

**UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES**

**6TH SESSION OF PERMANENT FORUM...**

**THEME: HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 meant to protect entire human society without distinguishing from color, ethnicity religion or country. As the years passed by and some world comprehended the essentiality and values of these rights ,they ignored and discriminated against the conservatives and conservationists of the nature whose resources became their source of wealth by gaining billions and billions of dollars. Today, they are global leading economies .Their counterparts and political partners from the third world are promoted to transitional economies through Multilateral Financial Institutions.

For the straight talk ,we indigenous peoples are ignored and discriminated against for share on the cake. One of the items on the agenda and organization of work of the Vth Congress of the World Parks was benefit-sharing. The bid was to give a chance to the indigenous people for sharing the left overs of wealth extracted from their evicted lands. Until today, the Pygmy Batwa have not in the Great Lakes Region have never seen it happening.

The principle is that human rights are universal and not negotiable .People with full control of their assets gives them independence necessary to resist oppression, pursue productive livelihoods and confront injustice .We can call this the power of assets .The natural assets are the wealth on which human well-beings and survival itself depend .These are in abundance in indigenous lands. It has caused a lot of encroachments and our economy being exploited to the benefits of others. The excuse is that the indigenous peoples lack resources to exploit and extract these resources.

In our organization ,Cultural Conservation Act (CCA), we are resurrecting the use of a bamboo tree as an asset to raise income and protect the environment. It had been an economic viability for our ancestors long earlier before. Yes it is a grassy plant but with both traditional and modern uses according to " Prof. Ong" from World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi.

Today this historic plant has received a worldwide commercial attractions in terms of its productions. Now that the organization has a good technical

working consultation with the institution, the issue remains the financial sources to maintain the planting and production activities. The institution provides propagation ,nursery management and artwork for furniture and hand crafts ,and courtesy to GEF/SGP fund.

The rights to choose for indigenous peoples economic destiny should always be given a priority and not negotiable .But this can reverse the course where when it is market-oriented negotiations. We are always on the move looking for more partners for the sustainable future of Pygmy Batwa .The organization seeks to improve the Pygmy Batwa livelihoods through both the national and global market, through this innovative activity. The rights to socio-economic development is significant. That will not be achieved by one man or a group of peoples. It demands the efforts of all humanity.

In conclusion therefore ;

We recommend that the Permanent Forum initiates a viable ,strong and more effective human rights based approach pilot projects to address indigenous peoples socio-economic serious concerns on national and regional and international level.

We strongly recommend special funds like that one of the World Bank which has been move to IFAD in Roma. The Permanent Forum Secretariat recommended by the United Nations General Secretary, to propose this to the WTO ,WIPO, EU ,Development Cooperations ,Bilateral and Multilateral Financial Institutions and the UN Agencies .

This is the strategic approach we are thinking the Millennium Development Goals may be achieved if indigenous peoples have to share the cake.

Thank you .