**UN NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Website<https://www.un-ngocrip.net/>

indigenous.committee@gmail.com

Facebook: NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.**

February 20, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m. EST

Zoom link for meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962686589>

**Participants:**

Roberto Borrero-Chair

Elaine Congress-Host/Facilitator

Daniel LeBlanc

Sandra Sheridan

Balentine Talang

Rashmi Jaipal

Ann Marie Brennan

Hilary Weaver

Phyllis Ngai

Paul Rahmat

Sue Jacobs

Victoria Edmonds

Carolyn DiCarlo

Jasmin Onus

Melissa Martin

Margaret Mwarili (Email: un-ngo@rscjroma.org)

Apolline Bouts (Email: apollinebouts@gmail.com)

**Fordham MSW Interns:**

Ashley Walkes - Secretary

Katie Schendel

**Meeting Agenda:**

1. Moment of silence in honor of the Land we are on and the Native peoples of the Land
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Meeting minutes of January 16, 2025
4. Update from Secretariat of PFII – Jasmin Onus
5. CSW Meeting – Elaine and Sandy
6. World Social Summit – Rashmi and Paul
7. CSW event – The Grail and CLC – Judy and Joan
8. PFII Planning - Daniel
9. Announcements and other items
10. Next CRIP meeting Thursday, March 20 1:00- 2:30 pm ET

**Commencement of Meeting:**

1. Moment of silence, to remember the people on whose land we are.
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Meeting minutes of January 16, 2025 - *Accepted*
4. Executive Committee Report by Sandy:

 Executive Committee met on February 3, 2025 \*\*\*

* Much of the discussion was about agenda items.
* Meeting minutes were prepared and the agenda for today’s meeting.
* Discussed about the speaker/presentation for today’s meeting
* Discussed about the committee’s website & making payments through the website on PayPal, perhaps create a blog on the website - Roberto will work on this possibly in the future
* Spoke on collaboration with other NGO committees, worked with CSW back in January
* Spoke on yearly dues being due. Only received one check. Dues are $25
* Spoke on planning for Health and Education subcommittee
* Monthly reminder about the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues is April 21- May 2, 2025; theme is “Implementing the UN’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within the UN’s member states and its systems identifying good practices and addressing challenges.”

**\*\*\*End of Executive Committee Report\*\*\***

**Speaker: Update from Secretariat of PFII - Jasmin Onus**

**Elaine:** Elaine introduced the new PFII/DESA team member, Jasmine Onus, who is an indigenous woman from Australia and is working on the upcoming 24th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The session's theme is implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) within UN Member States and the UN system.

**Jasmin:** Jasmin outlined the program for the upcoming Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, highlighting the intergenerational and global dialogue with a focus on indigenous women's rights. She also mentioned the cultural event planned and the discussion on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in the following week.

**Melissa:** Melissa added that the cultural event would again be held at UNHQ and would be open to all attendees with a temporary pass. Melissa explained that a focus will be on the implementation of various elements of the UNDRIP at the national, regional, and global levels. Melissa responded that these topics would likely be discussed in the context of challenges to implementing UNDRIP. She discussed the process for hosting side events at the UN, noting that costs have increased and the number of requests for space exceeds availability. She suggested that organizations consider alternative venues outside the UN and that only registered NGOs and IPs can host side events.

Both Jasmin and Melissa also announced that registration for side events would open on Monday February 24th, with a deadline of March 12th. Also discussed the opportunity for Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) to register as speakers for specific sessions.

\*\*\* This is the link for the 24th session of the UNPFII website/registration:

<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/indigenous-peoples/unpfii/24th-session>

**CSW Meeting - Elaine and Sandy:**

**Elaine:** Elaine was very excited to partner with other committees. Talked about receiving an invitation from CSW to speak at one of their meetings. Herself and Sandy worked collaboratively and put together a program to speak. There were 276 participants at the meeting back in January.

**Sandy:** Sandy spoke on the subject of the presentation being on Education and Poverty. She informed about the speakers including a Mayan woman from Guatemala (she works at a school for young girls, MAIA), a speaker from Kenya; who was also a young woman and a Mohawk elder. Sandy stated it was wonderful to have different parts of the world represented by these women and they were pleased with the speakers. Also, the speakers were articulate, clear and enthusiastic to speak. Stated being very happy to work together with the NGO CSW.

\*\*\* This is the link for the CSW January Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aeTMDI4kT4>

\*\*\* Also, the flyer for the event was attached to the minutes.

**World Social Summit – Rashmi and Paul:**

**Paul:** Paul shared that the subcommittee had submitted documents on emerging issues and recommendations, and that the next steps include circulating inputs from all stakeholders and providing an initial framework for deliberations.

Rashmi and Paul also discussed the potential for indigenous peoples to contribute to the political declaration process, with Paul suggesting that they could participate through the Civil Society Forum or the Subcommittee on the Social Summit.

**CSW Event – The Grail and CLC – Judy and Joan:**

**Ann Marie:** Ann shared plans for an online virtual event on March 1, featuring panelists from Ecuador, Polynesia, and possibly Canada, to share progress over the last 30 years through the lens of indigenous women.

**24th session of the UNPFII – Current Plans- Daniel:**

*\*\*\* Update was not provided as Daniel had to sign off earlier in the meeting due to connectivity issues.*

**Announcements and Other Items:**

**Roberto:** Roberto presented on his talk at the Civil Society Forum on intergenerational collaboration, highlighting a project in Kenya called "Revitalize the Roots" and a project he's working on in Puerto Rico called the Taino Community Center and Embassy. The latter aims to build a community center and embassy for the Taino people, focusing on ecosystem restoration and reintroducing endangered plant species.

**Announcements:**

Next General meeting is on March 20, 2025 from 1:00PM - 2:30PM EST.

The Health and Education subcommittee meeting will follow from 2:30PM - 3:30PM EST.

**\*\*\*Elaine provided closing remarks. And thanked everyone for their participation. \*\*\***

**\*\*\* End of Committee Meeting \*\*\***