

Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Item 8: Discussion of the theme, "Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration
Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation and the Khmer Kampuchea Krom Temple
Speaker: Conduct Hang

Madame Chair,

We would like to thank Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine for allowing our organization to speak on the behalf of the Khmer Krom people of the Mekong Delta. The existence of the UNDRIP has revitalized the hope of many defenceless and voiceless IPs across the globe. It is a framework in which IPs can safeguard their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms; however, many IPs continue to be unrecognized by their respective member state. The implementation of the UNDRIP has yet to be fully recognized by member states and accessible to IPs that have long existed all around the world.

While indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination in their identity as indigenous peoples, governments still can deny the existence of their indigenous peoples. According to the notes by the Secretariat on *Tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration*, "No formal universal definition is necessary for the recognition and protection of their rights, and this should not constitute an obstacle to addressing the substantial issues affecting indigenous peoples". Countries, specifically in the region of Asia, have yet to uphold the ILO Convention, No. 169. And because of this, basic human rights of the IPs can be disregarded. Recognition of indigenous peoples need to be at a national level in order to move forward with implementation to protect indigenous peoples rights, when it comes to issues such as land rights.

We have the following recommendations:

- Seek the help of the Permanent Forum to conduct a study to identify member states that have not yet recognized indigenous peoples within their borders, such as Vietnam
 - Special Rapporteur on IPs has briefly stated that regions such as Africa and Asia have not recognized their IPs and therefore, we ask that there would be a study of all countries who do not recognize IPs
- Recommend that the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) be published in many languages, especially in all IPs languages
- Ask that Vietnam recognize that there many indigenous peoples, respectively one of them being the Khmer-Krom people through its National Constitution.
 - Article 24.2 of the Vietnam Constitution: "The State respects and protects freedom of belief and of religion". Vietnam violates this article by perpetuating erasure of sacred lands and sites such as the Khmer Krom temple Me Pang
 - Work with Vietnam
 - Work on having an open dialogue with Vietnam according to the UN Secretary-General launch of the System-wide Action Plan or UN SWAP

Thank you, Madame Chair