

Ogaden People's Rights Organisation
United Nations Indigenous Forum 16th Session
Agenda Item 4 on Youth
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Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates of Indigenous Peoples, Member states, UN agencies and NGO's

I am speaking on behalf of Ogaden People's Rights Organisation. The Youth of indigenous people are more vulnerable to influence that reduce their capacity to become productive members of their communities. The Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are very important in the context of the Youth.

The Ogaden is situated in a very violent and often conflict prone area. The pastoralist youths are subjected to intense competition from different groups and are very vulnerable to be attracted to violence and terrorism. Since there is not much scope for education or meaningful labour and their traditional occupation are under threat, they either end up migrating to Europe, being forcefully recruited into government sponsored militia or join armed groups.

In the cases of the limited education received, if any, it is not based on local needs and traditional modes of survival in the pastoralist economy. What they learn drives them away from their communities and does not provide alternative modes of employment or survival.

OPRO recommends that any educational provision for Indigenous youth must consider the needs of those communities and the challenges the youth face in the new hostile environment of the indigenous people.

Furthermore, OPRO stress the need to specifically consider conflicts situations and take smart measures to find a viable solution that can meet the needs of all stakeholders concerned. The needs of indigenous youth in refugee camps shall be considered by the Permanent forum.

Finally, traditional knowledge and skills that were developed over millennia are being lost. Therefore, we recommend that both UNNESCO, other UN agencies and the Permanent forum shall work together to create fund for training the youth of indigenous people in those valuable skills, specially in regions that are out of the spotlight.