

Mboscuda Press release

17th September 2007

The Mbororo Social Cultural and development Association (MBOSCUDA), An Indigenous people's organization.

Welcome the adoption of the UN declaration on the right of the indigenous peoples by the United Nation General Assembly on Thursday 13th September 2007. The adoption make a historic and land mark achievement for right of indigenous peoples this will greatly improve socially economically and politically and general living condition of the world indigenous peoples who are estimated to numbers 370.000.000 in 70 countries in the world.

The Indigenous peoples who are mostly living under extreme poverty, human right violation and suffer the worst marginalisation socially and politically, are happy that with the adoption of a universally none bidding instrument like UN declaration will bring the end of their precarious condition.

The adoption of UN declaration on the right of the indigenous peoples on Thursday September 2007 at UN Headquarter in New York , mark the end of more than two decade of fruitful debate and negotiations by Indigenous people's representatives and the international community.

The Indigenous experts and the international community first began working on the declaration on the

rights of indigenous people in 1985. The draft was completed in 1993 and has been under negotiation since then. The declaration was endorsed by the UN Human Council base in Geneva last Year. It was widely expected to be adopted by the UN General Assembly in the same year.

But that was not to be as it was deferred at the behest of African countries led by Namibia, joined by Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the U.S, which raised objections about language on self-determination and the definition of "indigenous" people, blocked the adoption of the declaration that Year.

Since the negotiation continues in view of reaching consensus especially on some of the key contentious issues raised by the African group and finally an agreement was reach between the global Indigenous Caucus and the UN member state

The adoption brings to a successful conclusion of more 25th Years of debate. The vote in the assembly was 143 in favor and four against. Eleven countries, including Russia and Colombia, abstained.

The Declaration addresses both individual and collective rights, cultural rights and identity, rights to education, health, employment, language and others. It outlaws discrimination against indigenous peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them. It also ensures their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic, social and cultural development.

The 13th of September 2007 will be remembered as an international human rights day for the Indigenous, Peoples of the world, a day that the United Nations and its Member States, together with Indigenous Peoples, reconciled with past painful history. (Said Ms,Victoria Tauli-Corpus the Chair person of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues).

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warmly welcomed the adoption, calling it "a triumph for indigenous peoples around the world.

We there wish to extend our sincere congratulation to the indigenous experts, our friend at the international community and the UN member's states who supported the adoption.

We call on the Cameroon Government, the UN system and relevance's Nationals and international Human Right organization, to start consultation with indigenous communities and their organization in view of putting in place mechanism for the implementation of the present UN declaration on the rights of the Indigenous peoples.

Sign:

Musa Usman Ndamba

MBOSCUda, Vice National president.