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YAAKU PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (YPA)

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THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.
ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS PERTAINING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES,

ent Context

GOAL 3; "PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN.

PRESENTER; JENNIFER KOINANTE.

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INTRODUCTION.

Every government bears the responsibility of protecting and giving service to her citizens including women, from all forms of harm and abuses, giving them equal opportunity for education, social, political participation and economic development. The indigenous women of East Africa are confronted with a lot of problems. Hence becoming the great setbacks for their development as individuals and collective as women. The women are left to struggle with the inferiority complex related situation that is brought about by the human rights violation that has been done to them.

The followings are some of the aspects that triggers indigenous women in East Africa and the rest of Africa from engaging into development, political and social arenas.

ONE, Cultural exploitation, The women are forced to undergo through some cultural and racial practices that affect them physically, socially, and emotionally. Some of these practices are FGM, body marking/ piecing, early marriages, sharing of women, forced marriage and wife inheritance.

TWO, Sexual abuses and all forms of molestation including physical assault, an example of this issue is the current case that is going on at the international level in London pertaining the rape done to Masai and Samburu women of Samburu and Laikipia districts of Kenya.

THREE, forced and excess labour, the indigenous women perform all the manual work including duties of food, clothes and shelter provision to the family and so to the entire community not to mention problems of child birth and upbringing in a nomadic pastoralism and hunting way of living situation.

FOUR, policy and decision making process. The government and the entire society do not recognize or involve the indigenous women in the decision and policy making forums or institutions at all levels, local, national and international.

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RECOMMENDATION.

Indigenous women are the drivers and backbone for making MDG a reality to indigenous peoples, they are providers of security and wellbeing of children including education hence are charged with the responsibility of shaping the future indigenous communities members who will be accepted by all human race.

I therefore recommend the followings;

One, The UN to tell this conference whether they are aware of rape cases of samburu and laikipia women by the British soldiers who performed military exercises in their communal land living life weapons (land mines), and whether they have any plans of influencing the Kenya and British governments in ensuring that the cases receives support to put in place the necessary conclusions as per the law.

Two, A formative action, The indigenous women to be included in the local, national and international decision and policy making institutions, committees. Ranging from land board, political and economic positions, access to education, social benefits and health provision service.

Three, The country laws should ensure that indigenous women are protected from exploitation at all levels this should go with human rights capacity building to women empowering them with knowledge of their countries laws. benefit from it.

Four direct partnership, The UN, world bank and other financial institution to support women directly but not through the governments by moving straight to indigenous communities and help the women implement the UN millennium goals in the following critical areas.

i, **empowerment** Access of finance for entrepreneurship hence boosting the poverty levels in indigenous peoples society, they should fund indigenous women groups which for long time has been practiced by Africa women self help groups and the famous marry-go round activities.

ii **Education,** the women and girls to be supported in accessing education, the indigenous women in East Africa do not have the right to education ^{the girls are} married off early and by force in exchange of cows and other property/wealth.

There is the need to establish a Scholarship Based organization for girls & women within indigenous communities

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