

## 7th Delegation of Indigenous Women Leaders to UNPFII

### **EAST AFRICA**

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#### **Lucy Mulenkei – Kenya**



Lucy is the Executive Director of the Indigenous Information Network Kenya (IIN). She is a Maasai from Kenya who has been working both as a chairperson and coordinator of the African Indigenous Women Organization in the East African Region for the past several years. She has coordinated the training and capacity building for Indigenous rural nomadic pastoralist and hunter gatherer communities on environmental issues and sustainable development with a focus on biodiversity conservation and traditional knowledge. Lucy has also worked at the regional and international level advocating for the recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in general and Indigenous Women in particular. She has worked on several initiatives for Indigenous Peoples on issues such as environment, sustainable development, the post-2015 development agenda, and climate change. Moreover, Lucy has

contributed to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, World Intellectual Rights and the Global Environment Facility process on Indigenous Peoples. She is the co-founder and co-chair of the Indigenous Women Biodiversity Network. As an active member of the International Forum on Biodiversity and International Forum of Indigenous women, she has been coordinating various forums and networks in Africa.

### **SOUTH ASIA**

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#### **Yasso Kanti Bhattachan – Nepal**



Yasso belongs to the Thakali Indigenous community, whose ancestral land is in the region of Mustang in southern Nepal. She is one of the founding members and currently is one of the advisors of the National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF), Nepal. Also, she is Vice-Chairperson of the National Network of Indigenous Women (NNIW) and immediate past Secretary of the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN). She is one of the leading Indigenous women activists and scholars of Nepal. Yasso holds a master degree in Home Economics and a Post Graduate Diploma in Women's Studies from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. She has done research on indigenous peoples' issues and gender for several international organizations including ILO, DANIDA, and UNDP. She has contributed and/or published many research articles in books and journals. She brings years of experience to advocate for women rights nationally and internationally.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

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### **Rose Cunningham Kain** – *Nicaragua*



Rose is a Miskito indigenous leader and an expert in popular education, international labor law, and the rights of migrants, refugees, and displaced persons. She served as an officer of the Organization of American States for 10 years and as Gender Coordinator for the International Organization of Migration. She is the Founder and current Director of Wangki Tangni (“Flower of the River” in the Indigenous Miskito language). Through Wangki Tangni, she has worked to serve more than 115 poor and marginalized communities along the Coco River by developing programs that promote self-sufficiency and assisting indigenous peoples to develop the skills they need for self-government, protection of their region’s biodiversity, and preservation of their traditional cultures. At the international level, Rose has worked

with indigenous women activists and organizations in African and other Latin American countries. During the sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, she has been instrumental in raising visibility to specific kinds of violence that indigenous women face such as trafficking, cultural practices, and structural violence. Rose is also part of the Alianza de Mujeres Indígenas de Centroamérica y México and the International Indigenous Women’s Forum (FIMI).

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### **Ana Ceto Chavez** – *Guatemala*



Ana is an Indigenous woman leader from the Ixil region of El Quiché, Guatemala. She serves as the Coordinator of MUIXIL, an organization that promotes and defends the human rights of Indigenous women and their communities. MUIXIL is composed of women survivors of the Mayan genocide. She also leads the Ixil Women’s Weaving Collective, which creates a sustainable source of income for women and their families. Ana recently obtained her degree in Legal and Social Sciences from the University of San Carlos in Guatemala. She is the first Indigenous woman in her community to receive a law degree. She has been vital in advocating and demanding restitution and recognition from the Guatemalan government for the genocide committed against the Indigenous community. She also engages women in her community to actively participate in civic and political activities and assists them in getting recognition of their human rights. At the international level, Ana has represented MUIXIL before the International Human Rights Committee of the UN and participated in

the FIMI Global Leadership School for Indigenous Women.

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## MIDDLE EAST

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### Sana Ibn Bari – *Israel*



Sana is a Bedouin activist and advocate for women's rights. An attorney by training, she is responsible for overseeing the rights of the Naqab-Negev Arab Bedouin in the Arab Minority Rights Unit at the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. She also serves in the Board of Directors of the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality (NCF).

Sana has participated in several delegations to the UN, representing the Naqab Arab Bedouin community in several forums, including UNPFII and CEDAW. Her main fields of work focus primarily on the specific problems of the Naqab-Negev region, such as displacement, discrimination, lack of access to basic resources, and other human rights violations, as well as on women's issues within the Arab Bedouin community.

## SOUTH AMERICA

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### Remedios Uriana – *Colombia*



Remedios is an Indigenous leader with extensive community work in favor of the rights of children and Indigenous women of the Wayúu People, located in the Department of La Guajira, Colombia. She is a social worker and holds a Master's degree in Politics and International Relations.

Remedios has been a crucial organizer denouncing and mobilizing the communities against the violations of the rights of Wayúu children. Currently, she is part of the Gender Group of the Colombian Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repitition, one of the three bodies that are part of the Integrated System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repitition.

## NORTH AMERICA

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### Eriel Tchekwie Deranger – Canada



Eriel is a Dënesųliné woman (ts'ékui), member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and mother of two, coming from a family of Indigenous rights advocates fighting for the recognition, sovereignty and autonomy of their Indigenous lands and territory in what is now known as Treaty 8, Canada. She is the Executive Director and co-founder of Indigenous Climate Action (ICA). Prior to this, Eriel worked with her First Nation to build out the international Indigenous Tar Sands campaign, challenging the expansion of Alberta's Tar Sands. She is recognized for her role in creating the UN Indigenous Youth Caucus; interventions at UN Climate Summits; lobbying government officials in Canada, the US, the UK, and the EU; spring boarding one of the first Internationally recognized Indigenous rights-based divest movements;

and working to develop and lead mass mobilizations highlighting the mass inequity of the impacts the fossil fuel industry and climate change on the rights of Indigenous peoples. She now sits on the board of WWF Canada, Bioneers, Keepers of the Water and the UK Tar Sands Network with a focus on building intersectional dialogue between Indigenous rights and other social justice movements nationally and internationally.