



Date: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Shlama al lokhon

Peace be with you.

Thank you, Madam chair, for giving us this opportunity to speak.

I'll deliver this statement on behalf Mr Ashur Eskrya Head of Assyrian Aid Society in Iraq.

The Assyrian Aid Society in Iraq have been on ground for approximately three decades, more recently Assyrian Aid Society had swiftly delivered and continue to provide aid along with other world aid organizations on the ground to the hundreds and thousands of people who were forcibly removed from their homes in Nineveh Plains invaded by ISIS in June 2014. Approximately 150,000 Indigenous peoples were forcibly removed from their homes in which 4,000 homes were burnt, 700 destroyed and 8,000 partially damaged in Nineveh Plains region. Assyrian Aid Society provided immediate aid including food rations, water and shelter at schools and dormitories for hundreds of families. AAS continue to improve the living conditions of indigenous peoples by building cabins to house many families who were forcibly removed. Therefore, in line with the six mandated areas of the permanent forum for the Indigenous peoples, the Assyrian Christians of Iraq to resettle and build their lives in their historical homeland. The following is highly recommended.

1. Increase the budget for developing infrastructure in Nineveh Plains region provided by central government.
2. For the central government to assign special housing building project to repair and rebuild the homes damaged in the Nineveh Plains region.
3. Open a rebuilding center especially for Nineveh Plain region NGO's to collect data and organize necessary projects for the region.
4. Implement investment projects in the Nineveh Plains region to create jobs for the indigenous peoples in three ways as follows: -
  - Provide small and medium grants for people who lost their owned businesses.



- Provide loans to indigenous peoples to increase commercial businesses in the region.
  - Build strategic manufacturing sites and other commercial businesses.
5. Support education system in every level and rebuild university in Bakhdeda.
  6. Allocate special funds from United Nations agencies and direct them to indigenous peoples in NGO's for benefit of the people in Nineveh Plains region.

Thank you