



Recognizing our
practices and
knowledge from
different
perspectives, areas
of interest, and
ways of learning

An exchange between
representatives of indigenous,
afro-descendant, and
traditional community
organizations of Asia, Africa,
and Latin America

Mexico City
November 25-27, 2019

THE PEOPLE'S ART

The mining pan that ancient miners used to wash gold now symbolizes the fight against mega-mining and its effects on territories, people, communities, and human health. Mining was an activity in which our enslaved elders worked.



THANKS TO MOTHER EARTH, TO THE GRANDMOTHERS, AND THE GRANDFATHERS



Offering Mother Nature flowers, prayers, candles, and essences before beginning the collaborative dialogue about organizational and institutional strengthening, leadership, and sustainability between Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants and traditional communities.



“By honoring yourselves you extend the honor to all who are in this room. In a circle that we gather from each wisdom unite the corners of the world, find the trust and love we need to do transformative work.”

WHAT WE STRIVE FOR

Sumar las luchas, los sueños, los objetivos



Create the conditions for the participants themselves convening to direct and facilitate.

Plenary sessions to share practices, learnings and concrete ideas on the issues addressed.



Dialogue sessions between grassroots organizations, centers that accompany them, and funders.

Songs, videos, socio-dramas.



Moments of laughter and joy.

friendship

LIGHT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

and that our actions in the service of the community impact on the long-term economic, social, ecological, environmental and cultural of communities

LIGHT FOR LEADERSHIP

and developing the capacity to promote greater inclusion in our joint actions to achieve our shared goals.

LIGHT FOR RESPECTFUL HORIZONTAL PARTNERSHIPS

that match our capabilities to achieve the objectives and goals we set.

LIGHT FOR ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

and that our individual and collective actions contribute to developing the capacity of collective action to be able to face, resist and overcome the crises that put our vital interests and collective survival at risk.

PRESENTATIONS OF TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND AFRO-DESCENDANTS



Paola Yáñez.

Self-determination demands our own conscience, an ethnic and cultural identity, which has to do with no longer being called Black, as imposed on us, and to call ourselves African descendants instead.

To be African descendant is to confront inequality, racism, lack of resources, and violence in daily life. We are working so that the agenda of the African descendant people is not set from above, but from the organizations themselves.

Coordinator of the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women.



Mario Wapichana.

COIAB protects more than 650 territories, their rivers and access to water. The government is a threat, because it wants to eliminate the Indigenous Peoples and their resistance.

We have invested in training the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon and in Brazil to train professional lawyers, and in working with youth and women to perpetuate their culture, but we still need to work more with the 114 peoples who are in voluntary isolation.

Vice-coordinator of the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon, COIAB, Brazil.



María Betânia Mota.

We are working to achieve our autonomy and build awareness to collective cultural, environmental, and territorial rights, and to the right to consultation and free, prior and informed consent. The women's movement speaks out to contribute to women's political advocacy at all levels.

General Secretary of the Indigenous Women's Movement of Roraima, CIR Brazil.



Ikal Ang'elei.

We are a pastoral community that migrates every day, in a region that has 96.7% poverty. Grazing our animals from one place to another defines our daily sustenance. The government has its eyes on our grazing lands for oil exploitation. Climate change has led to more famine, drought, and deaths from lack of food. The strongest struggle is to strengthen the organization, so we can achieve legislation that secures community territories and land titles that join up the different territories.

We want to learn from other experiences so we can move forward and to avoid situations where those effects stop after the big conferences end. We ask: How can we unite/ associate/communicate to continue?

Executive Director Friends of Lake Turkana, Kenya.



*Rainny
Situmorang.*

AMAN is the world's largest indigenous organization, which brings together 2,539 traditional indigenous communities and has 119 regional offices and three divisions dedicated to women, youth and justice issues. The economy is the basis for strengthening the community and AMAN.

AMAN has 51 Indigenous Peoples' political participation schools, because it is important to have a space in government and participate in creating laws that ensure Indigenous voices are represented.

Financial Director of the Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago, AMAN, Indonesia.



Sara Omi.

The territory is the most important, because from there we can think and live as Indigenous Peoples. We have achieved territorial recognition in the Constitution and created autonomous territories called comarcas. However, we still face discrimination, and many indigenous territories were left out of the Framework Law and live in the so-called collective lands.; Besides, the government has not ratified the ILO Convention 169.

Among the challenges we face are: land invasions, forest loss, and illegal logging. As young women we face difficulties in leading traditional organizational structures and making ourselves visible in public policies and getting the State to consult their development plan for the indigenous territories.

President of the Emberá Congress of Alto Bayano, Panama.

RECOGNIZING OUR LEADERSHIP



Moderator
Mallika Dutt,
Director, Inter-connector.



Leadership strengths

- Taking risks.
- Knowing how to listen.
- Understanding contexts.
- Generating trust by sharing sincerely.
- Emphasizing similarities and love, sensitivity, and empathy.
- Connecting, articulating.
- Mediating in conflict situations.
- Promoting new leadership to guarantee continuity and renewal of struggles.
- Remembering and renewing a sense of belonging and approaches.
- Creating convergence of peoples and ideas to promote shared routes.
- Being courageous leaders with the capacity to implement.



Challenges to strengthening leadership

- Learning to prioritize.
- Making decisions known by communicating clearly and in a timely manner.
- Being less impulsive.
- Using financial management skills.
- Making decisions in times of conflict.
- Overcoming prejudice and mistrust.
- Trusting experiences shared by others.
- Listening with patience and attention.
- Overcoming micromanagement.
- Being less politically correct.



RECOGNIZING OUR PRACTICES part 1



Exchange between indigenous, afrodescendant and traditional organizations.

Session moderated by Silvel Elías, from the Mesa de Tierras Comunales of Guatemala. Participants presented the experiences of their organizations:

Cledeneuza Bizerra.

We are threatened by the growth of ranching and the loss of forests. By breaking babaçu coconuts we learned our rights, strengthened our identities, identified allies, and grew in the construction of economic autonomy. (MIQCB).

Luis Fernando Arias.

ONIC's strength lies in its capacity for mobilization, organization, and grassroots work. We promote constant work for political, administrative, jurisdictional, and economic autonomy and for implementation of the peace agreements. (ONIC).

Paulina Garrido.

Over 40 years we grew to nine cooperatives with more than 40,000 members, who are working to improve their quality of life, together with their families. That is how we have honored our grandparents' legacy and their message to us: that we must be organized and united. (Tosepan).

Power relations in families and organizations, patriarchy, and production and marketing value chains were key topics of interest in the dialogue.

DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE BETWEEN ACCOMPANYING ORGANIZATIONS. Part 1



Session facilitated by Kathy Reich, Director of the BUILD Program of the Ford Foundation.



The session began with each participant presenting their organization and the work they do.

Based on the recurring issues in those presentations, Kathy Reich proposed organizing four working groups on the following topics:

- 1) financial support for grassroots organizations.
- 2) leadership and participation of women and youth.
- 3) communications and changing narratives.
- 4) process of organizational accompaniment.

The guiding questions in all four groups were:

What were the main lessons learned?

How have the organizations adapted their support and accompaniment strategies based on the lessons learned?

At the end of the session each group presented the main conclusions of their discussion in plenary.



SHARING EXPERIENCES OF INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING



Moderator Victor López,
Program Officer at Ford Foundation



“Empowerment implies the collective and permanent search for the wisdom of our ancestors”

ART FOR REFLECTION

With the socio-dramas, we had a lot of fun, and above all we shared some reflections on how the organizations relate to funders.



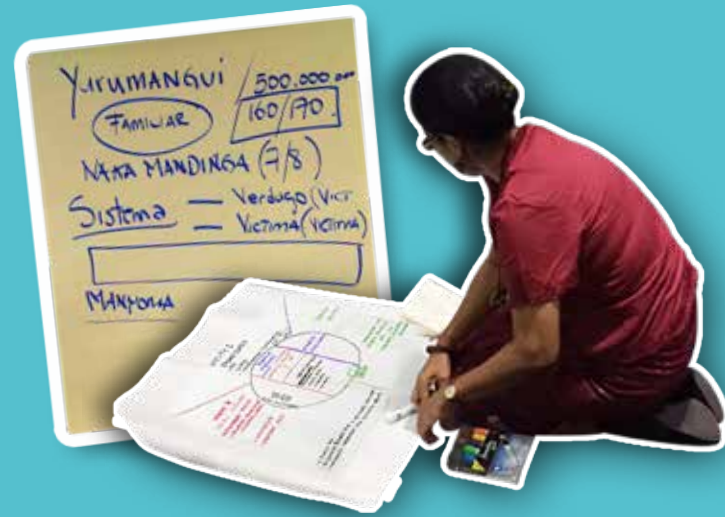
RECOGNIZING OUR PRACTICES part 2

Exchange between indigenous, afro-descendant and traditional community organizations.



Session facilitated by Carlos Rosero, CONPA Secretariat.

The experiences of the organizations presented were:



Carlos Rosero

Our process grew out of 30 years of the Black Movement in Colombia. In the context of the peace agreements, indigenous organizations were invited and together we formed the Ethnic Commission for Peace and the Defense of Territorial Rights. Some of our strengths lie in building our own knowledge, depending on our resources and learning from others. (CONPA)

Isabel Cipriano.

FIMI is a global mechanism that supports indigenous women's networks and organizations, to strengthen their capacity for political participation and advocacy and for pursuing their individual and collective rights. We do this through the collective and permanent search for the wisdom of our ancestors. (FIMI)

Udiel Miranda.

With our organizations and the authority of the people themselves, we confronted the mining companies that had obtained licenses and permits to operate in the country from the Guatemalan government. This process strengthened the Mayan people and their right to self-determination and electoral participation. (COPAE)

Rainny Situmorang.

We fight for the economic independence of indigenous organizations and peoples. We have similar challenges and are concerned about our dependence on donors. We should take more advantage of the potential of our natural, human, economic, political, social and cultural resources. (AMAN)

Ikai Ang'elei.

We mobilized against the construction of a dam on the border between Kenya and Ethiopia. The pastoral and fishing communities understood that their survival depended on defending the lake and the territory. We expand their agenda, established a different dialogue with international cooperation agencies, and strengthened the voices of women. (FOLT).

Cida Bento.

We work for access to quality education and the inclusion of content about Black people within Brazil's educational system. Achieving racial justice in the legal process. For an organization with 30 years of work to get resources is a challenge, especially for facing emergencies. (CEERT)

Nahun Lalin.

For the Garifuna people, territory is the most important thing. We have an uphill struggle for territory, against the state, the businessmen and the drug traffickers. International solidarity among Indigenous Peoples is important for survival. (OFRANEH)

Norma Don Juan.

We are an articulation of indigenous women in the Latin American continent. We ask ourselves what it means to be a woman and to be indigenous, to recognize ourselves, to feel, and to think. We place spirituality and values at the center and seek a balance between knowledge of universal human rights instruments and mechanisms and the ancestral wisdom of Indigenous Peoples. (ECMIA)

Paola Yáñez.

Since 1987 our network has helped set the agenda for work in the region. We are against racism, sexism and misogyny, we are an acknowledged interlocutor when talking about African descent women, and we are consulted on the agenda in this area. The commitment and articulations with other networks to blacken the human rights agenda and the agenda of Latin American feminism are our strengths. (Afro Women's Network).

Silvel Elías.

In Guatemala, communities are still struggling to recover their land. In 2008 they won their first case when the Constitutional Court ordered the return of land to one of the Kakchiquel communities. Since the Communal Land roundtable was created 60 legal cases have been won and half a million hectares recovered. Using the rules of the system to fight has allowed us to recover land. (Communal Land Table of Guatemala).



Questions and input about the presentations:

Bringing together Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants raises the need to think about spaces of convergence and articulation in other broader regional and global contexts.

The issue is not women as such. It is necessary to find ways to ensure women's participation within communities to strengthen political participation.

The goal is to achieve recognition of the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Do international cooperation funds respond to the emergencies and to people's immediate needs, such as making sure that leaders stay alive?

Assume the task of mapping where people are and the relationships we want, and grow to be stronger.

DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE BETWEEN ACCOMPANYING ORGANISATIONS.

Part 2



Session facilitated by Ellen Sprenger, Executive Director of Spring.



The session began with two dynamics.



To express in one word how each person felt personally at that moment.



Summarize in one word how the person felt about the two days of the meeting.

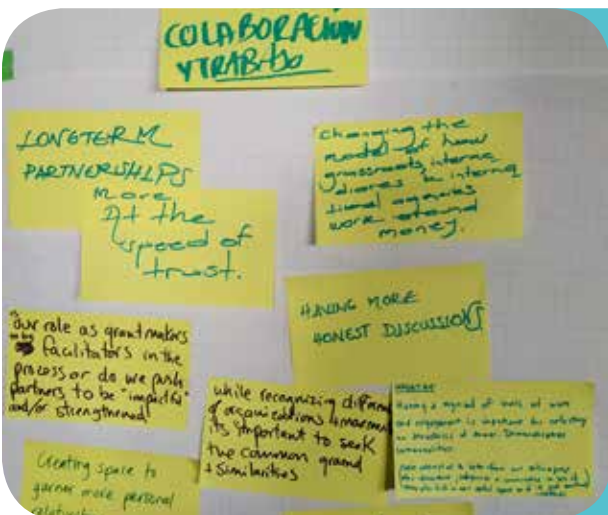
Then, in groups of three, reflect on the discussions of the two previous days and discuss the following questions:



How can we be better funders, and better support organizations and researchers?

What are some new perspectives on being a better partner?

improve supportive relationships?



Ideas and insights about how to be a better partner.

These notes were grouped into major themes: human relations, complex problems, power dynamics, forms of collaboration, and narratives.

Each participant publicly expressed their personal commitment by saying the word **SOLIDARITY** out loud!

BRAINSTORMING, POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP ROUTES

Work and strengthen the leadership of women and youth in the organizations.

Avoid competing with each other.

Avoid deciding alone.

Ensure collective rather than individual organizational processes.

Do not put Western knowledge above indigenous knowledge.

Communities of practice and learning to make concrete and operational the toolbox for: Research, Gender, GIS and security.

Work with caciques and leaders for communities' security within their territories and regions.

Ensure financial, social, and institutional sustainability.

Ensure leadership, transparency, distribution of power, and generational change.

Walk with your own feet to build a space of coexistence and good living for women.

Disseminate narratives about experiences of resistance, opportunities, and hope.

To dialogue, share agendas and find common fronts with academic allies.

Identify topics of interest to continue learning about philanthropic good practices.



WHAT WE SHARED AND OUR EXPECTATIONS

It was incredibly thought-provoking and the start of an important conversation around collaboration, support, and strengthening our collective impact.

Nicole R&R

An incredibly rich encounter in Mexico City. My-Land



Foi uma experiência muito rica, e temos certeza que se desdobrará em ações importantes de articulação de organizações de diferentes partes do mundo, num momento em que temos que estar juntas e atuar coletivamente.

Cida



Opportunity to learn, share, and get new knowledge.

It was a really good experience both professionally and personally wise.

Eliana

Rainny



It was such a profound meeting and time. I am still processing and reflecting, including with my colleagues.

Ellen

UNA EXPERIENCIA MÁS QUE ENRIQUECEDORA.

JESÚS

IT WAS A THOUGHT-PROVOKING FEW DAYS, AND FEELS GOOD TO BE PART OF THIS COMMUNITY.

CHRISTINE

Amazing work and great experience. Looking forward to next steps.

Kirsten

Un bonito encuentro, que me lleno de mucha alegría y esperanza frente a todo el camino que nos falta por recorrer.

Sindis

Un espacio participativo y colectivo.

Lourdes

It was really lovely to meet and to learn so much from everybody present.

Ben

Fue un placer compartir y aprender de cada una de ustedes, son grandes luces para nosotras.

Isabel

El tiempo compartido, las reflexiones, aprendizajes y sonrisas.

Norma

Muito obrigado pela recepção e pelos dias que estivemos juntos. O encontro foi muito poderoso, de muita troca e aprendizado.

Ariel

Las sentidas conversaciones. He vuelto llena de aprendizajes y energía para seguir enfrentando los retos con nuestros aliados en la región.

Ana Carolina

PARTICIPANTS





**DEAR AND BEAUTIFUL
MEXICO, THANK YOU!**

