

Africa Indigenous Women organization

United Nation Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues –Fourteen Session

23 April -01 May 2015

Agenda Item 6 and 3(b) Dialogue with the UN agencies .

A Statement by African Indigenous women organization

Delivered by Mrs BOUBA AEI SATU

Endorsed by the following Indigenous Women Organizations in Africa

- Indigenous Information Network ,
- Ogiek Peoples Development program ,
- Lelewal Foundation ,
- Mboscuda ,
- Samburu Women Trust ,
- Maasai Women for Education ,
- Naretu Girls and Women Empowerment Concern,
- Bukhakhwi Women Organization
- Cameroon Indigenous Women Forum

Thank You Madam Chair and On behalf of the Africa Indigenous Women organization endorsed by Indigenous Women organizations in Africa listed above and the Global Organization, FIMI Congratulates you for your Appointment as Chair for this Session.

Honorable Chairperson, Members of the Permanent Forum, Excellences, Distinguished Representatives of Indigenous peoples,

Fifteen years ago, the hope for development among the indigenous Peoples particularly indigenous women in Africa was raised with the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals. Funds and available of resources from different UN agencies and philanthropic institutions poured into the region which meant to propel the communities towards sustainable development.

However, Indigenous peoples especially the indigenous women and their children hardly benefit from these funds and resources. There is limited or no specific budget designated for indigenous peoples which further left them lagging behind. For instance, a research conducted in 2010 by Minority Rights Group International show that 100 percent of the Batwa women in Uganda experience violence and for the majority the violence is ongoing at the time of the research. In Kenya also women and girls from the indigenous Ogiek community who have been internally displaced, and live as squatters experience serious cases of sexual and gender based violence.

In Africa , pastoralist, hunter gathers and fisher folks women have continued to suffer from discrimination , marginalization and hence their rights to Education, Health ,Economic etc.

Young girls have continued to be forced into early /forced marriages, FGM and other Gender related Violence and this account for the high illiteracy rate amongst the African indigenous women with about 98 percent in most of the African countries like Cameroon, Mali, Kenya, Nigeria just to mention a few.

With the continuing poverty and coped with climate change

being experienced by indigenous peoples especially indigenous women and girls in Africa, we feel that the new regime for sustainable development will not left us behind. And, we wanted to be part of this process of designing and, eventually, the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We, therefore, request the UN Permanent Forum make the following recommendations to :

1. Increase inter agency support for indigenous peoples particularly indigenous women from the African region to participate fully and effectively at the various levels of discussions towards the resolution of a Post 2015 Development Agenda;
2. Allocate resources for participation of indigenous women and their organizations to be able to promote their rights as indigenous peoples and be recognized as a distinct group in the Sustainable Development Goals targets and indicators;
3. Recognize our distinct and collective identity as indigenous peoples and especially as indigenous women and be reflected in the targets and indicators of the SDGs;

Thank you for your Kind attention