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**A STATEMENT BY THE AFRICAN CAUCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.**

By Joseph Ole Simel - MPIDO Kenya

1. We acknowledge and appreciate the support and the role undertaken by the African Commission on Human and People rights towards the plight and suffering of the Indigenous Peoples in Africa, due to many human rights abuses and violations subjected to them by their respective states and non states actors. The Decision of the Commission to pass a resolution that Indigenous Peoples exist in Africa and they have special needs that need to be address urgently has put Africa on Global map of Human Rights. We call upon the UN agencies and bilateral donors to put more resources to the African Commission working Group for Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Peoples Organizations in order to realize its scope and mandate.

The Indigenous Peoples appreciate roles being played by DANIDA, ILO and IWGIA in supporting the African Commission on Human Rights

2. We Salute the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights for the establishment of the African Human Rights Court which will make binding decisions that will enhance/improve human rights legal processes that include rights of Indigenous Peoples. We hope the African Human Rights Court will have the mandate and scope to address both historical and current atrocities facing indigenous peoples that also include land restitution.

3. We call upon for close collaboration between the UNPF, other UN Human Rights Council, specialized agencies, the African Commission on Human and Peoples rights, the Governments and Indigenous Peoples to promote understanding and build dialogue in order to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples which includes redefining of Millennium Development Goals to reflect the wishes of Indigenous Peoples.

4. We call upon African Governments to give total support to the UN Draft declaration for the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The draft declaration is UN Human rights instruments that call for the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of indigenous peoples. The Indigenous Peoples of Africa demand that African States and Governments show their commitment to Human rights by ratifying Article 169 of ILO

5. That African Governments and the UN Agencies embrace the livelihoods of indigenous peoples by ensuring that they become the center of development processes as the case now indicates that they have been excluded from any meaningful participation and discriminated against leading to mass displacement and dispossession from their land and Natural resources