

**Statement to the 12 Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on
“Conservation of Indigenous Peoples’ migration routes”
Agenda Item 3: Study on Indigenous peoples’ rights in the context of borders, migration and
displacement**

Thank you Madam Chair. I am Ghanimat Azhdari an indigenous nomadic pastoralist from Iran and a fellow in the indigenous fellowship program.

I am speaking on behalf of the ICCA Consortium, an international organisation uniting indigenous peoples, local communities and their supporters from 80 countries, and in particular its founding Member Cenesta, all from Iran.

The ‘territories of life’ of mobile indigenous peoples include summering grounds, wintering grounds and the in-between migration routes and midway stations. They have been governed, managed and conserved by indigenous nomadic pastoralists for millennia. Migration is part of our cultures, livelihoods, lifestyles and vitality, and our key strategy for nature conservation.

The Expert Mechanism recognizes the need to better examine the nexus between migration and indigenous peoples. We agree. And we believe that the limited work done to date, including lack of disaggregated data on indigenous migration, limits but also motivates this study.

We encourage the national delegations represented at EMRIP to:

1. Support indigenous nomadic pastoralists to document the territories they govern, manage and conserve as ‘territories of life’ with the full participation of our own elders, women and youth, including demarcation of migration routes, summering and wintering grounds, as well as broader indigenous knowledge and ecological assets.
2. Appropriately recognise and support the governance, management and conservation of territories of life by indigenous peoples’ and local communities, including by using their traditional and local knowledge, practices and institutions and towards climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.
3. Impede any disruption and misallocation of land in the ‘territories of life’ – including crucial migration routes—of indigenous nomadic pastoralists, thereby securing our livelihoods and food sovereignty.

We much appreciate the support of EMRIP in this regard. Thank you very much Madam chair.