

THIRD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GLOBAL WARMING

September 3rd, 4th and 5th 2007
Universidad Nacional, Bogotá-Colombia

Organizers:



Departamento de Geografía
Departamento de Trabajo Social



NACIONES UNIDAS
Oficina contra la Droga y el Delito



With the support of:



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F O U N D A T I O N

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Introduction:

In the year 2005 in the city of Bogotá, the first International Symposium on Indigenous Women and Biodiversity was conducted, based on initiatives from representatives of different organizations interested in generating discussions about the role of indigenous women in biodiversity issues. With the objective of continuing with this discussion, in the year 2006 the second Symposium was conducted, identifying the importance that territoriality issues have in the relationship that indigenous women establish with their surroundings. In the year 2007 the proposal is to conduct the third International Symposium based on the discussion of global warming.

Objectives

The objective is to call researchers from different backgrounds, leaders, indigenous and non indigenous activists, and indigenous women from different communities, to reflect on the complex relationships that indigenous women have with their surrounding and the social, cultural and political situations that affect them.

We are interested in creating an opportunity for intercultural socialization through a gathering of indigenous and non indigenous women from around the world to discuss about policies, programs and strategies of global warming control and mitigation. This gathering will allow to continue the reflection process on this issue and also the identification of strategies, proposals, alternatives and perspectives from indigenous women.

Finally, we want to strengthen the existent alliances and networks of indigenous women in the region, the exchange of experiences, and to support leader indigenous women's capacity building at national and international levels.

Justification

The first Symposium and its memories "Indigenous Women and Biodiversity" and the second Symposium and its memories "Indigenous Women, Territoriality and Biodiversity in the Latin-American context" showed evidence of the few possibilities that indigenous women have to discuss their problems and it also proved the necessity to continue building up networks and creating possibilities for indigenous women, non indigenous women and professionals from different disciplines, to establish links and to generate permanent discussion processes. These are the reasons to organize the third event.

In this third symposium we will focus on the effects of global warming on indigenous people and particularly women and its effects on their cultural dynamics and relationships with their surroundings.

The increase of temperature as a consequence of global warming has contributed to the loss of snow peaks, the increase of plagues and the change of agricultural cycles, within others, affecting not only the regular practices of people but also the social and individual relationships that women and men have with their territories and natural resources that are necessary for their physical and cultural survival. Global warming generates not only changes in nature but also changes in the social

dynamics increasing conflicts and social problems. Furthermore, national and international local responses from organizations, institutions and individuals, have usually been given to men, showing that in this sense the gender perspective has not been totally considered. On the other hand, the measures to control global warming have been focussed on compromises and agreements related to the control of green house effect gases, putting aside transformation processes related to daily activities like alimentary sovereignty and water management within others.

This situation is not very different within indigenous women that need to discuss such a problem and propose strategies that respond to their relationships with their territories and resources and to the effects of their practices to mitigate global warming.

Discussion topics

The proposed discussion topics are based on the relationships that in the present **indigenous women** have with:

- **The global and local effects of global warming (impacts, strategies etc)**
- **The global policies (Kyoto protocol and mechanisms for sustainable development))**
- **Traditional knowledge on climate and its changes**
- **The mobilizations and conflicts related to environmental problems (droughts, flooding, monocultivation, etc)**
- **Problems related to resources accessibility (water and forest)**
- **The implications for sovereignty and food security**

Dynamic of the event:

This is an international event for reflection and working tables during two and a half days. In this case each topic will have 3 perspectives that will be feed backed: the academic vision, the proposal from the indigenous people's point of view and the proposals from women that have to deal with this problem on a daily bases. These presentations will promote a deep discussion within the participants that will establish an open dialogue about the related topics. Parallel to public presentations the event will have working tables (based on previous registration) where conversations and exchange of ideas within participants will take place.

Communication strategies

We count with the support of the Universidad Nacional of Colombia that has a newspaper called UNperiodiódico which is also available online and also UNmedios (national radio and television). The Universidad Nacional has 28.000 students that will receive information about the seminar-workshop. Since the University is public it generates various possibilities for academic discussion and analysis with the possibility of reaching regional, national and international public. The Universidad Nacional participated in the second seminar recording for television, making radio interviews and divulgation through the newspaper. We also counted with the participation of national journalists and specialized media like Actualidades Etnicas. At the same time the testimonies of indigenous women where recorded and are used as pedagogic material for different institutions.

Gests

To participate in this event we will call a wide variety of people from the academia sector, national and international NGOs, indigenous organizations and organizations that are interested in the topic. The two prior events counted with the participation of the national and international academic sector,

representatives of national and international institutions, indigenous political leaders, students and in general people interested in the topic.

Distribution of the book

The books from the prior symposiums were distributed in public libraries of Colombia, environmental governmental and non governmental organizations, organizations related with ethnic processes and indigenous organizations.

The books have been internationally distributed through IUCN and the United Nations system. They have also been sent to the authors' countries of origin.

At the same time the digital version of the books was published in the web pages of the participants' organizations www.natura.org.co

Contribution:

This third symposium will feed the discussion about climate change and the strengthening of indigenous women networks at a local, national and international level.

Results

- A selection of the presentations that will be part of the book of memories
- Permanent *Ad-Hoc* group of discussion and reflection about indigenous women and climate change

Organization committee

The symposium is coordinated by an interdisciplinary and inter institutional team from different backgrounds that have been able to consolidate a clear strategy to call, develop and divulgate the event in a fast and effective way.

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