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**Statement by the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP)  
5<sup>th</sup> Session of the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
United Nations Headquarters, New York  
15<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> May, 2006  
Item 4(E)-Free, Prior and Informed Consent**

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me another opportunity to address this august assembly. I am Legborsi Saro Pyagbara from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP).

The attainment of equality for which we all strive cannot be met without respect for our Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

Since Indigenous peoples began struggling for the assertion of this right which is an essential component of their right to sustainable development, a lot has taken place to continue to deny them of this right especially in post authoritarian states striving towards constitutional democracy.

Madam Chairperson, since 1999 when the present government of Nigeria was elected into office, in keeping faith with the recommendations of International Financial Institutions which are always contrary to the desires of Indigenous Peoples, the Nigeria government has embarked on an economic liberalization and privatization policies that is driving Indigenous communities to misery, oil blocks at their backyards are being allocated and sold without their consent, companies on their land are privatized without their consultation, mega banks are rising as a result of bank consolidation with the peoples input and subsidies on key national items are removed without their feelings being sort.

It is this light, Madam Chairperson, that we are appealing to the Permanent Forum to renew their call on all the International Financial Institutions including the African Development Bank to integrate the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent as a key principle of intervention in their policies.

Thank you.

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