

PRESENTATION: M. ANNA FESTUS: TO THE EMRIP - 7TH MEETING

GENEVA: 7 - 11 JULY 201

Honorable members of EMRIP, indigenous brothers and sisters, I am Anna Festus, a member of the # Khomani San Peoples of South - Africa, Northern Cape Province, Southern Kalahari.

It's my first attendance to the EMRIP meeting and I must convey my thanks to the Voluntary Fund who has granted me this opportunity, as this contributes to enhancing my understanding and knowledge on the work of these mechanisms, and how to effectively apply it within the context of my communities.

Please also allow me to congratulate my fellow South - African brother, Danny Titus who is serving on this committee.

1. **Our Indigenous Women and Youth:** Our organization serves at a grassroots level, but still lacks capacity, information and financial resources and are constantly not participating within mainstream developments, thus we networking and co-operating with existing women and youth organization to build capacity and to strengthen women and youth empowerment within the areas of the Southern Kalahari. Indigenous women in my community experience greater poverty, lower literacy and education, less legal rights, social and economic marginalization and continuous exposure to violence and abuse. Indigenous women and youth are also constantly left out of decision making structures. There is still a wide gap between the constitutional mandates with regards to our Indigenous San and Khoi women. The education of our indigenous language, the //Nu language are also at risk, as most of our elders are dying out, and the fear losing our language is currently existing, as sustainable preserving meganism is not yet being develop.
2. **Land Rights and Management:** Our community gain successful our land back through land restitution from government in March 1999, land is a principle factor for the survival of our indigenous peoples, but currently our structure for land management is under administration of Government for the past years, and its heavily affecting the implementation of our development Strategies for implementation.

Intellectual Property Rights: Our indigenous plants and medicine, such as the Hoodia Gordonia or (!Xoba) as known in my local language is being utilized all over the globe, while our communities are not effectively benefitting from the royalties thereof, bearing in mind that the San Communities are one of the most marginalized and poorest communities within Southern Africa.

The co-operation between government and San and Khoi communities will further being strengthen by the Traditional Affairs Bill on San and Khoi Communities in South - Africa, whereby our communities will gain recognition through this bill.

Therefore I recommend that the Human Rights Institutions such as the Human Rights Commission to effectively monitor the developments with regards to the issues of the San and Khoi communities within South - Africa, with special emphasizes on effective

including of our indigenous women and youth with regards to implementation, participation and decision making processes within all spheres of Government.

That Intellectual Property Rights with regards to free and prior informed consent must be reviewed and effective monitoring models should be established in addressing the matter of further exploitation, with special emphasis on the situations of the San Communities within Southern Africa.

I Thank You.