



INTERNATIONAL WORK GROUP FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Eleventh Session
16th session

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Agenda Item 12

This statement is jointly submitted by: the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA, Forest Peoples Programme (UK) and Tebtebba Foundation.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the information provided by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples during this session that the World Bank has withdrawn a waiver granted to the Government of Tanzania which allowed Tanzania to receive considerable funding from the Bank without applying its safeguard policy for Indigenous peoples (Operational Policy 4.10).

The waiver, that we now understand has been withdrawn, was granted to the Government of Tanzania by the World Bank in March 2016 in relation to a 70million US\$ World Bank loan for the “Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania” (known as SAGCOT) Investment Project.

Madam chair, this investment project is part of the huge private/public SAGCOT initiative extending over approximately one third of Tanzania's territory from Dar es Salaam through Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya and West Sumbawanga Regions. The project aims at converting 350,000 hectares of land into commercial agricultural production.

The waiver allows for the formal requirements of OP4.10 for protecting the rights of indigenous peoples would have formally been set aside in the implementation of this project.

Indigenous Peoples from Tanzania and East Africa at large, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur as well as support organizations have on numerous occasions appealed to and



requested the World Bank not to issue the waiver due to the real risk that the SAGCOT project might lead to gross violations of indigenous peoples' rights.

We, therefore, recommend the UNPFII the following:

1. To request the World Bank to report in writing to the UNPFII on the status of the waiver granted to Tanzania's Government and other waivers requested by Governments.
2. To follow up with the World Bank on the letter submitted to the Bank by the three UN Mechanisms dealing with indigenous peoples rights (UNPFII, UNSR and EMRIP) in May 2017, in order to ensure the full participation of indigenous peoples in the development of the Bank's guidance note on Free Prior and Informed Consent.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION