

**13th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

**Statement by Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)**

Under Agenda Item 3

**Study on the impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery on Indigenous Peoples, including mechanisms, processes and instruments of redress, with reference to the Declaration, and particularly to articles 26-28, 32 and 40**

Statement read by Aehshaetou Manu

Madam Chairperson,

The African caucus would like to congratulate Chief Edward John for the **Study on the impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery on Indigenous peoples, including mechanisms, processes and instruments of redress, with reference to the Declaration, and particularly to Articles 26-28, 32 and 40.**

The African Caucus supports the recommendations of the study as the Doctrine of Discovery continues to negatively impact Indigenous peoples in the Continent. The impact is manifested through evident disintegration of pastoralist and hunter-gatherer traditions and livelihoods assisted by national policies informed and guided by the doctrine of discovery.

The African Caucus would like to acknowledge that actions and decisions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, which recognize the rights of Indigenous peoples, are helping reverse the negative impacts of the doctrine of discovery. Unfortunately, other continental bodies like the African Development Bank are still stuck in old ways of thinking that are guided by the doctrine, and continue to support projects that disenfranchise Indigenous peoples.

African governments are also reluctant to implement decisions of the African Court and African Commission that touch on the rights of Indigenous peoples. Not only is this resulting in crisis and the disrespect for the rule of law, it is also resulting in further marginalization of Indigenous peoples. The African Caucus therefore calls on African States to implement the decisions of the African Court and Commission as well as to support progressive decisions of national courts.

The African Caucus recognizes that the outcome of the World Conference will help address the impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery in the Continent. The Caucus is

therefore deeply concerned with the African governments continued disinterest and opposition to the World Conference. In the interest of the respect for Human Rights and empowerment of Indigenous peoples, and for the inclusive prosperity of our Mother Land, the African Caucus would like to call on African governments to change their current position and support the WCIP. This will not only benefit Africa, but also the over 370 million Indigenous peoples globally.

Finally Madam Chair, the African Caucus would like to call on African Universities to undertake desegregated studies on the Doctrine of Discovery and its continued impacts on Indigenous Peoples in Africa in order to better inform continental and regional processes.

Thank you!