main activities. Reasons have been provided for any variances, as well as any other pertinent information related to the administrative and financial aspects of the Project. Included is a comprehensive final presentation of the in-kind and financial contributions to the Project of the Organization and any other pertinent sources as outlined in Part C of the Specific Terms and Conditions. There are no significant intellectual property rights arising from this Project.

**2) Background and Objectives**

**2.1) Background and Rationale**

Indigenous women and girls throughout the Americas experience struggles on a daily basis in achieving gender equality and adequate protection of their rights related to sustainable development. They continue to work towards gaining adequate recognition and respect of their human rights; both as Indigenous women and as Indigenous peoples. This Project aimed to assist Indigenous women and girls throughout the Americas to increase their capacity to engage in policy dialogue in the areas of gender equality and sustainable development, through engagement at the local, national levels as well as with the Organization of American States (the OAS) and the United Nations (UN).

**2.2) Project Goals and Objectives**

The main goal of this project was to increase the capacity of Indigenous women and girls from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to participate in policy dialogues in the areas of gender equality and sustainable development. The objectives of this project were to offer regional training and workshops to Indigenous women from this region on the topics of violence against Indigenous women (including sexual and reproductive health rights), management of natural resources (including the right to water) and leadership development. These objectives were met in partnership with MADRE, the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI), and U'kuxtal Masewal – Maya Institute of Belize, who are leaders in promoting the human rights of Indigenous women in North America, Latin America and internationally. The project objectives were met.

## 2.3) Results

### i) Outputs

The expected outputs of this project were:

- Through three regional workshops, approximately 125 women leaders will be trained and will increase their knowledge of the following three key issues: violence against Indigenous women (including sexual and reproductive health rights), management of natural resources (including the right to water) and leadership development.

This was achieved through holding five workshops – two on violence against Indigenous women, one on the management of natural resources and two on capacity building and leadership development (one of which was held in the context of a broader workshop on the UN Reform Process). Approximately 127 Indigenous women from the Americas, representing 15 different countries, participated in one or more of the workshops.

#### *Workshop on Management of Natural Resources: An Indigenous Women's Perspective (November 2009)*

This workshop was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 in Montreal, Quebec during a Convention on Biological Diversity meeting. Indigenous women leaders shared their knowledge and expertise in the area of management of natural resources (including the right to water) at the local, regional, national and international levels. This included: Violet Ford, Vice-President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada), Ellen Gabriel, President of Quebec Native Women/Femme Autochtones Du Quebec, Florina Lopez Miro, Kuna People (Panama) and Coordinator of the Network of Indigenous Women on Biodiversity Latin America Caribbean Region and Celeste McKay, Director of Human Rights & International Affairs, Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), moderated by Malia Nobrega, President, Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club. Approximately 27 Indigenous women attended this workshop from Bolivia, Chile, Panama, Ecuador, Canada, Mexico, the US as well as Nepal and Africa.

The topics that were covered during this session included an overview of management of natural resources from an Inuit women's perspectives, highlighting efforts to protect natural resources, connected to protecting traditional food sources, and emphasizing the role of Indigenous women's traditional knowledge in this area. Ms Gabriel emphasized Indigenous women's role in self-determination and protection of traditional territories in the context of development. She provided First Nations-specific examples as well as identifying the role of networks including ENLACE, an intercontinental Indigenous women's network. Further, a case study presented by Ms Lopez Miro at a national level in Panama highlighted the importance of biodiversity in the management of natural resources and the connection with developments at the Convention on Biological Diversity. Celeste McKay spoke about how specific human rights concerns in this area can be addressed through international fora, specifically the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), Special Rapporteurs and international instruments, including the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (the UN Declaration), as well as the Climate Change context,

including the recent Anchorage Declaration issued on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 by the participants of the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change. Panelists spoke about how Indigenous women's human rights are related to the collective human rights of Indigenous peoples as well as how to network with international women's groups. The right to water was also highlighted. The panelists spoke about how national Indigenous women's concerns, including youth, through mobilization and empowerment, can lead to policy changes in the area of management of natural resources.

### ***Workshops on Violence against Indigenous Women***

There were two workshops held on Violence against Indigenous Women – one was held at the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) on May 19, 2009 and the other was held on May 19, 2009 entitled, UN Reforms: Perspectives of Indigenous Women.

### ***Training on Violence against Indigenous Women (May 19, 2009)***

Within the United Nations system, Indigenous peoples, and in particular Indigenous women, have continuously struggled for recognition of both individual and collective rights. An area that urgently needs action on the part of all parties (States, Indigenous organizations, funders and United Nations agencies) is the topic of Violence against Indigenous Women. Some key areas related to this include under-reporting, internalization of violence, interference with sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS and sex trade workers. Some of the key international developments in this area include the UN Division on the Advancement of Women's Study on Violence Against Women and FIMI's Shadow Report (*Mairin Iwanka Raya*), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Sisters in Spirit Initiative, NWAC's Toolkit and the development of indicators of violence by FIMI.

The training session addressed violence from several gender perspectives and was a space where reflection generated awareness of the indicators for measuring violence based on international instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the UN Declaration.

This training session on violence against Indigenous Women was held on May 19, 2009 at the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. It was organized by IIWF/FIMI and NWAC and co-sponsored by Amnesty International, UNIFEM and UNICEF. At this session, there were approximately 110 participants, including Indigenous women from Ecuador, Mexico, Bolivia, Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, Guatemala, as well as from Bangladesh, the Philippines, the United States, Uganda, Kenya, Holland, the United Kingdom and Senegal. In addition, there were representatives from UN Agencies, international funding organizations and international human rights organizations present.

The objectives of the session included:

1. Provide training to Indigenous women leaders from several gender perspectives on the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls from a rights-based approach;
2. Raise awareness about violence against Indigenous women indicators and their implementation through the use of international instruments.
3. Analyze the impact of the violence against Indigenous women indicators.
4. Analyze the violence that Indigenous girls experience in school and its impact on their lives.

The distinguished panelists of the session provided an in-depth analysis on violence against Indigenous women from a variety of perspectives. Andrew Erueti, Coordinator of the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples at Amnesty International - International Secretariat, detailed the mechanisms that exist for protection of Indigenous women against any manifestation of violence or racial discrimination. He also provided concrete resources for representatives of Indigenous women's organizations to become more deeply involved in international legislation.

Speaking from the perspective of an Indigenous women's organization, Beverley Jacobs, President of NWAC, discussed how Indigenous women's organizations, in Canada and globally, have led the struggle to eradicate violence in their communities. She highlighted the "Sisters in Spirit" report spearheaded by NWAC, which is an ongoing initiative that not only voices the struggle of Indigenous women in Canada, but also provides an opportunity to share success stories. Ms. Jacobs also expressed her support of the FIMI indicators for violence against Indigenous women, especially as related to discrimination, access to healthcare and sexual and reproductive rights, and Indigenous land protection.

Carolina Taborga, Program Specialist of the LAC Section of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), focused her presentation on the implementation of the CEDAW and her work at UNIFEM. One of the ambitions currently addressed by UNIFEM is the access to traditional justice, which has been a successful way to resolve land disputes and livestock theft. Ms. Taborga argued that the principles of traditional justice must also be applied to violence against Indigenous women in their communities. She shared a success story from Ecuador where Indigenous women presented a declaration of ancestral justice and through the incorporation of traditional justice norms contributed to resolving violence against Indigenous women in certain communities.

Otilia Lux de Coti, Guatemalan parliamentarian and representative of UNICEF Latin America, spoke about violence in childhood, stating that: "naturalization of violence begins during childhood". The initiation of physical and emotional maltreatment of Indigenous children at an early age in schools begins as a process that leads to serious discrimination in terms of the right to education. For example, physical punishment in schools and discrimination by teachers manifests and escalates into harassment and intimidation of children. Aside from discrimination within schools, most do not

consider the lack of access to schools or situations where children may not even make it to school due to the treacherous journey from home to school. When these conditions remain, it is impossible for the serious inclusion of Indigenous peoples in processes of human development.

Echoing the statements of Ms. De Coti, Kesheili Chishi, member of the Indigenous Women's Forum of North East India, expressed the grave situation of violence that exists for Indigenous women and children in their communities and nearby cities. Structural racism and discrimination within the government also prevents HIV/AIDS treatment for Indigenous women. During the discussion time, Margaret Lokawua, a member of the UNPFII, spoke about the violence against Indigenous women indicators recommended by FIMI. She stressed that these indicators will have an important impact on the lives of Indigenous women and will continue articulating strategies and mechanisms from the space created by the UNPFII.

Ultimately, the discussion generated during the session reaffirmed the commitment of international Indigenous organizations and UN agencies to ensure the implementation of crucial international instruments at the local and regional levels to truly affect positive social change for Indigenous communities and especially Indigenous women. The work of FIMI through the "Proposal of Indicators on Violence against Indigenous Women" report was officially recognized in the 2009 Report on the UNPFII:

*33. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Inter-agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues convene an international technical expert seminar on indicators of the well-being of indigenous peoples to discuss indicators that could be used in monitoring the situation of indigenous peoples and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, the Forum recommends that relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, States and indigenous peoples conduct assessments of the extent to which they have advanced the recommendations of the Forum on Indigenous women, utilizing the framework of the Declaration, as set out by the International Indigenous Women's Forum. Action for the immediate implementation of these recommendations is required by all.<sup>1</sup>*

Indigenous women identified different violence manifestations: physical, sadness, sexual, property dispossession, economic violence, unemployment, maternal mortality and institutional, obstetric and political violence.

The strategies highlighted the importance to recognize the history of our ancestors and learn to start a harmonious dialogue between different social actors to promote the eradication of violence against Indigenous women.

The recommendations were the following:

- Establish a working group to develop indicators;
- Conceptualize violence in military zones, including sexual violence from the perspective of Indigenous women and their communities, criminalization, low self-esteem, forced displacement, among others;

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<sup>1</sup> 2009 Report on the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
<[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/E\\_C\\_19\\_2009\\_14\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/E_C_19_2009_14_en.pdf)>

- Strengthening alliances;
- Promoting public policies according to Indigenous women demands;
- Promote legal reforms to address community demands; and
- Strengthen internal communication mechanisms to circulate information regarding violence against Indigenous women.

***Training on Violence Against Indigenous Women (Mexico City, April 14, 2010)***

The session held on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Mexico City was hosted by FIMI, UNIFEM Mexico and the Comision Nacional Para El Desarrollo de Los Pueblos Indigenas entitled “A Latin American Expert Meeting Regarding Violence Against Indigenous Women: Defining a Matrix of Indicators from the Perspectives of Indigenous Women.” At this session, Celeste McKay of NWAC, presented at a workshop session which began with an overview of the results from FIMI’s 2009 Findings on Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls, by Olga Tzec of the U’kuxtal Masewal – Maya Institute of Belize. She provided an overview of the manifestations of violence that have been identified in the report *Mairin Iwanka Raya: Indigenous Women Stand Against Violence* as well as other manifestations identified by Indigenous women and girls.

Celeste McKay presented on the case example of Sisters in Spirit by NWAC as a national response to addressing violence against Indigenous women and girls. She also set out the international instruments and mechanisms that can be utilized by Indigenous women from across the Americas and globally, in strengthening coordinated efforts to eliminate violence through international and regional mechanisms (including the UN UPR, EMRIP, Special Rapporteurs, PFII, the UN Declaration and the OAS draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples). She explained the way in which regional and international mechanisms and instruments can be used to influence policy at a national level.

Approximately 29 Indigenous women participated in this training session from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Mexico, Costa Rica, Belize, Guatemala and Bolivia.

***Workshops on Capacity Building and Leadership Promotion***

There were two workshops held related to the topic of capacity building and leadership promotion: one on May 29, 2009 at the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNPFII and one on April 20, 2010 at the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNPFII.

***Workshop on United Nations Reform Process (May 29, 2009)***

This workshop was held on May 29, 2009 at the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum, where the topic of Capacity Building and Leadership Development was presented within the broader context of the UN Reform Proess. It served to inform Indigenous women about the current UN reform processes occurring related to women’s rights as well as to inform Indigenous women about newly created mechanisms under the UN Human Rights Council, including the UPR process and the EMRIP.

At this session, the moderator was Mirian Masaquiza and the speakers were: Monica Aleman, Executive Director of FIMI; Charlotte Bunch, Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership; Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UNPFII; Celeste McKay, NWAC; and Joshua Cooper of the Hawaii Institute for Human Rights.

The objective of this session was to create the basis for discussion on the UN reforms, levels of performance and challenges and opportunities involved for women, particularly for Indigenous women. This included exploring practical ways to promote capacity-building intergenerationally among Indigenous women. There was a focus on capacity building and leadership promotion through the use of regional and international human rights systems, to advance the particular human rights of Indigenous women and girls, including violence against Indigenous women, the right to development and the right to natural resources, including water. It explained and reviewed the recent work of the UN Human Rights Council mechanisms: the UPR, the EMRIP as they specifically apply to Indigenous women's rights. While these objectives were met in part, an in-depth examination of the particular rights (right to development, violence against Indigenous women, right to natural resources, including water) did not take place. However, participants did gain important information about human rights and UN mechanisms that can be utilized in advancing their human rights. Further, the experiences from this session were used to elaborate the training session held at the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum in 2010.

During the session, Monica Aleman spoke about the work of FIMI and its consultation on a global scale with Indigenous women. This consultation lasted for a period of one year resulting in a series of case studies of how Indigenous women want to see the UN System based on the reforms proposed by Kofi Annan, who served as UN Secretary General. Afterwards, Charlotte Bunch acknowledged that FIMI is an important part of the ongoing process of empowerment of the Indigenous Women's Movement. She noted the importance of the tool developed by FIMI to the work of Indigenous women's organizations in utilizing the United Nations system. Ms. Bunch stressed that UN work targeted towards women still remains highly fragmented, so we must continue to demand and strengthen the existing spaces. Then, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UNPFII emphasized the efforts of women workers to achieve the human rights of Indigenous women around the world and in different fields of action.

After, Celeste McKay spoke about the UPR, EMRIP, the PFII, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and the inter-relationship between the distinctive mandates of these mechanisms. She spoke about how the mechanisms could be utilized to advance the broad range of human rights of Indigenous women.

Joshua Cooper spoke on the recent reforms to the UN HRC and how these impact Indigenous peoples' efforts to advance human rights.

Approximately 42 Indigenous women participated from Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, as well as Taiwan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, France, the US, Kenya and Russia.

### *Workshop on Capacity Building and Leadership Promotion (April 20, 2010)*

This workshop was held on April 20, 2010 during the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. It was entitled, “Training Session on Capacity and Leadership Promotion of Indigenous Women.” It aimed at promoting an inter-generational approach among Indigenous women leaders from North and South America with the purpose of improving capacity and leadership skills through sharing local, national and international experiences. This involved participants from Argentina, Nicaragua, Mexico, Ecuador, Canada as well as France.

The session was moderated by Karmen Ramirez Boscan. Celeste McKay, NWAC moderated the discussion which occurred after the presentations. The following speakers discussed topics related to capacity building and leadership promotion of Indigenous women: Mirna Cunningham, FIMI, spoke about the international level of participation of Indigenous Women as leaders and how to build capacity through sharing traditional knowledge with other generations of women in the area of natural resources and violence against Indigenous women. Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, President, NWAC, spoke on advancing the human rights of Indigenous women in Canada, including the right to development, the right to water and the results from the Third Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas. She also emphasized the key role played by Indigenous young women in leadership. Isabel Ortega, Vice Minister of Indigenous Justice of the Plurinational State of Bolivia spoke about the participation and decision-making of Indigenous women at a national level in the context of a progressive government and how these experiences can lead to advancements at the regional and international level. Karmen Ramirez Boscan, ONIC outlined how to use the international system, including the UN Human Rights Council mechanisms (such as the UPR and the EMRIP) to advance the goals of Indigenous women. Tania Pariona, a young Peruvian Quechua, from the National Movement for Young Children Workers of Peru spoke about her experiences as a young Indigenous woman leader in advancing the decision-making capacity and involvement of young Indigenous women in Peru at a local level. Her experiences in training processes with children and adolescents have focused on the re-affirmation of cultural identity. Jessica Yee, Native Youth Sexual Health Network spoke about her experiences as a young Indigenous leader in advancing the sexual and reproductive rights of Indigenous youth in Canada, including addressing violence against Indigenous women and strengthening inter-generational dialogue in this area.

This was followed by a dialogue with the participants who included approximately 30 Indigenous women from Nicaragua, Columbia, Bolivia, Peru, Canada as well as UN agency representatives, state representatives and members of human rights organizations. Participants agreed on the importance of continuing to strengthen opportunities for exchange between leaders from different generations and regions, to promote dialogue and mutual learning, valuing the wisdom of the elders (including traditional knowledge) and new insights of the young sisters who shared their experiences.

Please see Appendix “A” for workshop materials which are posted on the NWAC and FIMI websites and can be utilized for future workshops by the participants in their respective communities.



## ii) Outcomes:

The expected outcomes of this project were achieved. They were:

- **Indigenous women who are recognized leaders in their communities accelerate their equal participation nationally and internationally in sustainable development initiatives and other work.**

This outcome was achieved through the increased knowledge levels resulting from Indigenous women leaders participating in the workshop and gaining tools on how to use the regional and international standards to enhance their policy work in the areas of sustainable development, violence against Indigenous women and the management of natural resources. Indigenous women leaders had an opportunity to share their experiences and set out successful approaches to overcoming human rights challenges in these areas. Connections made with one another's organizations were solidified and personal, as well as internet-based networks were formed.

- **The number of and extent of partnerships among Indigenous women increase at the regional, national and international level.**

This outcome was achieved at an informal and formal level – email lists of participants were created as well as information on websites provided to participants. Some of the partnerships formed during the workshops have resulted in further national work, such other local and national Indigenous women's gatherings focusing on the topics covered in the project's training sessions. At the regional level, working relationships initiated through the project strengthened the work of the Indigenous Women's Caucus at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas. At an international level, the workshops held at the UNPFII facilitated increased networking among the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus at the Permanent Forum itself, furthering the equality rights of Indigenous women through statements made and increasing awareness about these rights. Furthermore, ongoing networking by email continues in other fora, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, both of which have a strong impact on policy issues related to sustainable development.

- **Increased capacity of Indigenous women leaders to pass along the knowledge gained in their respective communities. They will be able to do so through the training and distributed materials, which include planning and curriculum development that can be used for subsequent workshops.**

The Indigenous women leaders who participated in the sessions have an increased capacity to pass on the knowledge gained in their respective communities, through dialogue as well as through the training materials provided during the workshop and the weblinks distributed and posted. The knowledge gained and the training materials provided the Indigenous women leaders who participated in the training sessions with the materials they need for planning and curriculum development in their respective communities.

- **Indigenous women who participate in the workshops enhance their ability to effectively participate in policy dialogue at the local, regional, national and international levels.**

The Indigenous women who participated in the workshops expanded their understanding and ability of how to effectively participate in policy dialogue at the local, regional, national and international levels. This occurred through knowledge exchange between elders, youth and adult Indigenous women from varying regions of the Americas, where best practices were highlighted and solution-based discussions took place regarding how to best promote the equality and sustainable development rights of Indigenous women and their communities.

- **The national, regional and international discourse on Indigenous Peoples' human rights includes, to a greater degree, the specific human rights concerns of Indigenous women.**

One of the most rewarding aspects of this project was the ability to focus on the recent developments and long-standing human rights of Indigenous Peoples, and, specifically, those of Indigenous women. The participants brought forth many human rights concerns that they dealt with in their specific circumstances, and how they had dealt with these concerns, often through national-specific means. Many participants were unaware of the specific mechanisms available to them at the regional and international levels, such as the UPR, the EMRIP, the Special Rapporteurs and the specific provisions of the UN Declaration (including articles 22, 23 and 44). Oftentimes, participants talked about the ways in which they would use the knowledge gained about the international and regional instruments at the national level in their work to advance the specific human rights concerns of Indigenous women, as well as the overall human rights of Indigenous Peoples. It was a great opportunity to increase the ability of Indigenous women leaders to influence the discourse at the national, regional and international levels.

### **iii) Impact level**

The following impacts of the project were achieved:

- **At the national level, Indigenous women, including young women, in North, Central and South America participate in policy dialogues so that they increase their influence in all aspects of their lives, particularly those related to equality and to sustainable development.**

Indigenous women, including young Indigenous women, talked about the benefits that the knowledge gained in the workshop would have within their own countries, throughout North, Central and South America, through increased influence in their personal, community and work lives, specifically in the areas of equality and sustainable development. There were many dynamic Indigenous women leaders who provided examples that could be utilized by the other participants, including Indigenous youth from Canada and from Peru. The youth shared their work in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as in the area of sustainable development and leadership training. As well, Indigenous elder women

spoke about the importance of traditional knowledge in areas such as sustainable development, protection of water and self-determination.

- **Internationally, increased role of Indigenous women, including young women, in international decision-making processes and in the advancement of women's human rights, ensuring that Indigenous women's perspectives are consistently and seriously included in all discussions of human rights.**

The training sessions provided an increased opportunity for Indigenous women leaders, including youth, to participate in international decision-making processes and in the advancement of women's human rights. The impact of this has been an increase in the profiling of Indigenous women's perspectives on a consistent, fundamental basis in human rights discussions. For example, the increased role of Indigenous women leaders at the III Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas (III ILSA) could be seen, where the co-chairs included President Beverley Jacobs, who gave an introductory opening speech. At the III ILSA, NWAC took a lead role in the overall organization of the Summit. Indigenous women's perspectives and concerns were included from the outset of the Summit and fully integrated. Further, resulting at least in part from the project, the overall profile of Indigenous women's role in decision-making has been much more seriously and completely integrated in processes. For example, it has now become common practice to have a gender balance in the chairing of the Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus at such fora as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) and the EMRIP.

- **Partnership development increased to help Indigenous women, including young women, and the organizations in which they work to accelerate their equal participation nationally and internationally in their respective regions. Participants increase the size and reach of their partnerships and personal networks.**

Through this project, partnership development has been increased, often connecting Indigenous women leaders to regional and international networks, including FIMI itself, as well as those networks utilized by the other project partners, NWAC, MADRE and U'kuxtal Masewal – Maya Institute of Belize, including the Indigenous Peoples Caucus and Indigenous Women's Caucus at the OAS level as well as the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus and Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus at fora including the Permanent Forum, IIPFCC and EMRIP. These partnerships and personal networks will have an ongoing positive impact on the equal participation of Indigenous women, including young Indigenous women, at the national, regional and international levels.

### **3) Summary Description of the Project**

#### **3.1) Management and Organization**

The overall management and organization of the project took place under the direction of the project partners, NWAC, FIMI, MADE and U'kuxtal Masewal – Maya Institute of Belize. A lead role was played by NWAC and FIMI. Five preparatory conference calls/meetings were held throughout the project to plan the training sessions.

### 3.2) Description of Activities

The project activities included the following:

#### *Preparatory Meeting with the Advisory Committee and Conference Calls with Partners*

Preparatory Conference Calls and Meetings with the Advisory Committee were held, including 2 conference calls held in March and April 2009 prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII 8), to plan the training sessions held during the PFII 8, a preparatory meeting held during PFII 8 for the future training sessions, a conference call in October 2009 to plan the training session held in November 2009 as well as two conference calls held in February and March 2010 to plan the training sessions that took place in April 2010. Meetings and conference calls were also held on an ongoing basis in relation to reporting and discussing methods to continue the work initiated by the NINC project.

#### *Universal Periodic Review of Canada, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas and the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change*

These meetings were attended by Celeste McKay, NWAC and informed the training sessions held. Given that the UPR and EMRIP processes of the Human Rights Council (HRC) were newly formed as a result of the review by the HRC in 2006-2007, knowledge about these mechanisms were an essential part of the project. Knowledge of these mechanisms and experience in how to advance the human rights of Indigenous women within the mechanisms were invaluable to improving the capacity and leadership development of Indigenous women who participated in the project. Similarly, the III ILSA occurred in April 2009 and is of particular significance to Indigenous women in the Americas. The integration of Indigenous women and youth's perspectives into the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the III ILSA was facilitated by the project activities and will be invaluable to meeting the overall project goals not only for the duration of the project but as part of the follow-up activities. The Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change resulted in a Declaration that will be integral to the work of Indigenous peoples in this critical area related to sustainable development and management of natural resources. As such, information about this development was an important part of attaining the project goals. Please see attached documents from these meetings in Appendix "A" – Workshop Materials.

#### *Production of Materials*

Throughout the project, the materials produced for the project were updated and distributed. Through the use of web postings, the materials produced can have a long-lasting benefit on the training needs of Indigenous women and youth who participated in this project from the Americas, as they continue to refer to the materials in their work at the national and local levels in further training.

### *Organization of Three Workshops*

The project team was able to hold five workshops on the theme identified by the project goals (Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls [2 workshops], Management of Natural Resources [1 workshop] and Capacity Building and Leadership Promotion [2 workshops]). However, the first Capacity Building and Leadership Promotion workshop had a broader focus on UN Reforms than was anticipated by the NWAC partner, in order to accommodate the requirements of the FIMI partner. Thus, the opportunity was taken to hold this workshop a second time, with the focus set out by the Nation Is Not Conquered project, in the following year.

### *Delivery of Workshops at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and at the OAS Working Group on the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

The workshops for the project were delivered at the UNPFII in 2009 and 2010 as well as at a meeting in Mexico of Indigenous women of the Americas. The project did not hold workshops at the OAS Working Group on the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples because of scheduling changes and cancellations. Though the OAS Working Group typically held 2 sessions per year, in 2009, only one session was held and in 2010, no sessions were held. The session in 2009 was initially scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> in which case a training session would have taken place there. However, shortly before this time, the meeting was re-scheduled to November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at which point in time the project staff had a conflict with another commitment.

### *Compile Results of the Workshops, in Partnership with FIMI and MADRE*

The results of the workshop were compiled in partnership with FIMI and MADRE. These results are reflected in detail above. By documenting the materials produced and posting these on the websites of NWAC and FIMI, the results of the workshops will continue to have an impact into the future as the Indigenous women leaders who participated in the workshops continue to rely on the materials for future workshops in their own communities.

### *Establish a Sustainability Plan and Follow-up Activities*

The partners have established a sustainability plan and follow-up activities, including future involvement of the network established in future international and regional fora, including the Permanent Forum. There are three parts to the sustainability plan as follows:

1. **Establishing a Network of Continuing Support** – This is done through web-posting of the workshop materials on line, hosted by NWAC and FIMI and represents an easily accessible tool for ongoing support to Indigenous women leaders.

2. **Future Projects** – This includes the potential ongoing partnership development, mainly between NWAC and FIMI with the additional partnership of Amnesty International, particularly in the area of violence against Indigenous women. This will depend on securing additional funding.
3. **Strengthening Future International and Regional Involvement** – This has been done throughout the project by facilitating greater involvement of Indigenous women leaders, including young leaders, in existing regional and international fora, including the UNPFII, particularly the Global Indigenous Women’s Caucus and the Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus as well as the involvement within the OAS system, including the III ILSA. Unfortunately, given the timing of the OAS Working Group on the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, direct engagement with Indigenous women leaders was not possible in this forum. Fortunately, many of the Indigenous women from the LAC region who attended the project’s workshops also attend the OAS Working Group and as such, the project will have a positive impact there in the long term.

#### *Complete the Final Report*

The final report has been completed.

#### *Dissemination of Results*

The project results will be disseminated to the workshop participants via email and through posting the results on the websites of FIMI, MADRE and NWAC.

### **3.3) Stakeholders, Their Roles and Responsibilities**

The stakeholders in the project included the NWAC, FIMI, MADRE and U’kuxtal Masewal – Maya Institute of Belize.

#### **The Native Women’s Association of Canada**

NWAC is a national Indigenous organization in Canada and represents the political voice of Indigenous women in that country. NWAC is founded on the collective goal to enhance, promote and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of First Nations and Métis women in Canadian, First Nations and Métis societies. There are 11 Provincial Territorial Member Associations (PTMAs) and a Board of Directors composed of PTMA representatives and one youth and one Elder representative from each of the four regions. NWAC has worked extensively at the local, national, regional and international level to advance the human rights of all Indigenous women.

NWAC’s role and responsibilities in this project was to work in partnership with FIMI, MADRE and U’kuxtal Masewal – Maya Institute of Belize to delivery the project to Indigenous women and girls throughout the Americas. NWAC shared its experiences with the participants, as leaders in advancing the rights profiled in the project at a national, regional and international level. NWAC played a lead role in the development

of materials for the training sessions, as well as in coordinating the organizational and management aspects of the project.

### **The International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI)**

The International Indigenous Women's Forum (best known as FIMI, by its Spanish initials) is a network of Indigenous women leaders from Asia, Africa, and the Americas. FIMI's mission is to bring together Indigenous women activists, leaders, and human rights promoters from different parts of the world to coordinate agendas, build unity, develop leadership and advocacy skills, increase Indigenous women's role in international decision-making processes, and advance women's human rights. FIMI's work aims to: amplify Indigenous women's voices in the international arena, strengthen local Indigenous women's organizations; and promote collaboration between the Indigenous women's movement and the non-Indigenous global women's movement. FIMI's roles and responsibilities in the project centred around coordinating the participation of Indigenous women from the Americas (particularly South and Central America) as an organization located in both the US and Nicaragua as well as staff located in Argentina. Its vast network provided the avenue to promote the project and to host a website with follow-up materials.

### **MADRE**

As a human rights organization, MADRE does much more than document and condemn abuses. MADRE works with women who are affected by violations to help them win justice and, ultimately, change the conditions that give rise to human rights abuses. MADRE challenges government policies that undermine human rights. Over the years, MADRE has developed an internationally recognized model of human rights in action which includes community development and training (partnerships for change), humanitarian aid, human rights advocacy and public education.

MADRE works hand in hand with FIMI and, located in New York, provided an office for logistical support of the workshops held at the Permanent Forum in 2009 and 2010. MADRE also has an impressive network of partners in the area of human rights who acted as presenters and facilitators for the training sessions.

### **U'kuxtal Masewal – Maya Institute of Belize**

U'kuxtal Masewal – Maya Institute of Belize is an Indigenous organization committed to promoting the human rights of Indigenous peoples in Belize and the Americas, including collective rights related to land, development, natural resources and environmental protection. It is also committed to advancing individual human rights of Indigenous individuals, particularly women. This organization played a role in reviewing materials and the planned workshops for the project. Its role was somewhat reduced from the original plan due to the contact person temporarily stepping back from the organization due to doctoral studies.

#### **4) Analytical Review of the Project**

##### **4.1) Project Rationale and Justification**

The project rationale was to strengthen the partnership between the organizations to achieve a shared goal of increasing the capacity of Indigenous women in Latin America and the Caribbean to participate effectively in policy dialogue related to gender equality and sustainable development. Through joint efforts the partners were able to hold regional training and workshops for Indigenous women and girls in the areas of violence against Indigenous women (including sexual and reproductive health rights), management of natural resources (including the right to water) and leadership development. The resources for the respective programs of the partners were not disbursed in a way that allowed for the initial schedule of workshops. However, the final schedule of workshops was developed to ensure a diverse sector of Indigenous women and girls from the LAC region could participate, leading to the fulfillment of the project rationale.

##### **4.2) Planned and Achieved Goal and Objectives**

The goals and objectives of the project were planned and implemented through the combined efforts of the partners, through meetings and teleconferences during all stages of the project. In fact, five workshops were held instead of three. All workshops took an approach of “training the trainers” providing Indigenous women leaders, including young leaders, with an ability to advance their capacity to provide further training in their own respective communities and regions. The funding requirements of holding the workshops in conjunction with other events contingent on partners’ plans meant that the ideal locations (within Latin American and the Caribbean) were not always available. This was because of the timing and other requirements of the respective projects funded by other sources to other partners. This required flexibility in the timing and location of the delivery of the workshops.

##### **4.3) Detailed Final Report of Achievement of Results**

The partners worked on an ongoing basis to report on the achievements of the workshops and to evaluate what was effective and what could be improved as the workshop delivery continued. For example, during the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN PFII, the first workshop on violence against Indigenous women worked very well but the session on UN Reforms was less effective in meeting all the project objectives of the NINC project. This analysis resulted in the planning of a separate workshop specifically on the topic of capacity building and leadership promotion. This led to a training session that met all the project objectives, allowing for a fulsome discussion among Indigenous women across generations, representing diverse experiences and knowledge areas of leadership development.



#### **4.4) Political Considerations**

The main political considerations in this project related to how Indigenous women in the Americas, including young Indigenous women, can find the space to dialogue and promote positive policy changes in the areas of gender equality and sustainable development. Many Indigenous women struggle to find ways to participate outside their communities as well as within their communities. This project provided an excellent platform for Indigenous women leaders to strategize on how to overcome such barriers and to be equal participants in policy dialogue and reform for the betterment of Indigenous women, their families and Nations.

#### **4.5) Scheduling, Difficulties Encountered and Remedial Action Taken**

The timing of this project in terms of approval to final delivery was hindered by some factors that were not under the control of the partners. First, the resources for the project were not disbursed in a way that allowed the partners to hold the workshops in the original fora planned – during FIMI’s national workshops on violence against Indigenous women in LAC regions. The timing only allowed for one workshop held in this region, while the others were held in New York. The second barrier was the scheduling of the OAS Working Group. When planning this project, the history of the Working Group had been to hold at least two sessions per year. However, in 2008, only one session was held, in 2009 one special session was held and in 2010, no sessions were held. Furthermore, the 2009 session was re-scheduled without more than a few weeks notice, which made it impossible for the project staff to re-schedule other commitments to hold a workshop at the re-scheduled time. All of these constraints were overcome by working with the partners to find opportunities where large numbers of Indigenous women leaders, including young leaders, would be present to participate in the training sessions.

Furthermore, there was a lack of significant participation by Indigenous women and girls from the Caribbean. Representation of Indigenous women from the Caribbean is weak at regional and international meetings, which likely accounts for their lack of participation in the project. This could be remedied in future projects by holding a workshop in that particular region or by involving more than one Indigenous women’s organizations from that specific region in the planning process.

#### **4.6) Actual Disbursements Compared to the Original and Revised Budgetary Forecasts as Presented in the Final Financial Report**

There were some discrepancies between the original and revised budgetary forecasts as presented in the Final Financial Report. This was due to a decrease in travel expenses related to the location of two of the workshops which were held in New York and only one in Mexico rather than the organization’s in-kind contribution of \$1,919 and the other partners’ in-kind contribution of \$2,890 were contributed to the project. The largest Variance is in consultants in the amount of \$18,845 in the negative, this amount occurred because the employee that worked on this project was a consultant prior to being hired fulltime to complete this contact, therefore there is a surplus in salaries and benefits in the amount of \$15,285.86.

The project was extended until June 30, 2010 of \$35,278.48 so the surplus will appear in the deferred revenue of our audited financial statements.

#### **4.7) Logistical Difficulties**

Other than the scheduling and timing difficulties identified above, no major logistical difficulties were faced by the project. Translation services is a key requirement to successful training sessions, so it is important for organizers of future projects to ensure these are secured at the outset of the planning stages. Partnerships with organizations staffed by bilingual (English and Spanish) speakers are essential to ensure that communications are effective with trainers and speakers and with one another. It would be very beneficial if bilingual speakers were available in all partner organizations – this was the case for FIMI, MADRE and U'kuxtal Masewal – Maya Institute of Belize but not NWAC. Capacity building in this area would be of beneficial impact.

#### **4.8) Public Relations Issues**

The partner organizations have respected positions as leaders in the area of Indigenous women's human rights concerns, and as such, did not encounter public relations difficulties. Rather, their respective reputations facilitated the delivery of workshops in the regional and international contexts.

#### **4.9) Analysis, Comments and Recommendations with respect to each of the Main Activities**

In evaluating the outcomes of the project by the partners, it was noted that the work initiated in these training sessions should continue. Future funding should be sought and increasing the partners to include Amnesty International would be beneficial, particularly in the area of violence against Indigenous women given its in depth analysis of this area.

#### **4.10) Assessment of the Synergy between the Project funded under the Agreement and other projects funded by CIDA**

The greatest synergy between the NINC project and others funded by CIDA were with the Colombian project done in partnership between NWAC, ONIC and Inter Pares and, to an even greater extent, the III ILSA done in partnership between NWAC and AFN as well as a Planning Committee represented by Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas.

The Colombia project established networks that facilitated strong relationships and participation of Indigenous women leaders from Colombia in the NINC project. In fact, Karmen Ramirez Boscan was hired by the partners to facilitate the Capacity Building and Leadership Promotion workshop in 2010.

In terms of the III ILSA, Indigenous women leaders who had participated in previous sessions of the NINC project gained interest in the III ILSA and participated in it and/or followed the results with an interest in implementation of the III ILSA Declaration and Plan of Action. Furthermore, participants in the III ILSA were made aware of the NINC project and networks built during the III ILSA with Indigenous women leaders lead to their participation in the future sessions of the NINC project.

## **5. Gender Progress of the Project**

### **5.1) Anticipated Gender Related Results Achieved**

Given the central focus of this project on gender equality and the emphasis of the training sessions on increasing Indigenous women leaders, including young leaders, knowledge, experience and capacity in the area of policy dialogue leading to positive changes for Indigenous women, their families and Nations, gender-related results were a key result of this project. All of the results identified in this report relate to gender equality in that they are designed by Indigenous women for the benefit of Indigenous women leaders in the areas of addressing violence against Indigenous women, increased management of natural resources by Indigenous women leaders to improve sustainable development and increasing the capacity and promoting leadership among the generations of Indigenous women.

### **5.2) Workshops**

In total five workshops were offered on the topics of violence against Indigenous women and girls (2), capacity building and leadership promotion (2) and management of natural resources (1) based on the partners' assessment of how to reach the largest number of Indigenous women leaders from across the LAC region in a cost-effective manner.

### **5.3) Participation of Indigenous Women Leaders in the Workshops**

Indigenous women leaders were the target audience and organizers of this Project so their participation was key, of course. Indigenous women, including young Indigenous women, composed the majority of the participants in the training sessions and composed all of the speakers and facilitators. Interestingly, at some of the workshops, Indigenous men chose to participate and expressed their interest in facilitating an increased involvement of Indigenous women and girls in their communities in the respective workshop topic areas. In total, approximately 127 Indigenous women leaders from the Americas participated in the workshops (likely, a significantly greater number of Indigenous women participated as not all participants signed the participant sheets). The following is a breakdown by country:

Argentina: 4  
Belize: 1  
Bolivia: 21  
Brazil 1

Canada 17  
Chile: 3  
Colombia: 2  
Ecuador: 13  
Guatemala 1  
Mexico: 22  
Nicaragua 13  
Panama: 7  
Peru: 8  
USA: 13  
Venezuela: 2