



Advocating Human Rights and National
Self-Determination for Sindhis

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Statement Read on Item 8: Tuesday, April 25th, 2017 3-6: pm

Saghir Shaikh, World Sindhi Congress
Rights of Indigenous Sindhi Nation in Pakistan

Thank you Madam Chairperson and Distinguished Members of the Forum

World Sindhi Congress on behalf Indigenous Sindhi Nations would like to congratulate all of you on the 10th Anniversary of the UN Declaration of Rights of the indigenous people with two contradicting emotions that are the jubilation and the somberness. In last decade several countries have made efforts on recognizing these rights and even a few countries have made some inroads in their implementation of the rights of the indigenous peoples. Pakistan, on the contrary, has systematically been denying all the major rights enshrined this Declaration such as

- the right to self-determination
- the right to participate in decision-making;
- rights to lands, territories, and resources
- rights to culture

to Sindhis and other indigenous Nations and peoples of Pakistan.

Several mega projects in the name of development being proposed and constructed, without any consensus or the permission on Sindhi peoples. Our lands are being allocated to retired military officers. The international projects named as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (called CPEC) is one such example where Sindhi peoples wishes and rights are being violated. Sindhis are against this unsustainable, anti-environment, and anti-people project.

In the name of the 'development' Pakistan and many other countries are seeing this shameless plundering of the lands especially of the marginalized peoples.

World Sindhi Congress would like to present the following recommendations:

That this Permanent Forum must call upon Pakistan and its Sponsor China to investigate these projects in the light of the International laws and the rights of indigenous peoples as stated in the Declaration.



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These mega-development projects must go through the review of the local stakeholders and the environmental justice reviews as well as indigenous people must be made part of decision-making process.

That the permanent forum and IPO sitting here to form a joint strategy to stop this onslaught trend of open theft of the lands and natural resources of the indigenous peoples without their permission from transnational powers.

The Permanent Forum sends its rapporteur to Pakistan for much-awaited investigation of the issues of Indigenous People and requires Pakistan to adhere to the declarations and full heartedly implement the articles of the Declaration.

Thank you, Madam Chair