

Item 8

PF17 Andrew Ambrose 090

Agenda Item 8: Tenth anniversary of UNDRIP: measures taken to implement the Declaration

Statement from PACOS Trust, Malaysia

By Atama Katama, International Relations Coordinator.

3pm-6pm, 24-25 April 2017.

Thank you Mdm. Chair,

Kopivosian.

This statement is on behalf of PACOS Trust, an Indigenous Peoples' Community Development Organization in Sabah, East Malaysia.

We welcome the Secretariat's note on measures taken to implement the Declaration and concur with the observation that there remains an implementation gap between legal recognition and concrete action. In the Secretariat's note, Paragraph 35 refers to the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia's inquiry on the land rights of indigenous peoples.

The inquiry made 18 recommendations, including the recognition of indigenous customary rights to land, and the establishment of an independent national commission on indigenous peoples. We applauded the Commission's report and commend Jannie Lasimbang, then-Commissioner for Sabah, for spearheading the inquiry.

After the Inquiry, the Federal Cabinet formed a Committee to implement and monitor certain recommendations. The National Commission has continuously called upon the Government to take concrete measures to implement the Inquiry recommendations. However, little has been done since then.

We urge the Malaysian government and the State government of Sabah in particular, to implement the Inquiry recommendations in full in collaboration with Indigenous peoples.

We also encourage the government to look to the Philippines and other countries for good practices in recognizing the right to free, prior and informed consent in policies and legislation, particularly those concerning land, natural resources and economic development.