

The Ninth Session of EMRIP Item 7: The Sustainable Development Goals and the rights of Indigenous People

Thank you Chair; My name is Martha Lekitony Ntoipo, from the Pastoralist Information and Development Organization in Tanzania. I would like to join many people who spoke before me in congratulating you (Mr. Barume) and Ms. Yamada for your appointment as the Chair and Co chair for this session. I would also love to extend my sincere gratitude to the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples for supporting my participation to this meeting.

The Sustainable Development Goals are generally an ambitious path towards a better World. However, a question remains as to how much is everybody prepared, most specifically those with the mandate to ensure that “No one is left behind.”

The Indigenous people are the ones that are greatly faced by the challenges that the Sustainable Development Goals are trying to address, When we talk of poverty, Indigenous people are poverty stricken due to the evictions they face from their ancestral lands in the name of investments and development as in the case of Loliondo Tanzania.

Our livelihood systems are not been respected as a result, we are pushed to adopt to ways we don't have technical survival skills and we end up exposed to hunger and food insecurities. The use of herbs found easily in the areas we live has ensured our health in all aspects, now there are introductions of national parks, game reserve parks and wildlife management areas in our land, this is taking away our right to use the resources as all areas are becoming a no go zone, there aren't any efforts to bring the modern health facilities to indigenous people, many women die during child delivery and many of our children don't make it to five years, Where is our right to Life?

On a daily basis, thousands of Maasai young girls are married off, undergo Female Genital Mutilation and face much more violence such as denial to their right to education so as they can be sold off to men older than their own fathers, We are victims for both being women and being Indigenous.

It is about time that the education, energy and water and all other infrastructure important to humans are improved in indigenous peoples territories, this is the only way the phrase of leaving no one behind will be realized

I urge EMRIP to make recommendations to States and all stakeholders to give special attention to the rights of indigenous people and find special means of dealing with their situations as per their cultural needs, waiting for 2030 to measure the achievements of Sustainable Development Goals is too far to offer a helping hand to the Peoples suffering now.

Thank you Chair.